

City Of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Blvd.  
Prince George, B.C.  
V2L 3V9

August 24, 2021

**Letter of support for the removal of the illegal encampment on Lower Patricia/5<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

**To: Mayor and Prince George City Council,**

I have lived on Ingledew Street for the past 12 years. My husband and I have two toddlers and we have absolutely loved our Millar Addition neighbourhood and all of the wonderful amenities the area offers. We also feel like we have the best neighbours and we wouldn't have dreamt of leaving. That was until the illegal tent city encampment was allowed to set up below our neighbourhood.

We avoid taking our kids into the park across the street from us because of how many times we have found needles and other drug paraphernalia. It just isn't worth the risk of having our children pick up a needle, or worse. There are unhoused people, day and night, loitering around our building, using our plug-ins in the back parking lot to charge their phones and other devices or using the outside taps to give themselves a 'sponge bath.' They sleep on our private sidewalks and refuse to move. I don't feel comfortable taking the trash out after dark, as our bin is in the back of the building and there are often 'bike chop shops' taking place next door. Our neighbour, whose parking spot is 16 ft from ours, just had the rear window of his SUV smashed out with a crow bar. We also no longer take the kids in the stroller along Patricia Blvd after numerous accounts of gunfire and screaming matches coming from down below.

My mother Redacted moved from her building in the Connaught neighbourhood this year. She saw a massive rise in mailbox break-ins (almost weekly), addicts smashing locks and breaking the glass on the front doors to get into the building, doing drugs on the front steps and sleeping in the staircases. Time and again, her building had thieves hiding in the dark of the underground parking lot or breaking into the laundry rooms with crowbars to smash the coin boxes on the appliances and destroy the machines. These trespassers would then barricade the door and do their drugs and doze off. It became such an unsafe situation for her, she had to leave.

This recent tent city is just a symptom of a much bigger problem and the goal should not be to make it slightly more comfortable to live that way but rather, how can we get those folks to a better place? If allowed, the neighborhoods of Millar Addition and Connaught, once jewels of the city, will continue sinking into a cesspool and residents of these areas deserve better.

Jillian MacMillan  
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