



List of Delegations

**Thursday, April 18, 2024
9:00 AM**

Henry Baker Hall, Main Floor, City Hall



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**Executive Committee
List of Delegations
Thursday, April 18, 2024**

EX24-27 Regina Accessibility Plan

- Jamie McKenzie, Regina, SK
- Terri Sleeva, Barrier-Free Saskatchewan, Regina, SK (submission attached)
- Dylan Morin, Regina, SK
- Sarah Turnbull, Regina, SK (submission attached)

Mayor Masters, Regina City Council & administration,

I'm Terri Sleeva a Director with Barrier-Free Saskatchewan with lived experience. I am here to address # EX24-27. Yes, I concur with the city's vision that people with disabilities and older adults disproportionately experience barriers when accessing and meeting the basic needs of civic life.

BFSK has provided 14 principles for the provincial act you adhere to.

1. The Act SETS A TIMELINE

When a program is being implemented by the city and only a year date is given for completion, it's usually extended to the 12th of Never.

2. The Act APPLIES TO ALL.

Regina is to be commended for some of the housing projects for people with disabilities being completed. Many of the houseless people have disabilities so don't they deserve to have a home?

3. The Act SETS THE BAR

Housing - all-new builds in Regina need to be standardized and should be wheelchair accessible in all aspects. It's far cheaper to include then it is to renovate for accommodation.

4. The Act REMOVES BARRIERS

When & will sign language and closed captioning be provided at city Council meetings?

5. The Act CHAMPIONS BARRIER-FREE GOODS, SERVICES & FACILITIES

Although Mosaic Stadium received gold certification from Rick Hansen, I have heard many complaints from people with vision issues that there is no wayfinding. That was overlooked prior to gold certification.

6. The Act PROMOTES AND ENFORCES BARRIER-FREE WORKPLACES & EMPLOYMENT

Does the city have a representative workforce which includes people of all disabilities?

7. The Act CHARGES GOVERNMENT TO LEAD, EDUCATE, TRAIN, INFORM & REVIEW

No amount of research or decisions made by people without lived experience will suffice.

Some of the subtle issues (not all-inclusive) I have described are not glaring to people so it looks as though the city is proactive but people with disabilities really know the truth and have to constantly fight for equity to level the playing field.

The remaining 7 principles are below. Thank you.

8. The Act IS ENFORCEABLE

9. The Act IS MADE REAL THROUGH REGULATIONS

10. The Act ENSURES PUBLIC MONIES DO NOT CREATE OR PERPETUATE BARRIERS

11. The Act IS A LENS THROUGH WHICH TO VET LEGISLATION

12. The Act SETS POLICY

13. The Act HAS REAL FORCE & REAL EFFECT

14. The Act HAS ONE COMMON DEFINITION FOR DISABILITY

My main purpose for attending today is in support and gratitude for the City's accessibility plan.

I appreciate this being a priority and the work done to removing barriers. In the past few years efforts to improve accessibility have been realized and it is appreciated, the work being done is making a difference.

When I show up with an issue, the city has always been reactive and understanding.

In particular we are appreciative of all the work done to increase the amount of accessible playgrounds. It is park season and it is so nice to have some choices to visit. We have been going to the Canadian Tire park and the Wascana Park alot recently.

I have some notes and questions, which may have been things already discussed.

- Procurement, I am really happy to see this included as a step for change. SO happy.
- Policy, I believe that policy decisions are the most affordable and effective way to make change. Policies are listed here but are not included in the appendixes, would be interested in knowing where to go to read them.
- Playground policy/masterplan is underway, I am wondering when it is expected to be completed and if that will be presented.

Snow/sidewalks

- Oftentimes the issue isn't that it's been plowed it's that the plowing has moved the snow into the accessible pathway. That's often the road plow piling snow onto the ramp or curb cut. In order to be effective this plows need to work together, otherwise it doesn't work.
- Snow Angels, snow angels was not available to us. I talked to the city who referred me to the community association (Arcola) and they had not opted to do the program. I would be interested on how snow angels could be available to the whole city.

Emergency Egress

- I see the System upgrades for emergencies but I am wondering if that includes egress plans and equipment for those with mobility with devices.

Events

- City of Regina events are not listed, but I believe they should be. This includes Frost, Canada day, Mosaic etc. I noticed that accessibility is listed on the event form, but doesn't specify what that means. I saw that Mosaic is listed as completely accessible, which is misleading as the transportation is not, last year all pavilions were not, and not all pavilions had accessible washrooms. Maybe a checklist of services would be helpful? If funding is asking for transit I would also suggest that includes paratransit.
- Sensory aware times or etc be available.

Thanks again for making inclusion and accessibility a priority. I am happy to be here and in support.

Sarah Turnbull