



August 10, 2023

Re: Temporary Use Permit for 4321 Grouse Road

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing a letter to support my application for a temporary use permit for our recently acquired property at **4321 Grouse Road** in Prince George.

I own a specialized care company based out of Halifax called Shift. For the past decade we have opened, operated, or staffed treatment and care facilities for adults and youth across Canada. With a special focus on northern and Indigenous communities, we operate in Nunavut, NWT, Nunavik Quebec and now we are expanding our service to BC in both Prince George and Vernon.

This is occurring as we were recently awarded a service contract to open a licensed community care facility in Prince George. The contract is with The Maples, a leading and provincially mandated adolescent mental health care facility in Coquitlam. The Maples is looking to expand their adolescent support services in regional communities so that families and youth don't have to necessarily travel to the lower mainland to access support.

This center will serve as a place of safety for young people needing support (it should be noted, this is not a "group home", and these are not youth in the care of family services. These are young people with parents or guardians who are concerned about their safety who are accessing care) Stays are anticipated to be 2-3 months long and we are anticipating the creation of 15-20 full and part-time jobs, not to mention economic spinoffs through suppliers. The facility will also bring much needed professional support to Prince George, as we will offer a clinical therapist, Indigenous youth care worker, registered nurse and child and youth care practitioners. We plan on opening our doors in mid-November.

The purchase and provision of facility was up to us, however it had to be a five-bedroom home, suitable for licensing under the community care act. Based on our experiences running youth homes, we also sought a home that was rural with acreage, away from the hustle and bustle of the city yet close enough to stuff that a kid can still be a kid.

Arriving in Prince George we discovered 4321 Grouse Road. It is a beautiful home, located on 5 acres of land at the end of a short gravel road with no close neighbors. Located just a few minutes from the amenities of town, it was perfect. Zoning was also seemingly appropriate, as the

accepted primary use allowed a minor community care facility – which this is. We purchased the property and are now in the process of making it ready to allow it to be licensed under Northern Health.

I was dismayed to learn that we were mistaken in our interpretation of the bylaws. Under Prince George zoning, no minor community care facility can exist (in any zone) unless its primary purpose (a single-family home) is fulfilled. Meaning that unless a permanent resident lives in the home, there cannot be a minor community care facility there. As a staffed facility, there will always be three staff on, but nobody will “permanently” live there. This creates a problem.

So, to open, we need a temporary use permit to allow a minor community care facility to exist as a primary purpose in a single-family home in an AR2 zone without a permanent resident. This is all I need your support with.

We want to bring comprehensive support for young people to Prince George and we’ve already bought the house to do it. All I need is your permission to move forward.

Thanks so much,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AM' with a stylized flourish.

Andrew Middleton

CEO | Shift

Redacted

A large black rectangular redaction box covering several lines of text.