

June 6th, 2022

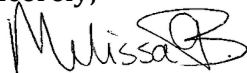
City Clerk
City of Regina

Re: Request to Appear – MN 22-4 2SLGBTQIAP+ Communities in Regina

Greetings

Please accept this signed letter as a request for YWCA Regina Inc. to appear before City Council on June 15th, 2022 regarding the Motion 2SLGBTQIAP+ Communities in Regina. Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen, CEO YWCA Regina, will be representing YWCA Regina Inc.

Sincerely,



Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen
CEO, YWCA Regina

MN 22-4: 2SLGBTQIAP+ Communities in Regina

Since 1911, YWCA Regina has been serving women and families in our community. We have adapted and changed our programs and services to meet the changing needs of those we serve while continuing to advocate for an equitable society.

YWCA Regina serves women and gender diverse folks in all our program areas. Our shelters, outreach services, housing services, and community programs serve many women and gender diverse members of the 2SLGBTQIAP+ community. In addition to this, our Community Programs have developed specific mental health programming for gender and sexually diverse youth and our Childcare's serve 2SLGBTQIAP+ families.

YWCA Regina has recently developed and is implementing a Gender and Sexually Diverse Framework that supports much needed change to YWCA Regina governance, policies, staff supports, training and development and programs and services. This framework includes commitments for change as well as outcomes which are evaluated by accountability partners. This work will not only ensure that YWCA Regina is providing safe and quality programs to members of the 2SLGBTQIAP+ community but will also ensure that our staff are safe, have opportunities to develop further and have influence over the future of our organization. These frameworks will also support YWCA Regina's staff retention and satisfaction rates as well as support our outcome of igniting equity in our community.



I would urge City Council to vote in favor of this motion. Gender and Sexual diverse people are marginalized and vulnerable in our community. A disproportionate amount of 2SLGBTQIAP+ folks suffer from mental health, poverty, violence and human trafficking. Their experiences and voices have been left out at decision making tables and, in our systems and institutions. I believe that this City Council is moving forward with ensuring that all voices have place in our City. I would suggest that it is important to specifically make extra space for voices that have been left out for far too long. This will create stronger communities and a better City for everyone.