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#9 -1724 Quebec Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1V9

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July 28, 2017

Standing Policy Committee on Finance  
c/o Councillor Ann Iwanchuk, Committee Chair  
222 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7K 0J5

Re. Saskatoon Land Audit Report

Dear Committee Members,

In the summer and fall of 2016, the NSBA lobbied in favour of an audit of Saskatoon Land, including its policies, financial position, and impact on the Saskatoon marketplace. Of key concern were the governance, transparency, and accountability of Saskatoon Land as an organization that is beholden to the taxpayers of Saskatoon and that has a large impact on the business landscape in the city.

As a result, we were pleased when Council elected to move forward with an audit of Saskatoon Land and welcome this opportunity to provide commentary on the findings of the auditor. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for delaying the discussion on the Audit Report until community stakeholders have had an opportunity to fully process and reflect on the findings of the auditor.

Having met with our membership and other stakeholders as well as individuals from the City and Saskatoon Land, we strongly support the recommendations of the auditor. We encourage Saskatoon Land to implement these recommendations with an eye to meeting the concerns of stakeholders, particularly with regards to transparency and accountability. We would also like to reiterate in this letter that it has never been the NSBA's intention to shut down Saskatoon Land and we believe that the auditor's recommendations taken in the correct spirit will alleviate the majority of our concerns with Saskatoon Land.

On top of the formal recommendations of the auditor, the NSBA would also recommend the following: 1) for Saskatoon Land to prepare quarterly financial reports and to make these reports publicly available, and 2) the City investigate the potential benefits of a Municipal Development Corporation (MDC) (including a detailed cost-benefit analysis and industry consultation), particularly as it could pertain to infill development. We feel that both of these measures could have a positive impact on Saskatoon Land's transparency and accountability, and perhaps even return it closer to its previous mandate of ensuring land affordability while providing a diverse range of options for Saskatoon residents.

With regards to an MDC, the NSBA feels that more research is needed on this topic to determine the

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exact impact before taking a position on whether to form an MDC. However, the idea of using an MDC to alleviate some of the risk of infill development is something that we feel is worth investigating and would coincide with the priorities/needs of the city.

As always, we are more than willing to discuss the contents of this letter further with anyone who may have further questions. We also plan to make ourselves available to the Committee on August 14<sup>th</sup> for any follow-up questions that the Committee has.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Moen', written in a cursive style.

Keith Moen  
Executive Director

CC/ Councillor Ann Iwanchuk  
Councillor Randy Donauer  
Councillor Cynthia Block  
Councillor Bev Dubois  
Councillor Mairin Loewen  
His Worship Mayor Charlie Clark

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