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Regina City Council
City of Regina
Queen Elizabeth II Court
Regina, SK, S4P 3C8

State of Regina's Hotel Industry - COVID-19

I am writing to you on behalf of the 30 hotels located in Regina. Regina's hotel industry is being decimated by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 situation. We are asking the City of Regina to use every tool at its disposal to help our city's businesses and the people we employ during this unprecedented time.

Hotel occupancy levels have fallen from an average of 50% to a forecasted 10% within the week. Hotels simply cannot operate at this capacity and over 1,000 employees are currently being laid off. As a result, hotels are now contemplating a difficult decision to close their doors in Regina.

Municipal Relief Measures

The economic downturn that Saskatchewan experienced over the past few years has forced many hotels to draw on their reserves, leaving them little or nothing to draw from as the economic impacts of COVID-19 unfolds. Our economy needs measures targeted to keeping employers solvent so that Regina residents will have jobs to come back to when the pandemic subsides. To this end, the RHA suggests the following measures:

- At minimum, extend the deadline for payment of **commercial property taxes** with no interest or penalties; and
- Reduce, defer or forgive **utility payments** with guarantees that services will not be disrupted for one year.

Over half of the hotels in Regina are owned by Saskatchewan residents that operate branded and independent hotels. Many are first or second-generation family-run businesses that are now facing financial ruin. The City of Regina's leadership and support to economic recovery is vital.

The Saskatchewan Hotel & Hospitality Association (SHHA) anticipates that the accommodation, travel and tourism industry will be one of the hardest hit sectors and will take the longest to recover. We remain committed to working with the City of Regina through the COVID-19 situation.

Respectfully submitted by the RHA, with support from the SHHA:

Tracy Fahlman
President & CEO
Regina Hotel Association

Jim Bence
President & CEO
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