



Dear Ward 2 Residents:

It is great to feel spring in the air after a winter that found folks struggling with high prices, increasing mortgage and interest rates, and concerns about public safety. In the midst of this, however, it is worth reminding ourselves of the good things that are going on in our community. Family, friends, neighbours, police, fire and protective services, dedicated medical personnel, municipal employees, and community volunteers have all lent a helping hand.

Several generational projects in our community are at, or nearing, completion. The opening of the new Regina Humane Society building in Ward 2, the world-class IMAX Theatre at the Science Centre, the new YWCA Regina building, and the rebuilt Globe Theatre in a reclaimed downtown heritage building have all been made possible by the remarkable talents of their four woman CEOs, and by the dedication of their staff and army of volunteers. Money from all levels of government, and especially the generous funds donated by Regina residents, have helped make these projects a reality. Taken together, the four community fundraising campaigns that supported the projects raised over \$113 million, a real expression of confidence in Regina's future.

Also, in this newsletter, you can find details about the new indoor aquatic facility, which will replace the aging Lawson and be heated with geothermal energy, proof of our commitment to making Regina an environmentally sustainable city for our children and grandchildren.

As your councillor, I strive to ensure that our community's interests are represented and upheld at all levels of governance. I have been actively engaged in advocacy work for the people of Regina on the boards of the Canadian Federation



It was my pleasure to join members of Regina's Tamil community to commemorate Pongal, an annual harvest festival that celebrates prosperity and gratitude.

of Municipalities, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Regina Public Library, and the Provincial Capital Commission, the body that oversees Wascana Park.

As we head into the warmer months, I'd like to emphasize the upcoming municipal election scheduled for November 13th. Your participation is vital, so I urge you to get out and vote.

Please note that if you have any questions or concerns regarding city services, you can access support from Service Regina through a quick Google search or by phoning 306-777-7000.

I appreciate the support you have continually shown me and hope to see many of you over the coming months. Your feedback is always welcomed. Feel free to reach out to me personally at any time at 306-789-2888 or bhawkins@regina.ca. I am at your service.

Best wishes for a safe and happy spring,

Bob Hawkins
Councillor – Ward 2

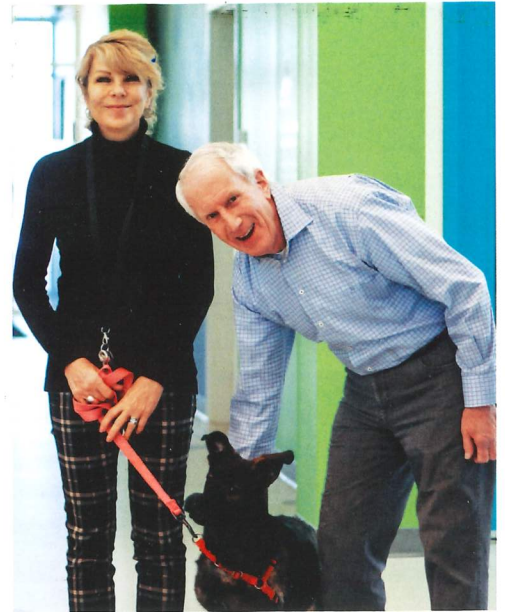
New Humane Society Facility Opens

In February, the Regina Humane Society celebrated the realization of a decade-long dream with the grand opening of its new Animal Community Centre in Harbour Landing.

The \$28-million facility boasts an open-concept design that allows animals to roam freely and is twice the size of its predecessor – prioritizing animal well-being with advanced features such as a vet clinic equipped with human hospital-grade biosecurity. The modern, spacious building aims to create a stress-free environment for pets and staff.

Not just a haven for animals, the centre incorporates educational elements, including a dedicated classroom space for connecting animals and education in Regina. Community support played a crucial role, with most funds contributed by generous donors.

Accessible by transit and located in Ward 2, this new location will help attract more people and find forever homes for Regina's furry friends.



The YWCA Regina Centre for Women and Families



The new YWCA Centre for Women and Families represents a bold step forward in YWCA Regina's mission.

Beyond its existing core programs like childcare services and shelter, the Centre will house Saskatchewan's first urban healing lodge and an all-season sweat lodge overseen by

women Elders. These culturally sensitive spaces, alongside centralized healthcare services, job training opportunities, and a second-hand store, form a comprehensive ecosystem of support aimed at fostering empowerment and independence.

The Centre is not just a beacon of hope for those it serves – it's a catalyst for economic growth and community development. Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, the Centre will create over 70 construction jobs and inject \$45 million into our local economy. Additionally, by offering childcare spaces and employment training, it fosters long-term economic stability for women and families.

With each step towards completion, we anticipate the profound impact this center will have, cultivating resilience and a brighter future for our community's most vulnerable residents.

Indoor Aquatic and Geothermal Facilities

Regina is set to make a significant splash in recreational and environmental advancements with the introduction of an indoor aquatic facility, fueled by a geothermal heating facility that will be the first of its kind in the country.

In March, the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced a joint \$128.1 million investment in this transformative project, emphasizing its dual impact on community growth and environmental responsibility. The City will be determining funding sources for the remainder of the \$189.2 million project.

The new aquatic facility, designed to replace the aging Lawson Aquatic Centre, not only aligns with Regina's 2019 Recreational Master Plan but also exceeds national competition standards. Expecting around 600,000 annual swim visits, it will serve as a hub for multi-functional, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable recreational activities.

The facility's energy needs will be met by a geothermal heating facility, tapping into naturally occurring hot water beneath the earth's surface. Supported by the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and the University of Regina, this innovative approach aligns with the city's commitment to becoming net-zero by 2050.

The introduction of green energy technology into this modern aquatic space reflects

a collaborative effort across all levels of government, marking a significant leap towards a more sustainable and vibrant future for Regina.

Indoor Aquatics Facility

Proposed New Facility

Amenities

The proposed new facility balances space for competition and leisure aquatics, and could include a number of elements:

- National level competition aquatics
- Modern leisure aquatics
- Dryland training and fitness spaces
- Food and beverage services
- Community spaces
- Outdoor amenities

Economic Impacts

Annually:

- 600,000 swim visits and 1.2M total visits
- \$10.6M in economic growth
- 99 new permanent jobs
- Operational 340+ days/year

During Construction:

- Over \$200M in economic output and \$100M in GDP
- Over 750 jobs created

Community Benefits

- Improve equality, vibrancy and quality of life for all residents
- Support excellence in competitive aquatics with a facility that can host National competitions
- Provide four-season swimming lesson and leisure aquatics opportunities
- Achieve sustainability in alignment with the City's commitment to net zero emissions
- Create enhanced pedestrian, cycling & vehicular/transit connections
- Deliver inclusive & accessible environments

This project is a generational opportunity to provide contemporary space designed for everyone in the community – all ages and abilities – accessible 340+ days/year.

The facility will significantly contribute to Regina's economy through visitor attraction, event hosting, employment and connectivity to local businesses.

Regina.ca/indooraquatics

 **REGINA**

Saskatchewan Science Centre

In February, I had the pleasure of joining community members for a screening of *Cities of the Future* at the Saskatchewan Science Centre's Kramer IMAX Theatre.

This film, designed to transform the way that we think about our cities and infrastructure, takes audiences on a journey into the possibilities and challenges of urban life 50 years from now. If you are interested in sustainable city building, I encourage you to watch this insightful documentary.

The Centre's commitment to education and customer experience is remarkable. It recently underwent extensive renovations, repairs, and upgrades to update the entrance, public spaces, exhibits and washrooms throughout the facility.

The Kramer IMAX Theatre was also renewed. It is now one of only 200 IMAX Theatres in the world with laser technology, which allows for expanded content like feature films and documentaries.

All of this would not have been possible without the Centre's numerous successful fundraising campaigns, supported by the residents of Regina.



Investing in Downtown's Future

Downtown investment is critical for the cohesive development and sustained prosperity of a city. Historically, Regina's urban assets have evolved independently, creating competition for both resources and visitors.

Recognizing the need for better connectivity, recent efforts have focused on revitalizing key areas such as:

- Dewdney Avenue and the Yards, with planned infrastructure upgrades to unlock their full potential.
- The Indoor Aquatic Facility, which will serve as a catalyst for the development of a vibrant sports and recreation district connecting Mosaic Stadium to downtown.
- The restoration of the Globe Theatre and the replacement of the Main Library.
- Addressing safety concerns with programs like the Community Safety Patrol, working in tandem with downtown stakeholders.
- The revitalization of North Central – essential for strengthening the city core, improving community safety, and increasing property values.

Downtown serves as the vibrant face of Regina, attracting visitors through its diverse offerings and contributing to the city's cultural identity. By prioritizing downtown investment, Regina will secure its position as a dynamic and inviting destination for years to come.

Organics Roll-Out

Residents have really taken to helping the environment with the City of Regina's new Food and Yard Cart Service, launched in late 2024.

Designed to divert organic waste from landfills, this initiative embodies the city's pledge to redirect 65% of its annual waste away from traditional disposal methods. The impact is staggering – saving 24,000 tonnes of waste and a reduction of 10,820 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually, equivalent to removing 2,352 cars from the roads each year.

The transformation of collected material into nutrient-rich compost shows the program's dual benefits of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and conserving landfill space. The direct cost savings are between \$12-\$13 million each year the landfill closure date is extended.

This new initiative not only propels Regina toward our ambitious waste diversion target but also affirms our commitment to environmental stewardship.



New Electric Buses

Regina is paving the way for a sustainable future with its new electric bus program. Council approval has set the wheels in motion for a total of 20 electric buses, representing 16% of the Transit's fleet, by the end 2025. This move aligns seamlessly with both the Regina Transit Master Plan and Energy and Sustainability Framework, emphasizing the city's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Fueled by a \$26 million federal investment, covering 50% of the costs for the electric buses and necessary Transit Maintenance facility upgrades, Regina is making significant strides toward a cleaner, more efficient transit system. The electric buses, ordered from Nova Bus, are equipped with LFSe+ technology, a proven and dependable system that has been successfully

operating in various Canadian cities.

Regina anticipates substantial fuel savings, over \$32,000 per electric bus annually, and estimates electricity costs at approximately \$9,500 per bus. The first batch of seven electric buses, which will run on major routes, is expected in early next year.



Globe Theatre



Earlier this year, I joined Regina City Council members on a tour to view the progress of the Globe Theatre revitalization project.

The Globe Theatre has long been a centre of cultural excellence in Saskatchewan and is the only theatre-in-the-round in Canada. As it undergoes a much-needed renewal project, the theatre eagerly anticipates the transformation that lies ahead.

Like any aging structure, the Prince Edward Building requires revitalization to reach its full potential. When the renewal project is finished, the building will not only be safer and more energy-efficient but also more accessible, fostering a vibrant space for the arts.

Regina City Council's commitment to this project, shown by the recent approval of an additional \$1.98 million in funding to support its completion, affirms the significance of the Globe Theatre as an arts and culture hub. We have also seen other levels of government and local donors come to the table to support this project.

Globe Theatre enriches the cultural and economic landscape of Regina, attracting 70,000 visitors to our downtown each year, driving \$24.9 million in annual economic impact, and serving as a significant employer in the arts sector. We look forward to the Globe Theatre re-opening its doors in 2024.

Housing Accelerator Fund

Regina was recently granted a substantial financial boost from the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), totaling over \$35 million. This funding, facilitated through a collaborative effort between the Government of Canada and the City, signifies a critical milestone in Regina's quest to address its housing supply challenges, faster.

Through this support, the city aims to facilitate the construction of more than 1,000 homes over the next three years, with a long-term vision to build over 3,000 units over the course of the next decade.

This funding represents Regina's commitment to innovation and inclusivity in urban development – encouraging housing diversity and intensification. By leveraging the resources provided by the HAF, Regina will overcome regulatory hurdles, expedite construction timelines, and ultimately meet the evolving housing needs of our population.



Regina Public Library *Update*

In March of 2023, Regina City Council approved the Catalyst Committee's recommendation to modernize the central branch library. Today, work continues as the Regina Public Library explores options and locations for the downtown branch.