

CORR 2025-25

Terri Mercier

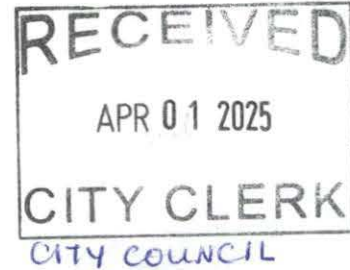
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**From:** noreply@citypa.com on behalf of Guy Mounce <gmounce@sasktel.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 7:30 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Cosmo Lodge restaurant contract  
**Attachments:** Letter for Council Presentation April 7cd3596d4-539d-4e9f-b411-19a636f53910.docx

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Please find attached copy of our letter to council.

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Origin: <https://www.citypa.ca/en/city-hall/speaking-to-council.aspx>  
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## Cosmopolitan Concerns re: Cosmo Lodge RFP

Thank you to the Mayor and Council for including us on their agenda

My name is Guy Mounce and I am the President of the Prince Albert Cosmopolitan Club. Our club has been serving the Prince Albert community for 86 years. During this time, we have donated roughly \$2 million dollars to many different causes in the city.

Our single biggest project has been the construction of the Cosmo Lodge in Little Red River Park. The original lodge was built with Cosmo help in 1971 to provide an area for the public to warm up and socialize during their park visits.

Due to some flooding issues, it was decided to build a new lodge in 2005. Cosmos were once again asked to help and we did. The Cosmopolitan Club of Prince Albert contributed \$350,000 towards the construction cost. Our members fund raised diligently and several made large personal donations. The purpose of the building was the same as the original lodge, that is to provide a space where any one using the park, regardless of social or economic status was free to use our beautiful facility. Families could have brown bag lunches, gather around the stone fireplace and partake in the services of the cafeteria if they wished. They were free to change in and out of ski and snowshoe gear as needed. There was a place to rent ski equipment if they desired.

Five years ago, the city decided on a new direction and approved the installation of a private, for-profit restaurant in the building. The Cosmo club did not support this change and wrote a letter in support of the Métis Women's Organization who was running the cafeteria at this time.

It was never the intention of the Cosmos nor do I think any service club that they would fund raise to help house a private for-profit business.

The problem with a for-profit business and an open access facility is they cannot seamlessly exist in the same building. The operators of the for-profit business will rightfully wish to maximize their profit. They want to attract customers who have the economic wherewithal to order a sit-down meal from a menu for their family. Families who can not afford this are by definition excluded from enjoying the use of the lodge as was the original intention of the Cosmo Club. I applaud the city for putting wording in the proposed contract to provide washroom access and a warmup area, but this is not a practical solution. The fact that it was deemed necessary to build a warmup shelter across the road from the lodge speaks volumes. Where once families could enjoy the full use of the lodge regardless of the amount spent, they are now relegated to a plain square building with a woodstove.

I would respectfully ask council to delay the awarding of this RFP, continue with the present operator and work towards a more inclusive option for all people using our park.

Thank You.