

Presentation to Regina City Council, February 27, 2017

By the Outreach and Social Action Ministry

Knox-Metropolitan United Church

Regarding: Rezoning 1872 St. John St to allow for the future home of Carmichael Outreach

Carmichael Outreach was started by Carmichael United Church, 15th Ave and St. John St, as an ongoing outreach project when the church was closed several years ago. They have provided food, clothing, housing help, and other services to people in desperate need in Regina. They have become recognized by the poor and by the advantaged alike for the comprehensiveness and the sensitivity of their services.

Knox-Metropolitan United Church also provides outreach services to people in need. Some former services, such as offering meals, are now provided by Carmichael Outreach. Our church has continued direct support to the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, which is housed in our building. Knox-Met also collects food, clothing, and money which is delivered on a regular basis to Carmichael Outreach.

Some members of our congregation visit Carmichael Outreach regularly and are concerned about their lack of space to adequately meet the increasing need for services to Regina's destitute. The former Legion building at 1872 St. John St will provide that much needed space for their community work. It is very close to their current location so there will be minimum disruptions to those requiring services. In addition a deteriorating building in the Heritage Community will be brought back to life.

We realize that some of the residents that live near the old Legion building are nervous about loitering and potential crime. The residents have seen deterioration over many years in their neighbourhood and fear that this move will continue the process. The city's support for infill housing and the increase in young families moving into the area will help to maintain community. Carmichael Outreach has worked with the Regina Police to maintain a peaceful environment in their current location. The increased space in the old Legion building will actually reduce the loitering outside the building. Members of Knox-Met who visit Carmichael Outreach have found the staff and clients always friendly and helpful. We are confident that this potential move will be beneficial to the city and the neighbourhood as well as to those who need the services.

We encourage Regina City Council to approve this request for rezoning.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for this request from Carmichael Outreach. We will be pleased to answer your questions to the best of our ability.

Presented by Bob Ivanochko and Donny Wood, members of the Outreach and Social Action Ministry of Knox-Metropolitan United Church, Regina.