



1406 - 2nd Avenue, Prince George, BC V2L 3B6

August 25, 2023

Mayor and Council - City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard - Prince George BC, V2L 3V9

Re: Downtown Explosion Incident – August 22, 2023 – Funding & Meeting Requests

Dear Mayor & Council:

At 7:00am on the morning of August 22, 2023, an explosion shook our downtown and was heard and felt in many parts of our city. Our hearts were heavy as we saw the smoke billowing over the centre of our downtown! Sadly, we were to later learn that there were serious injuries. Our thoughts go out to those who were wounded. On behalf of our members of Downtown Prince George, we are grateful for the quick response from fire and police and the support coming from the City of Prince George and our community.

The merchants of Downtown Prince George showed their resilience and passion and got down to the business of boarding up windows and clearing up glass as soon as they could. They worked well into that night to clear up the mess and get ready for a new day. Most have re-opened but there continues to be longer lasting effects as they deal with shattered windows, damaged interiors, and lost merchandise.

Already the community has shown their support with downtown visits, words of encouragement and thoughtful gifts to our merchants. Several members of Council have stopped by to check on the impacted businesses. Councillor Sampson specifically reached out to Downtown Prince George to explore potential ways that our organizations could work together to strengthen their recovery. As a result of those discussions, we are asking City Council to consider additional support by funding a special Emergency Micro Grant Program that can contribute funds towards the costs of repairing damage, replacing merchandise, replacing windows and even insurance deductibles for those lucky enough to have the coverage. We are requesting funding that can be used to provide emergency grants to the affected businesses/properties. Our organization already has an established Micro Grant Program that we can adapt very quickly to provide for this type of granting program. This support would go a long way to easing the pain and stress of the impact of this unfortunate incident on our downtown members.

With this letter we are also requesting a meeting with Mayor and Council to discuss further concerns that we have with regards to the safety of our members, residents, and visitors in our downtown. Arrangements for this meeting can be made with our Downtown Prince George, Executive Director, Colleen Van Mook.

Sincerely,

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Eoin Foley, President - Downtown Prince George

cc. Downtown Prince George Board of Directors
Colleen Van Mook, Executive Director, Downtown Prince George
Walter Babicz, City Manager, City of Prince George