

# Media Release

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## Downtown best area for new arena and expanded convention centre

SASKATOON, SK - A joint-use arena and convention centre located downtown is the most practical and profitable option for the future of SaskTel Centre and TCU Place according to a study commissioned by both facilities and presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee of Saskatoon City Council today.

The downtown area is recommended given its high concentration of hotels, restaurants and retail; connection to other business districts; proximity to tourist amenities; ease of transportation access and exit; and the availability of parking and public transit.

“The findings of this study confirm that we need to start working on a plan to keep Saskatoon’s facilities vibrant and attractive,” says Will Lofdahl, Chief Executive Officer of SaskTel Centre. “We need to start planning today to ensure Saskatoon remains a destination city in Saskatchewan and western Canada.”

The wide-ranging study, prepared by an integrated consulting team of leading market analysts and facility planners, assessed the physical condition and competitiveness of the facilities in their respective markets and the need for new and/or expanded facilities.

Among its key findings, the study concludes that TCU Place and SaskTel Centre are quickly approaching their end-of-useful life and risk the ability to attract high-quality touring concerts, hosted conventions and local and regional events. When evaluated against peer facilities in comparable markets, the two facilities are dated and do not meet modern standards for spectator/patron experiences, physical appearance and accessibility, back-of-house service capacity, parking and proximity to public transit.

Order-of-magnitude costs for a new arena and expanded convention centre are estimated to be \$330 to \$375 million, depending on the location(s) and do not include land, infrastructure or relocation costs.

The cost to renovate SaskTel Centre at its current site is estimated to be \$101 million however the study concludes that problems associated with its poor location on the periphery of Saskatoon would persist.

Hypothetical sites across the city were assessed and analysed to evaluate potential economic impact. No specific site(s) have been identified for either facility.

“While the capital costs are significant, there are significant costs to doing nothing or maintaining deteriorating buildings that are providing less and less benefit to Saskatoon’s citizens or visitors,” says Bob Korol, Chief Executive Officer of TCU Place. “We have an opportunity to start planning now, and get it right, so that these facilities continue to serve our City and region.”

The complete study can be viewed at [sasktelcentre.com](http://sasktelcentre.com) and [tcuplace.com](http://tcuplace.com).

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