

Good Day,

First of all I would like you to know some of the CNIB programs that have helped me. I have taken mobility classes, technology classes, independent living, talking books and peer group. Any one of these programs would have helped me but put it all together it changed my life for the better.

Now I want to take you in the future 50 years. We are celebrating the “50th” anniversary of the CNIB /Brandt building in the Park. Let’s do a scorecard of those harmed and those helped. After 50 years, 0 people have been harmed, and thousands helped including children. If your keeping score that’s a blowout!

Now I want to go back 70 years for the origins of the CNIB in the park. In 1955, Premier Tommy Douglas put us in the park. We are Tommy’s’ legacy in the park. The CNIB building Was built to house Veterans of the First and Second World War. Some of Regina’s bravest men came home blind and they had no place to go. From then the torch was passed to the next generation. To us, it is hallowed ground. We are just not Tommy’s legacy, we have a historical right to be there. We are a part of Regina’s history in the park.

Now I want to address some of the issues put forward by some City Councillors and protesters on Broad Street.

We have been told that we didn’t get enough space in the new building. How in the world would they know how much square feet it takes to run a branch of the CNIB? They never ran a program or a branch of CNIB. But the Media passes the information as the truth.

The insinuation of course, is that the CNIB people aren’t just blind, they are kinda dumb to. Somehow we got taken on this deal but somehow we don’t get it. How condescending.

Now just to be clear, under the CNIB plan, we have thousands of square feet in the park. Under your plan, we have none. Which brings us to the ridiculous counter proposals. Fantasy buildings built with fantasy money. While, the blind do not live in a fantasy world, we live in the real world and it’s a hard tough world. The signs at our counter protests has been laughed at but let’s try an experiment.

Let’s see if those protesters would put on a blindfold in the morning, let’s see how many of them show up. In fact, just for awareness, maybe everyone in this room should try the three hour blindfold challenge.

This Saturday in the comfort and safety of your home, blindfold yourself for three hours, get the whole family involved. Do it over a lunch hour so you can prepare a meal while your blind. I strongly recommend a cold lunch, we don’t want you burning your house down. All of this may change your perspective and you may have a renewed belief in compassion.

Now we understand that at one point a news organization posted the wrong picture of our proposed building on the internet. Councillor Stevens said that the real proposed building would be a nice addition to the Park.

So the problem isn't architecture, the problem is ideology. The big complaint is that we are bringing business into the park, when everybody knows there is already business going on in the park.

Money changing hands everyday. There are thousands and thousands acres of park, can we not have a postage stamp size lot on the edge of the park?

After all the help the CNIB has given our community it would be nice to drop the ideology. The CNIB has spent 6 years going through more than one process, 6 years of process is enough. Its time for results. Its time for leadership. Please be kind to the blind, we just want to go home where we belong.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Bob Huber