



## NSBA Letter Regarding Wellness Centre Location

Phone **306.242.3060** Fax **306.242.2205**

Email  
**info@nsbasask.com**

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

December 17, 2021

Mayor Charlie Clark, and  
Members of City Council  
City of Saskatoon  
222 – 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Clark and members of the City Council,

Earlier this month, the City of Saskatoon offered the Saskatoon Tribal Council a 9,850 square foot space at 145 1st Avenue North as the location for the temporary Wellness Centre. Having been made aware of the Wellness Centre project's benefits, the NSBA would like to commend the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the City of Saskatoon for taking necessary actions to provide homeless individuals with wellness initiatives in the areas of mental health issues, addictions, and housing services.

However, the NSBA recommends that further consideration be given to the core of downtown and whether or not this is the best location for the Wellness Centre. We are considerably more concerned if this current space becomes a permanent location. We appreciate the effort put in by several organizations in our community to reduce homelessness, but from experience with The Lighthouse, it is clear the negative impact it has had on our downtown business community. The NSBA urges the City to conduct research by looking for best practices in other jurisdictions to best overcome these challenges, as this problem is not unique to Saskatoon.

Safety in our downtown has been an ongoing concern, and we would like the City to recognize the issue and take necessary steps to protect our downtown. With the conversation of a new downtown entertainment district, we believe establishing what could potentially be a second Lighthouse downtown would further hinder economic growth and activity in Saskatoon's downtown core.

The NSBA is known for its involvement in serving, promoting, and protecting businesses throughout Saskatoon. We believe this is a business community concern because businesses in the downtown district are negatively impacted by the unintended consequences from being near facilities such as this. We know this to be accurate based on our collective experience with The Lighthouse. Like you, we want a vibrant and safe downtown for all people to live, work, and visit.

In closing, the NSBA recognizes that a Wellness Centre is vital to help those in need of mental health issues, addictions, and housing services in our community. We value the STC's work in ensuring these services are available for those in need. We encourage the City to find a more desirable location for the Wellness Centre, however, without creating economic hardship as an unintended consequence.

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**SASKATOON'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Moen', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Keith Moen  
Executive Director

cc:

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier, Province of Saskatchewan  
Hon. Lori Carr, Minister of Social Services  
Hon. Paul Merriman, Minister of Health  
Hon. Gordan Wyant, Q.C., Minister of Justice & Attorney General  
Hon. Everett Hindley, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural & Remote Health  
Mr. Reg Downs, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Premier  
Ms. Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Services  
Mr. Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager, City of Saskatoon  
Chief Troy Cooper, Saskatoon Police Service  
Chief Morgan Hackl, Saskatoon Fire Department  
Ms. Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, City of Saskatoon



**SASKATOON'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**