

- a. One of the great aspects of our democracy is the opportunity to see and hear citizens of Regina present their concerns, ideas and feelings about various matters that affect them and others as reported through the media and/or when it was possible to actually attend in person and experience those moments.
- b. It has been my privilege and honour to empower and enable the voices of people including Regina citizens to speak their truths to those in power whom they seek support and encouragement from in dealing with many issues that affect their human rights, their daily lives, their children's and their loved ones experiences in the City of Regina. It is a magical gift to us that they choose to share including being able to present to our City Governance in front of you and all others through the media. For many it is the only opportunity to have their voices heard, really heard by all of us who get to decide whom to vote for each and every election in relation to how each member of Council responds to those voices.
- c. Rather than limiting this democratic freedom, perhaps Council might ask people for ways to increase their access to public accountability such as providing spaces and places where they can speak to you with media support in ways that all citizens can see, listen and learn about what is needed to make this City more beautiful and supportive of the people's needs and yes, dreams and desires.
- d. In my humble opinion, public accountability increases public respect for and involvement in democracy improving upon the principle that government is for the people and as much as possible, by the people.
- e. These times are very hard on all of us and given the issues such as climate change, poverty, homelessness, racism, violence against women, colonialism and the need for Truth and Reconciliation as priorities, now is our time to move in a different direction than what this Amendment nurtures and move forward towards listening to and empowering the voices of the people – and having those voices heard as far and wide as possible.
- f. To make informed decisions on whom to support and vote for, despite the many privileges I am given, I do not have the time to attend personally each City Council nor Committees of Council and very much appreciate the media and Council in assisting in learning about the concerns of citizens and the response of each member of Council to them.

These are the main elements of my respectful submission. I look forward to presenting and answering any questions that Council may have.

Kind regards,

Larry Kowalchuk