
News Release

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COSMOPOLITAN INDUSTRIES EXPANDS RECYCLING FACILITY WITH FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL FUNDING

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – Saskatoon residents, Cosmopolitan Industries Ltd. program participants and the environment will benefit from an investment of \$950,000 from the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon, through the Saskatoon Urban Development Agreement.

Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Judy Junor, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Saskatoon Eastview, and Donald Atchison, Mayor of Saskatoon, today announced funding for the \$1.5 million project today. Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) will provide \$475,000 and the Province and the City will provide \$237,500 each.

The project will enable Cosmopolitan Industries (Cosmo) to add 10,000 square feet to its facility, raise a section of the roof and install two new shipping docks.

Cosmo will also upgrade equipment for its recycling operations. This includes installing a star wheel sorter to mechanically remove the cardboard from the paper stream and installing two sort lines. Funding for that portion of the project will come from fundraising activities by Cosmo and a \$200,000 contribution from the Saskatoon Kinsmen Club.

"Canada's New Government is working with other orders of government to get things done for people in Saskatoon," said MP Vellacott. "This project provides an excellent opportunity to increase our environmental stewardship while ensuring all Saskatoon residents can participate in our economy and improve their standard of living."

"Since 1970, Cosmo has been an inspirational example in Saskatoon by providing employment opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities," Junor said on behalf of Government Relations Minister Harry Van Mulligen. "The provincial government is proud to support a project that continues that tradition while enhancing recycling services for Saskatoon residents."

"When we can enhance jobs for our citizens while helping the environment at the same time, it's a win-win situation we can be proud of," said Mayor Atchison. "Cosmo Industries plays a vital role in our community, and this funding for their expansion ensures they can continue the great work that they do."

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“The expansion means Cosmo will become more efficient,” said Cosmopolitan Industries Vice-President Kirk Anderson. “It will significantly expand the capacity of the organization’s paper waste recycling operation, enabling it to keep up with paper recycling demands for years to come.”

Over the last few years, the volume and types of paper to be recycled has increased and is causing congestion in the recycling process, leading to a crowded, potentially unsafe workspace. As a result, fewer adult program participants were able to work in this area.

The expansion will make the sorting process more suitable for its adult participants to operate independently, which will result in more options for them. Cosmo will also be able to pursue other paper recycling opportunities, which are not attractive to private sector recyclers. The volume of waste that will be diverted from the Saskatoon landfill will increase by three per cent a year.

From its modest beginnings in 1970 with 15 people, to its current program, for over 400 adults and 100 staff, Cosmopolitan Industries continues to offer opportunities to enhance the quality of life for adults with intellectual disabilities. Respecting the dignity and needs of each individual, Cosmo creates opportunities, provides support and challenges participants with intellectual disabilities to reach their full potential.

The five-year Saskatoon Urban Development Agreement, signed between the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon, will invest \$10 million in revitalizing the city’s older neighbourhoods, supporting a high standard of public infrastructure and promoting a positive business climate that attracts innovation.

Western Economic Diversification Canada is the federal department responsible for administering this agreement in conjunction with the provincial department of Saskatchewan Government Relations.

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