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October 17, 2023

Saskatoon City Council

RE: Enhancing Capacity of Independent City Auditor

Dear Mayor Clark and Councillors,

We wanted to take an opportunity to recognize your commitment – and that of City Administration and the City Auditor – to invest in internal process audits aimed at improving the effectiveness of the City's various departments and programs. The auditor's most recent "continuous assurance report" to address procurement and payroll deficiencies is a great example of the benefits of these reviews. The auditor's review of service and operating issues in Saskatoon Transit in November 2022 is another.

Cyclical reviews of programs and services are vitally important and we encourage you to expand the practice, as well as the auditor's function, within City Administration.

With continuous improvement as the goal, an expanded Service Auditor function would help determine whether programs and services are achieving results, delivering efficiently or worthy of continued investment. It would equip Councillors with critical information to invest and allocate resources more effectively, actively promote continuous improvement within civic administration, and shore up ratepayer confidence in the stewardship of their tax dollars.

Municipalities like Calgary, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Edmonton are moving down this path and Saskatoon stands to benefit as well. We encourage City Council to continue to build capacity around the Services Auditor with the independence and resources, and mandate to conduct this important work.

Thank you, and City Administration, for your efforts to date.

Sincerely,

Jason Aebig, CEO