



NEWS RELEASE

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Swift Current Suing SaskPower for “Predatory” Practices

The City of Swift Current has filed a lawsuit against SaskPower, the Crown Investments Corporation and the Government of Saskatchewan.

“We have no choice but to take this step to defend the interests of Swift Current taxpayers. Taxpayers have been victimized by the actions of SaskPower and it is our duty as City Council to step in to defend our citizens,” said Swift Current Mayor Sandy Larson.

The Statement of Claim, filed yesterday, alleges that for nearly a decade SaskPower has been unlawfully engaging in systematic discriminatory practices for the purpose of forcing the sale of Swift Current’s utility at a depressed price.

Swift Current owns the power utility in the city and purchases power in bulk from SaskPower. While Swift Current is legally able to purchase power from other providers, SaskPower must transmit the power and currently does not have sufficient transmission capacity – in effect making SaskPower a monopoly supplier.

“Our cost for power is being manipulated by SaskPower resulting in us paying higher rates than we should in comparison to other customers,” said Chief Administrative Officer Matt Noble.

The Statement of Claim alleges that SaskPower advised Swift Current in the mid 1990s that it would increase the rates until the City was forced to sell its utility.

“For many years now Swift Current has felt bullied by actions of SaskPower. It’s not just the rate issue – in many ways and in many instances we have been intimidated by a monopoly utility that has in our opinion abused its dominant position to the detriment of Swift Current and its citizens. We finally said ‘enough is enough’,” said Larson.

Copies of the statement of claim are available at Swift Current City Hall or online at:

www.swiftcurrent.ca

**For more information or to schedule an interview with Mayor Larson contact:
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