

City Council – Dec. 8th, 2021

Through the chair, I would like to thank City Council for allowing me to present today and would like to thank City Administration in their help and support in putting this request forward. My name is Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen and I am the CEO of the YWCA Regina. YWCA Regina is requesting \$4 million dollars from the ICIP program for the capital build of the Healing Space and Ceremony Lodge phase of the Center for Women and Families.

Further to my presentation to Executive Committee on Dec. 1st, 2021, I would like to highlight the great work that the YWCA has already done as part of the Capital Campaign and the incredible support that we have already secured from companies, individuals, and families in our community.

There is no doubt that the community sees this project as a solution in our community. Through their financial and time commitments, they have shown that it is a priority to them. YWCA Capital Cabinet has raised \$13 million to date and are in discussions about the possibility of increasing their goal which is currently \$15 million. When the Capital Cabinet reaches their goal and including the YWCA financing portion and sale of our current building, this would mean that the YWCA will be providing 39% of the funding for build.

For this reason, I would urge City Council to consider Option A as outlined by City Administration. Approve YWCA's request of \$4 million and approve the use of up to \$1.07 million of City funds to fund the local portion of ICIP funding requirement.

If City Council approves Option A and the YWCA is successful in our federal applications, it would mean that YWCA funds 39%

City of Regina funds 6%

Province of Saskatchewan funds 4%

Government of Canada funds 51%

This commitment puts into action the goals of the City to prioritize reconciliation, address issues of racism and cultural genocide in our community and provide safe spaces for healing from trauma and violence. These are all direct-action items outlined in the City Community Well-Being and Safety Plan.

The Centre for Women and Families addresses the critical issues, such as poverty and inequality as well as services for those struggling with mental illness, substance use challenges, and homelessness. The wraparound and hub model is an immediate intervention to prevent and reduce crime in our City. In addition, the Centre for Women and Families serves as an opportunity of pride in our City. There are many opportunities for citizen of Regina to engage and give back to their community through the Centre. The Centre is accessible and open to all members of the community and as such will foster a stronger sense of community and belonging.

Thank you very much for your consideration and I would love to answer any questions that council has.

Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen

CEO, YWCA Regina

