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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: Noise Pollution Issues

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**From:** Peter <\*REDACTED\*>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2022 5:08 PM  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>  
**Subject:** Noise Pollution Issues

**Att: City Clerk  
Prince George**

Please make arrangements to place the following letter on the Council Agenda when you can find room to do so.

Also, please forward it to Planning & Development, Parks & Recreation and City By-Law.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Peter Weedon  
Prince George  
\*REDACTED\*

**Letter:**

Mayor & Council  
Prince George BC

**Noise Pollution Issues:**

I have addressed this issue with the City on previous occasions. Planning & Development as well as Parks & Recreation and City By-Law are familiar in part with some of the concerns I raised, and after recent discussions with them, I was advised that contacting City Council by email was the best course of action - I trust it proves to be a more effective approach this time around.

Living in this rapidly changing world, it is essential to be proactive and adaptable so as to stay abreast of things - one of the ever increasing challenges we face in our lives today is noise pollution, posing a threat to a more peaceful way of life. This threat is insidious in that over time, it slowly creeps up on us unannounced, so as to normalise our perceptions and responses – i.e. we grow used to it and subconsciously tolerate it. As the old expression goes, “A stich in time saves nine”, so dealing with issues in a proactive, timely manner is far less demanding than leaving things until they become deep-rooted and burdensome, the consequence of which is then having to overcome a much bigger issue, which in turn gobbles up even more time and resources, all the while forcing one to continue enduring added vexation during the longer transition – just like dirty dishes which eventually have to be dealt with at some point, so why not promptly rather than dragging it out and tolerating a mess in between, adding insult to injury.

For obvious reasons we have bylaws put in place to administer and control high noise levels, but these measures become pointless if not dutifully enforced, or equally, if permits can easily be obtained to circumvent the intent of the law, the result in either case being unacceptable. Noise at disturbing levels manifests itself in many forms such as:

- **Traffic** - Jake-brakes, intentionally loud exhausts on some very noisy motorcycles and the more recent occurrence of performance trucks. Anybody that hasn't noticed this must be deaf (perhaps a result of these infernal noise machines)
- **Sports and Entertainment** - loudspeakers, fireworks
- **Construction** - heavy equipment, back-up beepers
- **Emergency Services** - sirens and horns
- **Neighbours** - loud music, power tools, barking dogs

**Note:** 2022 has brought about unprecedented new levels in certain cases well within the City limits of Prince George

### **Summation:**

Obviously some of the sources listed above are understandable, and in some cases intentional for good reason, but some cannot be justified. As with the parable of the last straw and the camel's back, the multiplication and accumulation of all of these noises can easily gang up on us to the point of being overwhelming, threatening our peace and quiet. Private citizens are powerless to effect any change, so they must rely on various levels of government to be diligent in monitoring and managing the things that individual citizens have no direct control over.

With so many things to take care of, it's easy for a governing body to overlook various matters that are not necessarily front and centre, or topical, however, I would encourage our City Council to take a serious look at this matter, starting perhaps with a request for a review and report from your appropriate City department(s). This action will hopefully uncover any holes, gaps or debatable (inadequate?) current approaches, including any existing determinations that can and should be reversed, so as to give authorities a clearer, realistic picture of where things sit in our City. This in turn could lead to identifying measures that can be taken to minimise the escalation of noise that modern society increasingly generates and propels at us.

Some of the comments above were covered in a letter I sent out to a number of City officials/depts (including council) in early September, but I did not receive even one acknowledgement, let alone a genuine and considered response, which is certainly discouraging on the part of any concerned citizen taking the time to offer up constructive and valid observations. This time around I would like to think that, out of common courtesy or at very least civic responsibility, I can count on some form of recognition from the new administration.

Sincerely,

Peter Weedon (resident of Prince George for 50yrs)

3155 19th Avenue

\*REDACTED\*