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**From:** Amelia Merrick [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 8:16 PM  
**To:** Kellett, Leslie; Mayor and Council; cityclerk  
**Subject:** What can we learn from the last FAILED decampment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am aghast at your resistance to learn! In 2021 the City of Prince George failed their attempt to “decamp” at both the Splits (George Street) and Moccasin Flats. You lost two expensive court cases and following the decampment you made a public apology for the harm caused to residents of the encampments. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Two years later we are in the exact same position. Behind closed doors you made a dangerous decision, with no plan, coordination or support. Neither housing agencies, outreach workers or residents were consulted. Please learn from your mistakes! Even the Minister of Housing is calling you out for your bad decision.

In 2021 the Victims of your failed decampment gave you clear instructions for how to improve the decampment process. You have rejected every one of their recommendations. You prove that not only are you the most secretive council in Canada, but you are failed students.

Please read the attached report which gives explicit guidance for how to do better. We do not want to waste more tax dollars on legal fees or payouts. (How much have you spent on lawyers so far?)

Here is an excerpt of recommendations:

There should be an open and clear COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE PROCESS when residents are transitioned into social and supportive housing.

1. Ensure there is transparency and consent throughout the whole process.
2. List the reasonable supports that will be offered BEFORE the transition to supportive housing occurs. Discuss this with residents individually and also publicly.
3. If you intend to dispose of people’s belongings, explain the process that is about to happen in clear language at least 2 weeks in advance. This should be publicly explained and notices should be put up so that people who are not physically present can understand. Provide a contact number so that people can get further information.
4. Offer reasonable support to transport goods to the new shelter or to storage facilities. Two bins is insufficient.
5. Ensure there is time for people to figure out what to do with belongings that won’t fit at the shelter or storage facility. We have friends and family who can help.
6. Get SIGNED agreement to confirm that residents understand the process.
7. Take a photo of the scope of items that will be disposed of so there is no disagreement later.
8. Have residents sign that reasonable support was provided to transport goods and that disposal can proceed.

Claimants felt that if transition to housing and the “clean up” is done right we (the City and citizens) will be “better friends” afterwards. If our relationship is not better after transition to housing, something has gone wrong. Given the expansion of the Safe Street bylaw made in July to allow bylaw to remove abandoned items, these recommendations should be taken seriously. Claimants and other de-housed citizens are willing to provide consultation so we can get this right.

I would be happy to give you additional tutorial to support your learning.

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\*If for some reason you cannot publish this in the public records, please notify me immediately so I can amend my message to comply with your standards.

**Amelia Merrick, PhD**

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*In pursuit of powerful collective knowledge. Together, thinking new ideas, thinking the unthinkable!*