SaskTel Colocation Service –"The Obvious Choice"

Background

As Regina continues to expand in population and size, the City of Regina's organizational capacity must also grow to meet their ever-expanding needs. The City had planned renovations to take better advantage of their existing office space, but renovating the second floor required special consideration: the City had to decide how to house their data centre. It occupied 1,200 square feet of office space and required considerable IT attention to maintain. The data centre also needed a constant power supply, regulated environment, and stringent security. Maintaining the data centre in-house was taking valuable resources away from the City's core business activity.

Challenge

As a result of their booming economy, the City of Regina is adapting and removing potential obstacles to allow for continued growth. A focus on efficiency and long-term sustainability has prompted some changes to ensure that they continue to meet and exceed the expectations of the citizens of Regina. In the IT department, the biggest opportunity to increase efficiency was updating the data centre's environment. In terms of physical space and IT resources, maintaining the data centre in-house was inefficient. It also required that the City maintain a redundant power supply – a considerable expense only used to guarantee environmental consistency for the data centre.

The search began for an appropriate data centre alternative. The ideal solution needed to be cost effective, reliable, and secure, and it also had to be accessible to the City's IT employees. "Part of the business expectations from our end was that we had our own servers in their space," says City Manager Glen Davies. "But we also wanted to make sure that our staff had easy access to the space for monitoring, checking and making adjustments to the equipment."
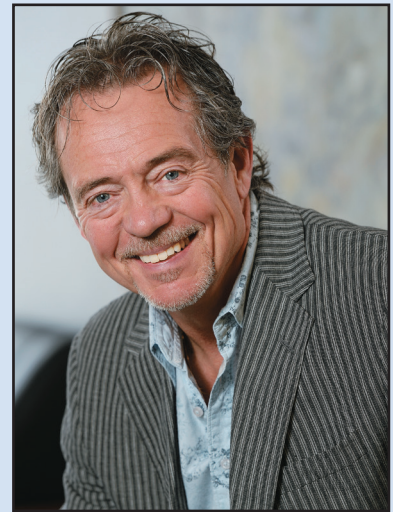
Solution

"The choice – and I think the obvious choice at the end of the day – was SaskTel Colocation Service," Davies says. "They met our business driver needs; the business case on a financial basis was sound; and we enjoy an ongoing positive working relationship with SaskTel," he continues.

SaskTel Colocation Service offers everything the City of Regina needs, wants, and expects from a data centre partner. The SaskTel facility is specifically designed to keep equipment within ideal operating parameters: it's a secure, organized space with temperature control, fire suppression, and redundant power. City IT employees can now attend to their core business, while the SaskTel IT experts attend to theirs by maintaining the data centre to the highest standards. Davies and the team at City Hall were also impressed with how quickly and easily SaskTel and City employees relocated the data centre to the offsite SaskTel facility. The switch was made over the course of a weekend in order to minimize interruptions to the City's business. Authorized City employees have the necessary access to City equipment when they need it. "The mechanism for getting people in and out does allow us quick and easy access without sacrificing an important element, which is the security," Davies confirms.

The newly available space in City Hall has been transformed into usable office space. "It's a higher value for the 1,200 square feet we have on that floor," Davies asserts. "It allows us much more contemporary office space for our staff, which ultimately translates into higher productivity."

For the City of Regina, SaskTel has been the ideal data centre partner. "Debriefs and reports to the Executive team have been very positive about both the transition and the ongoing support," says Davies. "It's just a very sound business relationship to be able to rely on."

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> **Glen Davies**
> City Manager
> City of Regina