From: Abb Prince
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 4:31 PM
To: CLK-CityClerks
Subject: Regarding Bill 30 Local Vechiles for Hire Act. From Albert Prince

Dec 6, 2017
This letter is for Mayor and City Council
In email form and written copy attached of this letter.

This letter is regarding Bill 30 Local Vehicles for Hire Act.

I am an Indigenous person. I was born and raised on Peguis First Nation.
I am a direct descendant of Chief Peguis. I speak on behave of my people. I am not affiliated with any First Nation Organization or anything in that matter. My grandmother always told me to speak up if you see injustice, so today I am here because of my KooKom (my Grandmother). This letter is regarding the regulations that are being set out by the city. I propose that out of the 120 new licenses that are being released I would like to see 20 of those licenses go to an Indigenous taxi company. The company can be created and drivers trained to meet the needs and the safety of indigenous people.

In recent news events that occurred with an elderly Indigenous women. She fell out of the taxi because the taxi driver did not want to let her out to retrieve her money from her daughter. The elderly lady spoke Cree. This was a misunderstanding in communication. If that was an Indigenous person driving maybe the situation would have been handled different and there will be no need for a news headline in CBC. This is not the only case that has occurred between taxi drivers and Indigenous people, especially with Indigenous women. Indigenous women are afraid to take a taxi because of what they hear in the news. The owner of Neechi Rides has tried to set up his own taxi business but could not get a license from the taxi board. South East Chiefs organization has received hundreds of calls and online submissions people concerned about their safety in taxis.

With all due respect to our diverse population of people here in Winnipeg Indigenous people do make up 10% of the population. I am asking that 20 licenses be issued to an indigenous company or organization that will service its own people.

I myself have tried to get a taxicab license from The Taxi Board. It was a lot of red tape and in the end they said you will be lucky to get one. They never returned my call.
I am a class 1 driver with a clean driving record. All I wanted to do was to drive my own people because I knew where they came from. I drove for South East Medical Transport picking up patients from the airport and driving them to their appointments. The elders always complained about the taxi drivers not treating them well, asking them for money up front, over charging them for rides downtown and calling them names.

All these news headlines with taxis and Indigenous people can be stopped by letting us drive our own people. We are a diverse nation of people here in Winnipeg but unfortunately these situations keep on ending up in the press. I hope I can present my issue in a public hearing to The Mayor and Council.

Thank you for reading,
Albert Prince