

MY NAME IS MELISSA CAMPEAU I AM HERE TODAY ON BEHALF OF THE ABORIGINAL CHILDRENS CONCERN GROUP

THIS IS A BASIC OUTLINE OF THE SCRIPT I WILL PRESENT AT CITY HALL ON JUNE 24TH 2019

THE STATS YOU WILL HEAR TODAY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY OUR RESEARCHER AND ARE TAKEN FROM THE MOST RECENT STATISTICS CANADA DATA AND CITY POLICE RECORDS

IF YOU ARE POOR IN REGINA YOU ARE NOT GIVEN CHOICES ABOUT WHERE TO LIVE YOU ARE FORCED TO LIVE IN HIGH POVERTY HIGH CRIME NEIGHBOURHOODS

REGINA IS A CITY OF ECONOMIC AND RACIAL SEGREGATION

VERY FEW ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND VERY FEW PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE ARE ALLOWED TO LIVE IN NEIGHBOURHOODS LIKE ARCOLA EAST, TWIN LAKES AND PRAIRIE VIEW.

FOR EXAMPLE PRAIRIE VIEW HAS 3.9%, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE, ARCOLA EAST NORTH SIDE HAS 2.9% AND GREENS ON GARDNER HAS 2.9%,

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE BEING WAREHOUSED INTO DANGEROUS HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBOURHOODS AND THIS IS HURTING THE CHILDREN. RESEARCH SHOWS THEY HAVE HIGHER RATES OF ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, PTSD AND THEY ARE 4 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ATTEMPT OR COMMITT SUICIDE

ALSO DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE ARE KEPT IN THE SAME HIGH CRIME HIGH POVERTY AREAS AND THEIR CHILDREN PAY AN ENORMOUS COST WITH THEIR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

FOR EXAMPLE CHILD POVERTY IN THE GOLF COURSE AREA IS 63.7% AND ON THE EAST SIDE OF NORTH CENTRAL IT IS 63% AND 43% ON THE EAST SIDE OF NORTH EAST REGINA

CRIME RATES ARE ALSO A PROBLEM

ALTHOUGH THEY FLUCTUATE FROM YEAR TO YEAR IN THE CITY

WHEN IT COMES TO VIOLENT CRIME THERE IS NEVER A COMPARISON BETWEEN WEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS AND DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBOURHOODS.

VIOLENT CRIME HAS BEEN AS HIGH AS 2,400 INCIDENTS IN ONE YEAR IN NORTH CENTRAL AND 640 IN THE NORTH EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD OF REGINA AND 635 IN CORONATION PARK WITH ABOUT HALF OF THESE BEING IN THE SMALL 4 BLOCK BY 4 BLOCK GOLF COURSE AREA. THIS COMES TO ANYWHERE FROM 1 VIOLENT CRIME PER 12 PEOPLE TO 1 VIOLENT CRIME PER 6 PEOPLE.

IN WEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS VIOLENT CRIME WOULD BE ANYWHERE FROM 1 VIOLENT CRIME PER 150 TO 1 VIOLENT CRIME PER 250 PEOPLE.

HIGH CRIME HIGH POVERTY AREAS OF THE CITY LIKE NORTH CENTRAL, CORE AND THE SOUTH SIDE OF CORONATION PARK ARE USED TO WAREHOUSE DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES WHILE WEALTHY AREAS ARE KEPT WHITE AND WEALTHY

IF WE HAD CHOICES ABOUT WHERE TO LIVE IN REGINA MY CHILDREN WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO EXPERIENCE THE TRAUMA THEY EXPERIENCED GROWING UP IN HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBOURHOODS IN REGINA.

TO CONTINUE TO WAREHOUSE DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE INTO HIGH CRIME HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBOURHOODS WHERE THEY WILL BE DAMAGED EXPOSED TO IS IMMORAL UNETHICAL AND INEXCUSABLE

MY CHILDREN HAVE SEEN THINGS GROWING UP IN HIGH CRIME HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT NO CHILD SHOULD EVER SEE. THEY ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS AND MOST KIDS GROWING UP IN THESE AREAS SUFFER UNBELIEVABLE TRAUMA

THE CITY SAYS RESIDENTS OF THESE AREAS LIKE IT THERE AND THAT'S WHERE THEY WANT TO LIVE. I AM HERE TO TELL YOU THAT IS NOT TRUE MOST RESIDENTS WISH THEY HAD CHOICES AND THAT THEY COULD RAISE THEIR CHILDREN IN GOOD HEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS IF THEY WANTED TO BUT THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE. THERE IS VERY LITTLE SOCIAL AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING, IF ANY IN SOME AREAS, FOR AT RISK PEOPLE AND DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES IN WEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS

AS YOU KNOW FROM THE STATISTICS I MENTIONED EARLIER THERE ARE VERY FEW ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OR POOR PEOPLE IN THE WEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

IT'S TIME FOR A BIG CHANGE.

THE GOLF COURSE AREA HAS A 64% CHILD POVERTY RATE ADDING A SENIORS COMPLEX WILL INCREASE OVERALL POVERTY IN THE AREA

THE CITY SAYS THEY ARE ALLOWING FOR A DEVELOPER TO BUILD A SENIORS COMPLEX ON THE GOLF COURSE LAND

TO BEGIN WITH CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING SAYS REGINA ALREADY HAS TOO MUCH SENIORS HOUSING AND THAT THERE IS A VACANCY RATE OF 16%

WORSE YET THE SENIORS COMPLEX THAT ALREADY EXISTS ONE BLOCK FROM THE GOLF COURSE HAS A VERY HIGH VACANCY RATE ACCORDING TO RESIDENTS THERE ARE ALWAYS MANY OPEN SUITES

ALSO WE HAVE SEEN A SURVEY OF SENIORS IN HIGH POVERTY AREAS IN REGINA THAT SHOWS PEOPLE OTHER THAN SENIORS ARE LIVING IN THEIR COMPLEXES SOMETIMES AS MANY AS 30% OF RESIDENTS ARE NON SENIORS.

THE WORST FINDING IN THE SURVEY THOUGH WAS THAT 75% OF SENIORS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN THEIR COMPLEXES AND THAT THEY ARE AFRAID OF WHERE THEY LIVE.

WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE CITY OF REGINA WOULD OK A SENIORS COMPLEX IN AN AREA THEY KNOW WILL MAKE THE SENIORS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BECOME VICTIMS OF CRIME.

THE RECENT REGINA SURVEY OF SENIORS PROVES THAT ADDING A SENIORS COMPLEX ON THE GOLF COURSE LAND WILL ONLY SERVE TO INCREASE THE POVERTY RATE IN THE AREA AND ATTRACT CRIMINALS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR VULNERABLE VICTIMS

THE SENIORS WILL FACE THE SAME PROBLEMS THE CHILDREN FACE

ALL OF YOU CITY COUNCILLORS HERE TONIGHT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING A STOP TO THIS. YOU NEED TO QUIT MAKING EXCUSES TO WAREHOUSE MORE DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE INTO BAD AREAS BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM. IF YOU PASS THE PROPOSAL TO BUILD ON THE GOLF COURSE LAND THEN SHAME ON ALL OF YOU.

THE CITY HAS TO STOP CREATING AREAS OF SEGREGATION AND CONDENSED POVERTY