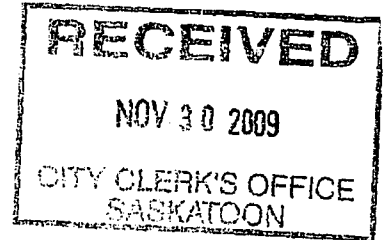


4129-15 C8)

From: CityCouncilWebForm  
Sent: November 30, 2009 4:47 PM  
To: City Council  
Subject: Write a Letter to City Council



TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:

Brody Slater  
5307 Carson St.  
Burnaby  
British Columbia  
V5J 2Z3

EMAIL ADDRESS:

[bee\\_chintz@hotmail.com](mailto:bee_chintz@hotmail.com)

COMMENTS:

The relocation of the Mendel Art Gallery is a subversive idea, and City Council would be wise to rescind the proposal and listen to the public voice. Crushing history to capitalize on a land deal is tantamount to cowardice, and is the perfect example of modern greed & corruption. Realize this truth and exercise your moral strength, or fail in your duty to be just.

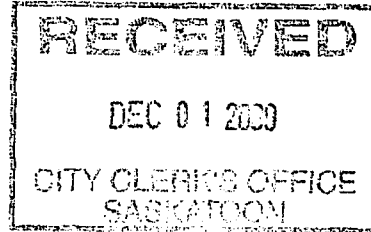
4129-15 (C9)

From: CityCouncilWebForm  
Sent: November 30, 2009 11:57 PM  
To: City Council  
Subject: Write a Letter to City Council

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:

Scott Parry  
1315 14th St. E.  
Saskatoon  
Saskatchewan  
S7H 0A6



EMAIL ADDRESS:

[scott.parry@usask.ca](mailto:scott.parry@usask.ca)

COMMENTS:

Do the Mendel family the justice of at least naming the new gallery the "Fred Mendel Gallery of Art". Or save the same name. This man unleashed an artistic legacy for Saskatoon and it is crazy to just give it a "corporate name". This is in direct contradiction to what art stands for.

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From CBC Comments.

Sounds like Mayor Atchison, shilling, once again, for the corporate sector and Chamber of Commerce, testing the waters for big name sponsors to step up and be amply rewarded for their largesse. Forget about the good ol' Mendel Gallery. How about the Cargill Arts Centre or, maybe, the Coca Cola Gallery?

Way to go, Mayor Don, showing your true roots. This guy would rename his city WalMartville if he could get away with it...and the price was right...

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This whole thing is disgusting. All done behind closed doors in secret. I can't believe people continue to put up with this crap. The cost to renovate the Mendel is \$24 million. That's less than half to build the new one. Atchison's comments are an insult to the Mendel family.

-----  
Fred Mendel is a Canadian hero and should be treated as such! How short are Prairie memories anyway? He was NOT just some guy who "put forward monies", as Saskatoon Mayor Atchison would conveniently have it. Nor was he just some guy who "owned a meat-packing plant in Saskatoon".

As a self-educated immigrant who came to Saskatoon in his 50's barely speaking English, Fred Mendel not only created the fourth largest family-owned meatpacking plant in Canada, but the company he built kept at least 1500 people employed fulltime at his Intercontinental Packers for almost 60 years. (That is putting a roof over the heads of almost 400,000 if each employee had a family of four)

And Mr. Mendel didn't have to give anything more to Saskatoon but he did-and it came from his heart. Joni Mitchell says that Papa Mendel opened her eyes to great art and his generosity did not stop there. He paif for half of the Mendel Art Gallery and donated a collection of his favourite pieces now worth millions of dollars.

Saskatoon should be alarmed that this money has not gone to the expansion of the Mendel Art Gallery exactly where it is and its citizens should be ashamed that they know so little and care so little about a man who gave so much.

The people of Saskatoon should be speaking out about  
-----

I love the Mendel art gallery and was there for the opening of the Joni Mitchell exhibit which toured Canada after it opened in the Mendel. I believe it is a shame to change the name. As other galleries have moved like the Mackenzie Gallery in Regina. Which was once on College Avenue and has since moved to south Albert Street; but the name has stayed the same, it's well known and respected much like the Mendel.  
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4129-15  
C19)

From: CityCouncilWebForm  
Sent: November 30, 2009 12:15 PM  
To: City Council  
Subject: Write a Letter to City Council

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

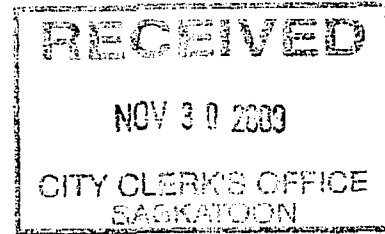
FROM:

Carla Ballman  
2500 Elliott St.  
Regina  
Saskatchewan  
S4N 3H5

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

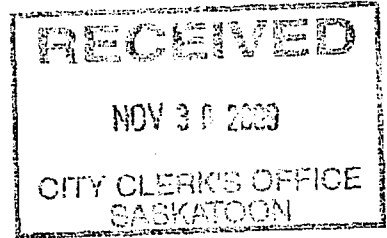
I am contacting you in hopes of conveying my love for the Mendel Art Gallery in it's current form. The one and only mission I have every time I come to visit your fair city, whether for work or pleasure, is to visit the Mendel Art Gallery, the gift shop and the conservatory. It is truly a Gem in the heart of your city and I hope that you can keep it just as it is, name, building, wonderous art collection and all.



4129-19 (CII)

From: CityCouncilWebForm  
Sent: November 30, 2009 11:48 AM  
To: City Council  
Subject: Write a Letter to City Council

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL



FROM:

Jillian Staniec  
1313 15th St. E.  
Saskatoon  
Saskatchewan  
S7N0R8

EMAIL ADDRESS:

[jstaniec@gmail.com](mailto:jstaniec@gmail.com)

COMMENTS:

This note is regarding the planned dissolution of the Mendel Art Gallery. I think this is a terrible idea, and I'll outline my reasons why.

First, I think the current location is truly exceptional. There is plenty of parking, which encourages visitors in our car-culture city. Its current location helps keep more of the riverfront populated and safe. I sometimes run and the Mendel gives me a safe place with lights, a warm washroom, and people to drop into when necessary or when I do not feel very safe, since running in this city often means running at night. This is the only public building on this stretch of the river which can address this safety concern. The juxtaposition of the tropical plants with the winter snow is also incredible and unlikely to be duplicated satisfactorily in a new location. When you add in the art experience and the gift shop, you've got a full day's escape from the city, right in the heart of it (with no worrying about how long you've been parked, unlike most of downtown). Moving the Mendel to River Landing would likely take away the Conservatory part (at least from what plans I've heard of), while creating more issues for Saskatoonians to stop in at it (due, in part, to the lack of parking and the generally poor public transit for the area). It would be taking a great location and replacing it with a less beneficial location.

Second, the move removes the very important name of the primary donor of the artwork. It will likely lead to a new, purchased name or a new assigned name which won't reflect the provenance---origin---of the artwork. This is incredibly disrespectful of the gift that Mendel gave the citizens of Saskatoon and area. As well, names mean something in art. Look at the Beaverbrooke issues in the Maritimes for more ideas about how important they can be. The name must stay to maintain the cultural legacy, to provide proper respect to Mendel and to properly recognize the provenance of the artwork.

My third reason that this move is a bad one is because it's already been so expensive and will likely continue to be so. I work in art, museums, and archives. A million dollar feasibility study is absolutely fiscally irresponsible, and that is just the beginning. As far as I understand, a study had already been completed to determine how to update the existing space and, again as far as I heard, it sounded like it was possible, likely effective and financially not to mention culturally efficient. Regardless, the other two

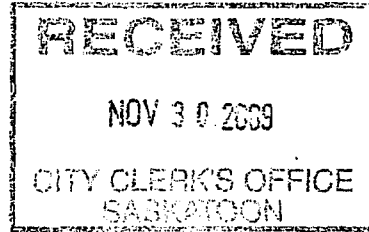
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

previous reasons help justify whatever cost it takes to upgrade the current Mendel facility, while I have yet to hear a compelling argument for the proposed move.

Change is good. Change for change's sake is a waste. Change for change's sake that also spits in the face of one of the few cultural traditions this city has for little to no perceivable benefit is a horrible idea all around, and I strongly urge Your Worship and the City Councilors to reconsider the idea of dissolving, moving, or renaming the Mendel Art Gallery.

C12)

From: CityCouncilWebForm  
Sent: November 30, 2009 11:00 AM  
To: City Council  
Subject: Write a Letter to City Council



TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:

Lawrence McCallister  
1006 Escalona Drive  
Santa Cruz  
Other  
95060

EMAIL ADDRESS:

[larry\\_mccallister@paramount.com](mailto:larry_mccallister@paramount.com)

COMMENTS:

PLEASE KEEP MENDEL GALLERY OPEN IN SASKATOON!  
THANK YOU.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Shelve new gallery idea

In the column *Wall's addiction hurts us all* (SP, Dec. 5) Murray Mandryk said Premier Brad Wall has become a spending addict and is looking like the political reincarnation of Grant Devine.

With a billion-dollar deficit, Wall should stop looking for places to spend money and start looking for places to save, Mandryk suggests.

Any serious curtailment of spending requires a project-by-project reassessment of all capital works projects, he notes and wonders, "Do we need to build a new children's hospital, or can we convert Saskatoon City Hospital?"

How about the proposed new art gallery at River Landing? The province is prepared to blow \$17 million on this \$58 million money pit when expanding and renovating the Mendel Art Gallery would cost less than half that.

The Mendel is being moved for the wrong reasons.

The city says River Landing needs an attraction. The Mendel is being sacrificed to pay for city council's mistakes. The other reason is the availability of Building Canada Funds, meant for projects that are "shovel ready" in the 2009-10. The Mendel fits the bill, the new gallery doesn't.

The Mendel is publicly owned and operated. It belongs to the people Saskatoon, not to gallery board chair Art Knight, Mayor Don Atchison, Premier Brad Wall or Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who are playing political games with it. Let's fix the Mendel. The money saved can be used elsewhere.

Barb Nankivell  
Saskatoon

## Gallery decision shameful

Re: *AGS good news story* (SP, Dec. 8). When the city wanted to relocate the Mendel Art Gallery in 2005, Michael Lundholm, the consultant who developed the gallery's conceptual facility plan, said that it undermines an art gallery's stature to be located in a multi-use complex.

He said galleries need a strong identity and a strong visual image, and noted that the Mendel already is a strong institution with a national reputation.

"When you've got something that's working that well, you don't fool around with it," Lundholm said. Yet that's

exactly what the city and Mendel board are proposing. Unfortunately, it appears that Lundholm has now been co-opted to help design the new gallery at River Landing.

Fred Mendel in 1965 presented a gift of 13 paintings from his own collection to the gallery, to be held in-trust. The city's actions have destroyed that 45-year historical bond and trust with Mendel and his family. This was done without any consultation with the people of Saskatoon or the Mendel family.

The city and the Mendel board should be ashamed.

On Jan. 8, Mayor Don Atchison and Mendel board chair Art Knight wrote to the provincial government praising the gallery's renovation plans, stating it is a "worthy and important project" that "will be successful." Less than three months they betrayed those plans.

Phyllis Trotchie  
Saskatoon

## Breast better than Nest

The recent SP editorial on the new art gallery and Gerry Klein's column on group homes described city councillors as standing clear-eyed and valiant against an ill-informed and emotional electorate.

What was most interesting was to have councillors gush like children who had just seen new puppies as they described their visit to the Eagle's Nest group home. Swept up in emotion, they went on "objectively" to allow the homes to expand the number of spaces.

The one benefit from this public review of the Eagle's Nest program is that it sets a price on motherhood. The cost per bed at the homes is just over \$300 a day. In the absence of adequate parental care from conception to maturity, the societal cost is \$9,000 monthly per child.

We have mothers poisoning infants in their wombs with nicotine, alcohol and illicit drugs daily. We have families neglecting, abusing, demeaning, and dehumanizing their growing children until these kids are devoid of emotion. The physically and mentally disabled child then becomes a public charge, and a thriving industry is developed to house this growing population.

To opt to have children in our society is virtually to take a vow of poverty, and

in the desperation of poverty, bad things happen, especially to children.

The answer isn't to be found in more Eagle's Nests, but at the mothers' breast. Let's begin to pay mothers somewhat in proportion to the demonstrated value of the work they do in bringing the next generation to healthy maturity.

Gordon Wensley  
Saskatoon

## Wealthy critic oblivious

In *Money isn't everything* (SP, Dec. 7), Sue Canter suggests health-care workers are being greedy.

I assume that Canter, who says she lost tens of thousands of dollars in the stock market, is able to afford her own home and wasn't impacted by the recent rent raises of the past few years.

I love my job in the nursing department and enjoy bringing joy and quality of life to people with disabilities. Sadly the satisfaction of our work experience is suffering due to the pressures we face directly related to our rights and wages.

The physical and mental abuse from some residents in long term care are much harder to cope with if we feel the stress and pressure of an unjust financial disparity between our sister nurses and managers.

Unfortunately, for health-care workers like myself, living from paycheque to paycheque is a sad reality. It is not simply about the money; it's about the standard of living that would support a healthy future for our families. The respect and dignity we deserve is being fought for through the language in our collective agreement. It is not being handed to us on a silver platter.

If Canter believes health-care professionals who perform vital nursing services deserve far less (\$36,000 gross annually) than their peers in the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (\$84,000 gross) she obviously doesn't understand that health care is about more than doctors and nurses.

Nicole Neufeld  
Saskatoon

## Sound rationale

Soon to be added to the list of the Wonders of the World: The Great Walled City of Saskatoon.

Maxine Sonmor  
Saskatoon

**LETTERS POLICY:** The SP welcomes letters, which are limited to 250 words and must include the writer's name, street address and phone number. Submissions will be verified and edited before publication. We publish the names and community of all letter writers. Do not send e-mail attachments. Writing more than one letter a month is discouraged and "open" letters are not accepted. Send to: 204 Fifth Ave. N., Saskatoon S7K 2P1; Fax: 657-6437; e-mail: letters@sp.canwest.com

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