

My name is Richard Phillips. I am 45 years old and have lived in Regina for almost my whole life. I am a University of Regina alumni and I am an active volunteer in our community. Throughout my career I have had opportunities to live elsewhere but Regina is home for me because I love the people, the community and what we as the Queen City have to offer. I Love Regina!

I am contacting you in regards to the proposed new zoning bylaw related to new and existing recreational facilities. This bylaw is proposing that no new recreational facilities can be opened and no expansion of existing recreational facilities can happen within the industrial areas. I believe that this proposal has not considered all factors as it relates to this matter. Regina is a city built on entrepreneurship, small businesses and on family values. If this proposed bylaw passes it will have dramatic impacts to many residents and families within our city.

The city thrives on Entrepreneurs and small business owners. These businesses look for facilities that will meet the needs of their business and their clients. The facilities in the industrial area offer competitive rates, large open spaces and areas where fitness activities can occur without disrupting neighbours and other residents. What needs to be considered is the following; if this proposed bylaw passes many if not all of these businesses will not be able to find appropriate or economically feasible facilities which means they will be forced to shut down their business, their livelihood, their means of supporting their families and for many of them this means not realizing their dreams. Additionally if these business owners are able to find appropriate facilities outside of the industrial area the rate of these facilities will be higher and therefore the fees they charge their members will most certainly increase which will result in reduced memberships which in turn will result in an inability for these businesses to continue to operate. An economic factor that is to be considered is with less of these businesses there will be less tax base income collected which could result in tax rate increases for other businesses or residents to fill the tax revenue gap, this dramatically broadens the scope of the number of Regina residents and businesses that are impacted by this proposed zoning bylaw change.

I am a member of CrossFit Iron Society which is part of the fitness community. We are much more than a gym or a place to work out, We are a community of loving and caring individuals who strive to see our new friends and extended family members be successful in all aspects of our lives, At CrossFit Iron Society we take care of each other, we celebrate together and we engage in fitness and wellness which makes us all productive members of this great city. If the proposed bylaw changes were to take affect it could result in increased fees, possible relocation or worse closure of a business, businesses like CrossFit Iron Society where I attend or Get Air where my family goes for fun or Gymnastics Adventure where my two nieces attend or CrossFit Regina where extended family members workout Fitness, Welltless and Mental Health are all very socially hot topics in this day and proposing a bylaw change that negatively impacts businesses that are promoting Fitness, Wellness and Mental Health is not a socially responsible decision. I have close friends who are owners of some of these businesses and this proposed zoning bylaw change will dramatically impact their lives and their ability to support their families in the event of loss of their dreams and their businesses.

Dear Mr Fougere and Mr Flegel, all of us are proud Regina residents and I ask that you reconsider the proposed zoning bylaw changes not only for the reasons that are outlined above but because I am asking you to stand by the entrepreneurs and small business owners to be able to live their dreams but also to stand by those of us that rely on these facilities for a better quality of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely Richard Phillips
I Love Regina!!