

REQUEST TO SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

I would like to speak at the city council meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, in order to discuss the planned COVID-19 passport system for city facilities.

My name is Chelsa Budd.

Summary:

I'm a 35-year Regina resident and a mom of two little boys. My husband and I have chosen to call Regina home because we've always found it to be a warm city full of down-to-earth people who care deeply for their community.

I am concerned about the City's decision to ban those who have not been vaccinated from entering public facilities, starting September 20, as dictated by our city manager, Chris Holden.

Last fall, we voted for our mayor and the members of city council to represent us in the decisions that are being made for the citizens of this city. Because we are a democracy, we entrust this team to make good choices as it stewards great power over each of us who live here. Respectfully, we didn't elect Mr. Holden to make these decisions; we elected our mayor and city councilors to do that. The urgency of the pandemic in 2020 is gone and with it the need for nimble decision making by one person.

Why has banning the unvaccinated become a desirable choice? More and more data is coming out to show that the vaccines are not stopping the spread of SARS-COV-2 (see Iceland and Israel) and that natural immunity is far greater than what can be received through a vaccine. Why is our city manager barring residents from accessing services, when vaccinated residents can also become infected with the virus?

This comes across as the use of power to manipulate the citizens into complying with one perspective on how to stay healthy and safe in these times. We are being stripped of our individual rights to freedom of conscience, among other Charter guarantees. In this city, we give women the right to kill the baby in their womb, and we've banned the practice of conversion therapy, and yet our city manager is allowed to manipulate the public into receiving an injection in order to fully participate in life in Regina. You can kill a baby, you can't say anything challenging to someone about their sexual and gender identity, but if you aren't comfortable with receiving an injection that you can never get out of your body, you're considered a second-class citizen.

My children won't be able to go to the library or the pool. We won't be able to attend events at our community centre; my boys won't be able to play hockey.

I do not want to inject into myself something that was tested using an aborted fetal cell line; I am not comfortable with being part of the ongoing experiment of the mRNA vaccines. I can't count the number of friends and family who have had terrible adverse events coming out of their COVID vaccine. They are too afraid to go public and receive backlash from the media.

I am prepared to miss out on life in this city for the sake of my health. However, I find the reality of that heartbreaking. I have loved living in Regina, but the past few weeks I've felt like a

complete stranger to it. I'm an outsider looking in. I must contribute financially, but I cannot participate practically. My fear is that this is only going to grow. People are reveling in hatred toward those whose consciences (or health) dictate that the vaccine is not for them. Take a few minutes on social media; you'll see it. People are full of fear and the enemy has become each other. The truth is that in these times, we need each other, and we need added measures of empathy, compassion, and acceptance of difference.

We need a city united in goodwill for all, not for some. We need a city that allows its citizens to think, not to censor out any nuance that comes with a situation this complex. The world is divided, but Regina doesn't have to follow in that path. Look at history and what has happened when a society, drunk on fear, isolated and afraid, begins to dehumanize another group of people. It is not good.

You are the leaders of this city. It is incumbent upon you to know us, fight for us, and represent us - all of us - according to our Charter rights as humans and citizens of this country. Many of you have espoused a deep concern for minority groups in our city who are cast aside and dehumanized. Do you see that the unvaccinated are on the chopping block now? Sure, immunization status isn't an immutable characteristic. But what we believe about our bodies is just as much who we are as what we look like on the outside – isn't that already guiding your decisions as a council? We are not dismembered bodies with brains inside of us, but complete people who think, love, and live as embodied souls.

I sent each of you two documents on Sunday night. One highlights news articles from 2017, 2018, and 2019, showing that Regina hospitals have been overrun for years. The second gives 9 succinct reasons why I and many of my friends and family are uncomfortable with this vaccine. References are included with the points that are made.

Please take the time to read from a perspective different than your own if you are struggling to understand why someone might not feel comfortable taking a vaccine - this mRNA vaccine in particular. Many of us will fall further to the margins without someone with power to stand for us. That is the call of justice, is it not? To stand for those in the margins? It is incumbent upon each of you to use your power wisely. This is what you signed up for as you campaigned for a seat at the table. Please don't pass your responsibility on to someone else.

You have that seat now. Please use it.
Please don't forget about us.