



**RCE**  
REGIONAL CENTRE  
OF EXPERTISE  
ON EDUCATION  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
**SASKATCHEWAN**



[www.saskrce.ca](http://www.saskrce.ca)

June 27, 2017

Mayor Michael Fougere and Members of City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
City of Regina  
Queen Elizabeth II Court  
2476 Victoria Avenue  
PO Box 1790  
Regina, SK S4P 3C8

Dear Mayor Fougere and Members of City Council:

**Re. Elimination of Sustainability Outreach Coordinator Position at the City of Regina and Questions Concerning the City's Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

The City of Regina is a founding partner and longstanding supporter of the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan (RCE Saskatchewan). RCE Saskatchewan is one of over 156 RCEs that have been acknowledged by the United Nations University (UNU) around the world since the start of the UNU's RCE Initiative in 2005 (<http://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/>). As you may be aware, RCEs are self-organized regional networks involving post-secondary education, schools, and community partners to advance Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The RCE Initiative was designed originally to advance the United Nations' *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development* (2005-2014) and, given the RCEs' success, are now committed to advancing the United Nation's 17 *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) including goal 4 on education (<http://en.unesco.org/sdgs>). In September of 2015, Canada was one of 193 countries that formally approved the 17 SDGs to guide the global development agenda until 2030. RCEs play an integral part in advancing the SDGs through the *Global Action Programme* (GAP) on ESD of UNESCO (<http://en.unesco.org/gap>), especially Priority Action Area 5 of the GAP: "Accelerating Sustainable Solutions at the Local Level".

The City of Regina was one of 3 founding community partners of the RCE when it was acknowledged by the UNU in 2007, along with the City of Saskatoon and the town of Craik (since then the number of community partners has expanded). Regina was also one of 3 sites hosting the celebration of the RCE's acknowledgement and has twice been a host of the RCE's annual *Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Recognition Event*, once in 2012 at Wascana Centre Authority and once in 2014 at Government House (<http://www.rceskrecognitionevent.com/>). In 2008, Regina was the first city to host the *RCE Conference of the Americas* that brought together RCEs from North, South, and Central America. These conferences have since been held following the model set in Regina in Lima (Peru), Autlan (Mexico), Grand Rapids (USA), and Curitiba (Brazil). The City of Regina most recently partnered with *Learning for a Sustainable Future* (LSF) to hold a *Youth Leadership Forum* on November 24 of 2016. In June of this year, the City received \$175,000 for its Railyard Renewal Project from the *Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund*, a fund that recognizes communities committed to sustainable development. The City has also made a number of important commitments to environmental sustainability as part of *Design Regina* (<http://www.designregina.ca/official-community-plan-3/final-draft-community-priorities/>) along with specific commitments to FCM to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (<http://www.regina.ca/residents/environment/climate-change/reducing-emissions-city>).

Given the City's past commitments to sustainable development and sustainability education, RCE Saskatchewan was concerned when in March of 2017 the City of Regina eliminated its *Sustainability Outreach Coordinator* position found within the *City Planning and Development Division*. The elimination of this position follows the elimination of the *Sustainable Communities Coordinator* position in 2016. While the City has an *Environmental Advisory Committee* (built upon the City's *Green Ribbon Advisory Committee on Community Climate Change* that was dissolved in 2009), this is both a volunteer and advisory committee. As a volunteer committee it cannot reasonably be expected to do the extensive work required by a municipal government to advance sustainable development. As an advisory committee it does not have the authority to implement a sustainable development strategy. From the City of Regina's website we were unable to discern the frequency of the Environmental Advisory Committee's meetings nor its recommendations to the City, particularly as it pertains to the elimination of these two sustainability positions. The loss of these positions comes at a critical moment given the City's obligations to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a commitment it shares with both the Government of Canada and Government of Saskatchewan.

In light of these considerations, the *RCE Saskatchewan Facilitation Group* at a meeting on June 22, 2017, unanimously approved sending a letter to the City of Regina to outline the RCE's concerns. We request a response to the following questions:

- (1) What were the City of Regina's *Environmental Advisory Committee's* recommendations to the City in relation to the elimination of the *Sustainable Communities Coordinator* position in 2016 and the *Sustainability Outreach Coordinator* position in 2017? Were these recommendations followed and, if not, why not?
- (2) With the elimination of the *Sustainability Outreach Coordinator* position in March of 2017, to whom have the responsibilities and activities of this position been assigned in the City of Regina's administrative structure?
- (3) Where in the City of Regina's administrative structure is the City's implementation of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially goal 4 on Education for Sustainable Development) being coordinated? More generally, how administratively are the City's sustainable development commitments being coordinated and resourced?

We very much appreciate a reply to these questions. A written reply can be sent to the following address:

Dr. Roger Petry, Co-coordinator, RCE Saskatchewan  
Luther College  
University of Regina  
3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, SK S4S 0A2

An electronic reply can also be sent to [roger.petry@uregina.ca](mailto:roger.petry@uregina.ca) and [carol.reyda@uregina.ca](mailto:carol.reyda@uregina.ca).

As the seat of the Provincial Government and one of Saskatchewan's largest cities, Regina plays an important role model for other municipalities in the province around sustainable development. The City's continued and coordinated leadership in this area is vital for the well-being of current and future generations of citizens of Regina and other communities in the province. Thank you for your past efforts in the area of sustainable development. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Roger Petry, Co-coordinator  
RCE Saskatchewan



Carol Reyda, Co-coordinator  
RCE Saskatchewan

cc. Office of the City Clerk, City of Regina