

March 21, 2021

2021 City of Regina Budget presentation

Mayor Masters, City Councillors and Administration,

I'm Terri Sleevea and I am chair of the Regina Citizens Public Transit Coalition. Thank you for providing an enhanced winter snow maintenance process which assists people with differing abilities.

The 2021 Regina city budget allocates a sizable amount of money towards the Regina Police Service: \$89,245,100 for operating expenses and for a total of \$100 million. I read with interest that \$30,000 would be spent on equipment for PTSD research, not treatment. An increase of 4.2% from 2020 is quite excessive. Was the STC building completely paid for last year? Was the \$250,000 tank paid for? If so, that doesn't warrant an increase this year.

It is with trepidation to realize that \$4 million are going to be added to the 2021 budget for the police. I am left wondering why Regina City Council considers that to be more of a priority than addressing some of the real issues Regina citizens are facing daily.

1) Homelessness hasn't been addressed in any capacity. The Housing First program needs to be implemented immediately as there are over 2000 people living in poverty without adequate shelter in Regina.

2) And then there is Regina Transit which is getting less money by \$1 million than it had last year. Environmentally sound, cost-saving, affordable, less damage to the infrastructure, i.e. roadways, traffic congestion reduction, completely accessible for all are some of Regina Transit's attributes. These would definitely advance the 2050 goal of having a city 100% renewable.

They need more routes, hours of availability & other improvements to make their service more accommodating to the Regina citizenry. So why is their operating budget cut?

In this austerity budget, how does giving more money to the RPS make sense when others go without due to having a diminished priority level?

Thank you.

Terri Sleevea