

June 10, 2025

**Her Worship Cynthia Block
Mayor, City of Saskatoon
City Hall
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5**

RE: 2026/2027 Financial Forecast and Property Tax Projections

Dear Mayor Block and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association, I am writing to acknowledge the City Administration's release of its 2026/2027 Preliminary Financial Forecast and to express the growing concern among our membership regarding the projected property tax increases outlined in the report.

We appreciate the City's commitment to transparency and the early disclosure of financial challenges associated with inflation, population growth, and major capital projects. However, the estimated property tax increases of 9.9 per cent in 2026 and 7.3 per cent in 2027, especially when combined with the significant increase to the Saskatoon Police Service's budget, present a serious concern for the local business community.

Businesses are already contending with rising costs, workforce pressures, and economic uncertainty. Compounding these challenges with substantial tax increases may erode Saskatoon's competitiveness, impact investment confidence, and stall economic growth. Many NSBA members operate on thin margins and will find it increasingly difficult to absorb additional costs without passing them on to consumers or reducing operations.

We respectfully urge Council to:

1. **Direct Administration to aggressively explore further cost-saving opportunities**, particularly in non-essential and discretionary areas, to meaningfully reduce the proposed increases.
2. **Expand stakeholder engagement** in the development of alternative budget scenarios to ensure business perspectives are meaningfully included.
3. **Prioritize core service delivery and infrastructure renewal** over new spending initiatives, especially in a constrained fiscal environment.

We recognize the difficult task of balancing service expectations with fiscal restraint and support the City's efforts to maintain service levels. However, these must be balanced with affordability and

sustainability for all property owners, including businesses that serve as a foundation of our local economy.

The NSBA stands ready to collaborate and provide constructive input as budget planning continues. We respectfully request a formal opportunity to present to the Governance and Priorities Committee or relevant committees in the coming months to ensure our concerns are heard and incorporated into Council's decision-making.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing service to the people and businesses of Saskatoon.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen
Executive Director, NSBA