
Subject: Lower Patricia Encampment

From: Kerrie Roberts Redacted
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2023
To: Kellett, Leslie <Leslie.Kellett@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: Re: Lower Patricia Encampment


Good Morning Leslie,

Thank you for your email. Yes it is my intent to submit my letter to Council for review for this evening's meeting. I recognized I made a typo and have corrected and submitted the edit below. Regretfully I cannot seem to convert the image to a jpeg image at this time.

Thank you for your assistance.

To: Mayor Yu and Prince George City Council

We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the City Council's proposed centralization of homeless encampments at Lower Patricia. We have lived on Patricia Boulevard since 1999, having established our home and raised 3 children in what has been a thriving, connected and compassionate community that has embraced downtown Prince George. Our family has walked and road bikes to school and work along Patricia Boulevard for close to 24 years. We have participated in community block gatherings, children playing in groups on the boulevards and streets, organized Patricia Boulevard cleanups and enhancement initiatives, advocacy meetings, all supported by community volunteers that have created a sense of pride and care for the individuals that live and pass through this neighbourhood. Our children have observed first hand what inner city living looks like and we embraced their awareness, acceptance and compassion of marginalized individuals.

We regretfully have been profoundly impacted by the establishment of the encampment below our home. We have lost the quality of life we shared in this community as we have had encounters where we have felt threatened and unsafe, where we have had to contemplate whether our personal safety is at risk if we assist or get involved in the conflicts or crime we have observed, we have had our personal property stolen on multiple occasions, our children approached in our backyard and our their way home from school walking along Patricia Boulevard (my  year old son attending to an overdose and calling 911 to be walked through how to support the individual), we have cleaned up countless messes and debris and biohazard left by individuals that wander up from the encampment and observed and called in countless significant fires to our already overtaxed first responders.

Most significant is the direct and measurable health impact of the encampment. Our household has been involved in an air quality study through UNBC for roughly 5 years, since 2018 using a Purple Air monitor of outdoor particulate matter to pm 2.5. Since the encampment on lower Patricia Blvd was established and started burning debris, our monitor has detected readings on many days when the camp below our home is burning debris, that are significantly elevated unhealthy levels of pm 2.5, sometimes 5-8 times the rest of PG. (This data is available). These measures far exceed safe levels and are beyond readings that are seen even in very polluted centers. Additionally, it is not the smell of campfire smoke, a known health issue, but far worse, the smell of plastic and garbage and gasoline at times. We have had significant fires just below our home of trailers

and structures spewing byproducts of burning plastics and toxins known to be harmful. If this occurred once, perhaps we would be less concerned, however this is a daily occurrence. Throughout the year, regardless of weather, the smell of burning wire and plastic is evident. Our own health and air quality have been sacrificed. Somewhere along the line, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act has been thrown out the window along with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

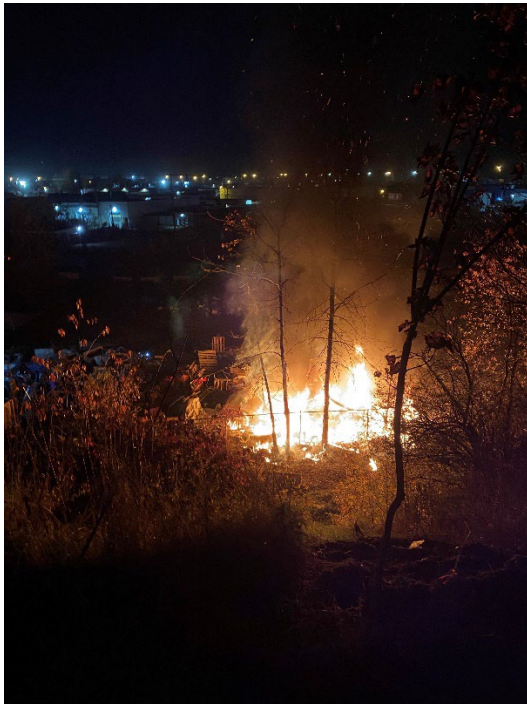
The idea of creating more density in this already unacceptable situation is poorly conceived, shortsighted and against current evidence based policy and best practice. Once again, Prince George will be the case study of 'What Not to Do' when addressing homelessness. Consolidating and entrenching encampments that are proven unsafe for its inhabitants, support workers and surrounding community does not align with proposed best practices of creating individualized housing plans that are desired and therefore sustainable. This is a dangerous and knee jerk response to diminish the optics of homelessness.

We strongly object to the proposed consolidation of the lower Patricia encampment and eagerly await positive resolution of the housing issue for the individuals currently in the encampment.

Regards,

Kerrie and Scott Roberts
315 Patricia Blvd.

October 12, 2022



January 2, 2023



August 20, 2022

