

I recently returned to Regina after twenty plus years of living in other municipalities across Canada. I came with high hopes of being able to follow and help shape the kind of caring, responsive and inclusive community I had remembered the city to be from my earlier years here as a student and young professional.

Regina has so much to recommend it from a diverse economy to a respected university and people from all over the world coming to find a place where they can make a difference toward the Canadian ideals of inclusion, democracy and goodwill.

Almost immediately upon my arrival in Regina, I set out to learn about the city's neighbourhoods and their offerings. I was instantly welcomed by my neighbours and helpfully alerted to the unique aspects of residency and later home ownership.

Regina offers a wonderful standard of living but also its challenges. Having moved to the lovely historic neighbourhood of Lakeview, I soon learned of the problem of lead water infrastructure that persists in a high percentage of inner city homes. In another neighbourhood, as a result of the home inspection process, I learned of the specific soil upon which much of south Regina has been built and the infrastructure issues it raises. In May, I experienced an intense once in a hundred year rainfall that wrought intense water damage to an enormous number of neighbouring houses. This is a city that needs all hands on deck and all perspectives for people to survive and thrive.

The pandemic has brought new challenges to all cities and their residents. I feel the least a municipal council should want to do, especially at this moment, is listen. Directly. Collaboratively. With open hearts and minds.

I urge members of council to reverse the decision to cancel delegations to council meetings. If it is a matter of duplication of messages, as the mayor has said, I would ask council to remove the duplication from behind closed doors rather than where we as citizens and our representatives can listen, observe, and learn from one another.

Thank you,

Nancy Black