

September 1, 2022

Executive Committee
Regina City Council
2476 Victoria Avenue
Regina, SK Canada S4P 3C8

Sent via e-mail to clerks@regina.ca

Regina Public Library presentation to Executive Committee Sept. 7, 2022

The following is submitted for the review of the City of Regina Executive Committee in advance of their Sept. 7th, 2022 meeting concerning the Regina Public Library Board's proposal presentation.

I offer this letter to ensure that input is received from concerned members of the public.

As a frequent user of the Regina Central Library services, I very much hope that such a serious issue as 'replacement' (demolition?) of the current building would entail public involvement, well-publicized announcements, and even a city-wide referendum.

Comments from past Survey results (available on the RPL website under 'Central Library renewal') seem to indicate that most of the people visiting and using Central Library are expecting the continued existence of the building, albeit with necessary maintenance and additional facilities.

In the spring of 2021 the RPL Board had a survey conducted to gather public opinion about Central. To the best of my knowledge, the results of this survey don't seem to have been made publicly available.

The 'Building Assessment Report' (also on the RPL site) compiled and issued by the Group 2 Architecture firm in 2015, gave what appeared to be a thorough and comprehensive review of the building's requirements, including estimates for short, medium, and long-term costs. It also appeared to suggest that, overall, Central Library was structurally sound at the time of assessment.

Asbestos can be a problem, if and when it is disturbed, but there are paints and applications on the market which could perhaps be used to seal the hazardous areas, thereby posing less of a danger than the full-scale removal of the material would entail.

It says much about the high regard people have for Central Library that it continues to be active and popular. This, despite the increase in home entertainment, branch libraries and suburban shopping centres, all of which make it less necessary to go to the downtown core area. Central Library is still a vital attraction in that respect, and without it, much of the incentive for visiting the downtown core would disappear.

In conclusion, it would be a great loss for so many of Central Library's clients and the City itself should this unique heritage building be designated for 'replacement' without knowing that all avenues had been explored in the effort to continue its usefulness, preservation, and ability to serve Regina's citizenry.

Thank you for giving your much-appreciated attention to my views on this subject.

Sincerely,
Shawne Arzab
(306) 525-5384
shawnearzab@gmail.com