Dear [INSERT CANDIDATE NAME],

As mayor of [INSERT CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE NAME], I am writing to you about your party’s stance on several important issues facing Saskatchewan’s urban municipalities.

Our urban muncipalities are engines of economic growth. From cities and towns to villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities, our communities have the greatest potential to drive growth and provide opportunity.

While this is a provincial election campaign, I strongly believe that provincial issues are federal issues, as strong communities are the foundation of a strong provincial economy.

Provincial policy has a direct impact on our municipalities, and this election we are asking the next government to present platforms that consider that impact in three key areas: **municipal revenues, municipal responsibilities, and provincial downloading.**

We are interested in hearing where your party stands on:

**Municipal Revenues:** Municipalities are responsible for over 60 per cent of public infrastructure. Costs to maintain this infrastructure have increased year over year, while municipal revenues and other forms of cost-relief for municipalities from other orders of government has remained stagnant. We are calling on the next government to provide more opportunities for municipalities to increase their revenue streams.

**Municipal Responsibilities:** We need the next government to change legislation to improve how bylaws are enforced, assessments are conducted, and landfills administered. All of these areas have a more direct impact on municipalities than the province, but it is the province who is creating policies around them.

We are interested in hearing where your party stands on opening and re-writing the Police Act to better reflect policing in today’s world, taking on a collaborative approach with other professionals and community-based organizations to create a holistic, wrap around approach that means safer, healthier municipalities.

Where does your party stand on environmental issues? We are living in a time of climate change, and we need the next government to take a strong leadership role on environmental issues so that municipalities can follow suit and create a better planet for future generations.

**Provincial Downloads:** We are calling upon the provincial government to change and improve their decision-making processes and policies that lead to responsibilities and financial burden being downloaded onto municipalities. In particular, we are interested in hearing where your party stands on the mental health and addictions crisis and provincial social programs. The failure of good policy in these areas has led to financial and social impacts on our communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to hearing more about your party’s stance on these issues. They are vital to our urban municipalities — our communities and yours — and the very people you will serve, should you have the honour of being elected on [date].

Sincerely,

Mayor [INSERT NAME]

[CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE] of [NAME]