



**Mailing Address**

PO Box 1372  
Saskatoon SK S7K 3N9

**Office**

220 20th Street West  
Saskatoon SK

**p** 306.665.1915

**f** 306.955.5852

[info@environmentalsociety.ca](mailto:info@environmentalsociety.ca)

**Board of Directors**

**President**

M. Asmuss, MCEd., B.A. Hon.

**Vice President**

R.A. (Bob) Halliday, P.Eng.

**Treasurer**

R. (Bob) Paisley, M.Sc., CPA, CMA

H. Carlson, MPP, B.Sc.

A. Coxworth, M.Sc.

S. Gersher, B.Sc. Hon.

M. Hidlebaugh, M.Sc.

Rev. M. McKechney, M.A., M. Div.

S. D. Praski, FEC, P.Eng

P. Prebble, M. SEM, M.Ed., BBA

W.J. (Bill) Wardell, Q.C.

B. Weichel, M.Sc.

October 10, 2018

To Regina City Council,

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) is pleased to support the motion to "Make Regina a Renewable City", put forward by Councillors Stevens, Murray, and Findura.

Our carbon-intensive way of the life and the climatic changes that it is producing are both a challenge and an opportunity. The motion "Make Regina a Renewable City" recognizes this: it provides a cornerstone for action that would help the City of Regina be part of solution to climate change while taking advantage of the opportunities embedded in low carbon energy strategies, all within a realistic time frame.

In terms of the challenges, climate scientists assert that fossil fuels need to be phased out worldwide over the next 35 to 40 years if we want to protect our quality of life. In Saskatchewan we are already seeing the negative impacts of climate change and associated extreme weather events.

One example is the intense rainfall in southeastern Saskatchewan in June 2011 and June 2014. These two so-called 1 in 100-year rainfall events happened just 3 years apart, and brought unprecedented flooding to a large number of homes, farms and businesses. In the summer of 2014 alone, more than 160 Saskatchewan communities applied for Provincial Disaster Assistance, the spending for which has grown at least 20-fold in the course of the past 12-15 years.

A second example is the forest fire season in northern Saskatchewan in 2015, with 13,000 residents from 50 communities requiring evacuation, costing the province an unprecedented \$100 Million. 2015 saw 10 times as many hectares burning as in an average year. Two years later, in 2017 wildfires were raging not only in the north, but also in the south of our province.

Vector borne diseases are spreading beyond traditional ranges. Some, such as Lyme Disease, may pose a risk to Saskatchewan residents over the medium term. There is also concern about the range of Mountain Pine Beetles expanding into Saskatchewan due to warmer winters.

Closer to home, weather conditions in Regina have been extraordinary throughout 2018, with record snowfall in March, record heat in May and less than half the average rainfall during the summer.

But amidst these challenges are also many opportunities that could build a stronger Regina. Today in Canada, there are more jobs in clean energy than in the oilsands and the clean energy sector is growing. Situated in one of Canada's sunniest and windiest regions and as



home to a university, a polytechnic, and the seat of provincial government, Regina is well positioned in Saskatchewan to become a hub of renewable energy production and innovation. Local organizations like Economic Development Regina, the Chamber of Commerce, and a host of not-for-profits could help activate the economic and technological potential of becoming a renewable energy leader in Western Canada.

About 74 percent of Canadians say Canada must be part of the renewable energy transition. Regina has some of the best renewable energy assets in the country. It's time to capitalize on these natural resources to create economic activity and to move towards lower energy costs. Regina residents pay more for their electricity than average Canadians. The cost of renewables is falling so fast that International Renewable Energy Agency experts predict it will be the cheapest source of energy by 2020. Since 2010, the cost of solar has fallen 73 percent, while wind costs have come down 23 percent.

In April, 2016, the SES urged both Saskatoon and Regina to make a commitment to become carbon neutral cities by 2050. The SES applauds the steps that City of Regina has taken to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, such as developing its Official Community Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and Waste Management Plan. The "Make Regina a Renewable City" motion is the next logical step. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society urges City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margret Asmuss".

Margret Asmuss, SES President