

Good afternoon,

I would like to submit some comments in support of Motion MN22-4 and associated recommendations concerning 2SLGBTQIAP+ Communities in Regina.

As a member of the 2SLGBTQIAP+ community, an educator in queer and trans studies, and a queer parent I am in full support of each aspect of the motion in alignment with an intersectional and decolonizing lens.

Personally, navigating city services with my children has led to us at times feeling excluded and/or not recognized or thought of as expected users of city services, notably recreational services. My children are being raised gender open and access to programming, for example, swimming lessons or public swims, are made more complicated and uncomfortable with barriers such as sexed change rooms and bathrooms, language such as 'appropriate gender' on change room doors, and lack of education or awareness of gender diversity (and use of gendered pronouns and gendered assumptions with my children) by instructors and staff. Having access to all gender change rooms and washrooms would make a significant difference. While we often use the family change room, there are no lockers in those changerooms and we often feel rushed as we know there are other families waiting to use them (and there are not very many of them). This would align with recognition for more accessible change rooms and change rooms that support other family models than the heterosexual, cisgendered Eurocentric nuclear family.

5d of the motion identifies the need to analyse 'family' programming, which is critical - how family is interpreted and what services (and associated language and supports) are offered as a result needs to be assessed from an intersectional lens.

Professionally, my research has focused on trans and non-binary inclusion in sports, and the impact of barriers, such as lack of change room access and lack of training/awareness about trans/non-binary/two spirit service needs, on levels of participation and community well-being is well documented. Not feeling welcome, from lack of changeroom access to experiences of discomfort, harassment, and violence leads many 2SLGBTQIAP+ people to avoid recreational spaces and other municipal services. This has a significant impact on their health - physically and emotionally, and relatedly, on their sense of being a valued member of their municipal communities. In addition, this has an impact on the city as there is a loss of healthy and engaged community members from municipal life, and an increase in the need for support services (increased need for community health services, for example).

Motion 22-4 is a good and necessary motion to ensure all members of Regina feel welcome, are supported, and recognized as valuable members of their city.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

With best regards,

Claire Carter