

APPENDIX A

City of Regina Declaration – The Right To A Healthy Environment

WHEREAS the City of Regina (“City”) understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is essential to the well-being of our communities;

WHEREAS municipalities are the governments local to people and their environment, and therefore share a deep concern for the welfare of that environment;

WHEREAS the City recognizes the importance of protecting the environmental well-being of Regina and the health, safety and well-being of Regina residents;

WHEREAS in adopting this Declaration, Council is articulating principles that complement existing legal rights and obligations;

WHEREAS the City of Regina’s Official Community Plan states that a community priority for Regina is *to promote conservation, stewardship and environmental sustainability*, by reducing the city’s environmental footprint; prioritizing the conservation of land, water, and energy; and embracing new operational measures, such as leading practices for waste management, demonstrating a commitment to protecting Regina’s environment and moving toward a more sustainable future for the city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City finds and declares that:

1. Regina residents have a right to live in a healthy environment, including:
 - A right to breathe clean air;
 - A right to drink clean water;
 - A right to access safe and healthy food;
 - A right to access nature
 - A right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into Regina’s environment; and
 - A right to participate in decision-making that will affect their environment.
2. In order to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights within the City’s jurisdiction, the City shall continue to implement and enhance Council-adopted plans, actions and strategies.
3. The City shall strive to take a precautionary approach, evaluate cost-effective and legally permissible measures, endeavour to prevent the degradation of the environment, and aim to protect the health of residents when making decisions that could impact health of Regina residents or their environment.
4. The City shall continue to work with residents and other experts to set specific objectives, targets and timelines and actions the City can take, within its jurisdiction to:
 - a. Ensure that infrastructure and development projects protect and enhance the health of Regina residents and their environment;
 - b. Increase density in accordance with the City’s Official Community Plan;

- c. Enable walking, cycling and public transit as healthy and sustainable modes of transportation;
 - d. Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
 - e. Reduce solid waste and promote reuse, recycling, composting and resource recovery;
 - f. Ensure that Regina is designed, planned and built with the integration of built and natural open spaces, which encourage residents to connect with nature and live healthy, active lifestyles
5. The City shall continue to consult with residents, businesses and other stakeholders in the review of existing or the development of new plans, actions and strategies that support this Declaration.
6. The City, recognizing the role other levels of government play in providing a healthy environment, shall continue to, where appropriate and feasible, participate in the consultation process for proposed actions by the provincial and federal government to help ensure their decisions protect the health of Regina residents and their environment.