

I appeal to you as leaders in our city of Regina so make decisions that champion an inclusiveness. Mayor Masters states that it is her desire to have an “economically vibrant community that is inclusive, accessible, sustainable and safe for all”. I can not imagine that any of you would be opposed to this goal.

The City of Regina has made decisions in the past year that have led to inclusivity in our community, acknowledging that diversity is part of our way of life and diversity needs to be championed and respected. Championing the rights and diversity of all our citizens is your responsibility. A safe community is about respect and support for all, not division, marginalization and judgement for others who are making choices different from our own.

However, the mandate for vaccination to use city facilities is a divergence from this philosophy and track record. It is pitting part of the population against another part of the population. It is leading to marginalization for part of our community rather than inclusivity.

The Covid vaccines make sense for part of our population, - especially those who are elderly and have co morbidities. Other may choose to be vaccinated for personal or professional reasons. However, these vaccines are unproven and experimental and should not be forced on everyone. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms gives each citizen the right to choose which medical treatments they will accept. You have been elected to honor this charter in our municipal government. Vaccines need to be available, but not mandated.

There is much information available on what causes lead to susceptibility to serious illness from the Sars coV-2 virus. Obesity and comorbidities lead the list. Many of the city of Regina facilities are used by residents who desire to combat these conditions. They are taking responsibility for their health by using the facilities to prevent and diminish the risk of not only covid, but a multitude of other illnesses that cause overuse of the health care system. Please do not ban these people from their commitment to healthy lifestyles that benefit our community simply because they are exercising their Charter freedom to respect their own bodies.

It is city council's responsibility to make this decision. We elected each of you to represent us. Please resume your role as those responsible for the oversight of our city.

Keep our community inclusive and safe for all.

Danae Heywood