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March 29, 2017

His Worship Mayor Charlie Clark
222 Third Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0J5

Re. Municipal Tax Ratio Policy

Dear Mayor Clark,

On behalf of the North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA) and our membership, I would like to thank you for your personal and Council's collective leadership and willingness to work collaboratively with the business community on the tax ratio issue. While we understand that you will receive some criticism for this decision, I would like to assure you that the business community will support you and Council on this issue given the effort that has been made to view this as a collective issue rather than an us-versus-them issue.

Further, we understand the frustration that Council has with regards to the provincial property reassessment cycle. We hear the complaints of property owners in the city first-hand, particularly those businesses whose assessed value has ballooned to almost double the value assessed in 2013. The mechanics of determining the assessed value aside, much of the "sticker-shock" experienced by businesses could be alleviated with a shorter assessment cycle, which would also give property owners of all stripes a truer reflection of the value of their assets. This is an area of policy that we agree on.

As an organization we will continue to advocate for further reductions in the tax ratio. We feel that the numbers provided by Mr. Mike Jordan in his report and the empirical evidence we have witnessed in the business community over the last decade support further reductions to a 1.43:1 ratio (or further if the numbers at the time of discussion warrant it). As such, when it comes time to re-evaluate this policy we would welcome the opportunity to work with members of Council to help them understand our position and how it positively impacts businesses and residents alike. We would like to continue with a collaborative approach to this issue to come to a solution that benefits the entire city.

Sincerely,

Keith Moen
Executive Director

Your leadership style continues to impress, Charlie. Well Done!

"Supporting Saskatoon's Business Community"