

Hello Mayor Masters and Council,

I am Sophia Young, a sixteen-year-old student at Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School speaking on behalf of the Miller4Nature group and Regina Energy Transition (RET). I wish to acknowledge that I am calling from Treaty Four, the land of the Saulteaux, Cree, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda Peoples and the homeland of the Métis. First, I would like to thank the Mayor Masters and Council for their diligent work and continuous effort towards Regina's 100% renewable goal. Seeing the City's investment in energy and sustainability makes me proud to call Regina my home. It brings me great joy that you all see the importance of climate action and are willing to work towards it. Good on you.

The two groups I am representing align with you all by being highly committed to the Energy and Sustainability Framework. We have received a special invitation to join the Community Advisory Group. We have interacted with many people from the City and almost everyone on City Council, including Councillor Zachidniak, Councillor Findura, Project Manager Greg Kuntz and many more. Therefore, you can see that we are more similar than different.

With that being said, we were disappointed that placeholder money for the Energy and Sustainability Framework is missing from the 2022 budget update. If one subtracts the cost of the green bin program from the money budgeted to advance initiatives to support the City's target of being renewable by 2050, there is \$800,000 left. If only 0.01% of the budget will go towards the Environmental and Sustainability Framework in 2022, it is concerning.

After taking out the cost of producing the Framework, barely any is left to implement the Framework. We do not want the Framework's implementation to stall until 2023. There needs a placeholder in the budget.

Time is of the essence. We can see the effects of climate change here in Saskatchewan. The drought caused many farmers to claim hundreds of thousands in crop insurance in the summer. According to the CTV, natural weather disasters have contributed to the price of food rising by 8-20 percent for produce and 12-30 percent for meat. Even this winter is abnormally warm. With all the City's work in creating the Framework swiftly, there is no time to wait another year before funding the project into action.

I am 16 and scared. The Earth is warming and will reach the point of no return. If this happens, life as we know it will change permanently - natural weather disasters, mass extinctions, millions of dollars in damage and the most vulnerable suffering at higher rates than what we are already experiencing. Just this past year, this was exemplified clearly, with the United Nations declaring the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right. Hence, you must protect that right. We youth are young, but we look up to you. Right now, we don't have the power to fund the Framework in action, but you do. Do what is right, and ensure that the proper funds are available or planned to create and implement the Framework within this year. Thank you.