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# SWYSTUN

**FOR MAYOR**  
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**News Release – October 25, 2009**

## **City Ranked Poorly in Frontier Centre Report: Swystun calls on Don Atchison to explain city's poor transparency record**

Mayoral Candidate Lenore Swystun is calling on Don Atchison to explain the city's poor ranking in the Frontier Centre for Public Policy's report titled *"Pulling back the curtain: How transparent are Saskatoon and Regina?"*.

Under Don Atchison's leadership Saskatoon has scored one of the worst in the country for having a transparent government. "It's concerning to me that the vast majority of the categories the Frontier Centre looked at had no performance measurements at all", said Swystun, "those with no means of measurement include important things such as roads, graffiti management, parks, planning & development and the cost of servicing our debt".

Not surprising, Atchison's campaign website contains nothing about increasing transparency in our local government. Since the day she announced, one of Swystun's key campaign commitments has been to show more accountability and transparency in our civic government.

"The current Mayor shouldn't be feeling too good about this report, especially as he states that the City does a good job with respect to these issues.", said Swystun, "The report provides an evidence base and set of recommendations drawing on best practices from other cities, it's no wonder why we see our finances in such a mess today."

### **Highlights from the Frontier Centre Report's Conclusion:**

- The municipal governments of Regina and Saskatoon report their performances far less often than do other cities cited in this report. As a rule, neither city discloses its performance as extensively as other cities do.
- In most categories, Regina and Saskatoon had fewer performance measurements than did other cities, and invariably those that they did have were less revealing.
- In terms of the number of performance measurements for each area of expenditure, the Saskatchewan municipalities scored worst.
- As residents go to the polls, they are charged with deciding which candidates will best manage their city. With the performance of Saskatchewan municipalities so poorly reported, citizens will be faced with a difficult task.

### **From Swystun's Platform: Show Transparency and Accountability**

- The Mayor's office will be open, available and accountable to the people.
- Will work with Council and the Administration, to follow the lead of other Canadian cities in improving access to information, by making more records available online. This includes minutes of any task force, steering or ad-hoc committee meetings.
- Will reduce the number of closed-door executive committee meetings.
- For any civic committees, minutes will be kept of all meetings and will be made available to the public.
- Engage with citizens through neighbourhood ward meetings by having minutes taken and comprehensive reports submitted to Council for consideration.

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Authorized by the Swystun for Mayor Campaign Team