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July 1, 2020

Amber Weckworth
Sustainability Division
City of Saskatoon

Dear Amber Weckworth and Colleagues:

Re: Low Emissions Plan for the City of Saskatoon

I write on behalf of the Saskatchewan Public Health Association (“SPHA”) to confirm our support for the City of Saskatoon Low Emissions Plan. We share your commitment to maintain and improve the health of our communities by addressing our current contributions to the progression of climate change. We believe this plan is an important mechanism to achieving a healthy and sustainable city through increased lifestyle activity, cleaner air, and improved water and soil quality leading to a decrease in hospitalization rates, illness and disease, and mortality. It is our understanding that this plan will facilitate an ongoing process in converting our environment to a more sustainable work and living space while contributing to improvements in the health of our communities by focusing on building and energy efficiency, transportation, land use, energy generation, water conservation, and waste management.

SPHA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1952, with the mission to promote the health of Saskatchewan people and their environment through education, advocacy, and empowerment. We are a volunteer organization with approximately 80 members. Our membership includes community health nurses, health educators, public health inspectors, medical health officers, epidemiologists, educational psychologists, nutritionists, environmental health officers, health researchers, community program planners, project coordinators, health administrators, and community health directors, as well as concerned citizens.

SPHA is concerned with the social and ecological determinants of health that can be further affected by a “warmer, wetter, and wilder” climate if action is not taken. In 2002, members worked with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors to develop a provincial strategy for environmental health in Saskatchewan. Collaboration is also in the works with SES to educate and empower our Saskatchewan communities to understand, adapt to, and prevent the developing consequences faced by the rising issue of climate change. Among other things, SPHA works to promote equitable access to those basic conditions for health across and within generations of Saskatchewan residents.

We wish you success in the application of these 40 actions and look forward to collaboration with health organizations in implementing these actions in an equitable manner to improve the health of our communities.

Sincerely,

Fleur Macqueen Smith
SPHA President