

August 28, 2017

Honourable Ahmed Hussein  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Dustin Duncan  
A/Minister Responsible for Immigration  
Services  
Government of Saskatchewan  
Room 346, Legislative Building  
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Ministers Hussein and Duncan:

On July 31, 2017, at the City of Regina's City Council meeting, the attached Motion was brought forward by a Council colleague **proposing the commitment of Regina as a Sanctuary City – Access Without Fear.** Several individuals and community organizations also spoke in support of the Motion during the meeting.

The City of Regina is proud to be a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community for all citizens, including refugees and immigrants. Our commitment is in fact enshrined in our Vision, which is to be "Canada's most vibrant, inclusive, attractive, sustainable community, where people live in harmony and thrive in opportunity."

The City of Regina never requires individuals provide documentation or demonstrate their immigration status when seeking to access our services. City Council agrees that all individuals residing in our community have the right to equal access to public services of all types, including City-provided services like emergency services, recreation programming, and police protection.

That being said, immigration and refugee settlement services fall within the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. As such, after much meaningful dialogue on the Motion, the direction provided by Regina City Council was to refer the Motion and the comments made by the delegations to those ministers responsible for such services and to request follow-up and response.

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As noted above, although immigration services are not the direct responsibility of municipal governments, it is mutually beneficial and necessary that all orders of governments ensure refugees and immigrants have access to services without the onus of proof of immigration or refugee status as a requirement for service provision.

Further to the Motion, Council has directed the administrative staff to provide public education and awareness to newcomers regarding access to City services without fear. That includes social media messages, program descriptions, connections with community groups and other creative ideas and actions that staff may see as a way to help alleviate fear.

To meet the full intent and direction of the Motion, please find attached a taped recording of the Council proceedings, which includes the Motion, debate and Council direction for your consideration and response.

In closing, the City of Regina recognizes the important economic and social contributions all citizens play in making our community a home of choice for many.

Sincerely,



Michael Fougere,  
Mayor

Attachment

cc: Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
Regina City Council  
Chris Holden, City Manager, City of Regina  
Jim Nicol, City Clerk, City of Regina  
Gordon Barnhart, President, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association  
Jenny Gerbasi, President, Board of Directors, Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Sheila Harmatiuk, Senior Advisor, Government & Indigenous Relations, City of Regina