

Dear Councillors,

I am writing as a student and representative of Miller Comprehensive Highschool. I am a grade 10 student here and have lived in Regina all my life.

I live in the east end of Regina, and I think that it is a relatively safe place to live. However, there are of course many problems in Regina. Homelessness being one of them. There are many in Regina who have not been as fortunate as I am to live in a safe place, under a roof, and with a stable income.

Like many in Regina I believe homelessness in Regina is a massive problem and can be solved if we put real effort in. Just around 1 year ago, the city of Medicine Hat diminished their problem of homelessness. They took many strides over a series of years but through community help and placing funds in the right places they were able to significantly lower the rate of chronic homelessness.

I believe that Regina can most definitely do the same. Although it may be over the span of years taking initiative and following in Medicine Hat's footsteps Regina as a community and a whole can and should put an end to homelessness the best we can. Following a close-knit plan of housing and rehabilitation for the homeless, like Medicine Hat, along with the correct funding and placing of tax money by the government, we will be able to stop this crisis.

On the topic of funding and tax money being placed, there will have to be drawbacks in funding to other systems like police. Solutions to Regina's problems do not include more police and police funding. In 2021 a vote was passed where police services would receive \$92.8M as a net operating budget, and with said budget they would hire more officers and purchase a new plane. I believe, like many in Regina, that those funds could be used somewhere else, for example the homelessness crisis.

Ultimately, the solution to this crisis can be summed up very simply. We must apply our community and make an actual effort to stop this rather than sitting around and doing nothing.

Like Medicine Hat we must take action to put a stop and diminish homelessness. If only small steps or big strides, it is still moving forward and is significantly better than nothing.

Sincerely,

Matthew Livingstone