

\*SENT VIA EMAIL\*

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Green Mobile Veterinary Services Ltd. for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

As business owners and operators, we are all passionate supporters of doing the right thing for our community. Collectively, we employ thousands of Prince Georgians who contribute to our local economy on a daily basis. We must work collaboratively to help facilitate positive change.

We hope that recommendations presented by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Prince George and Gateway BIA on December 16, 2019 are strongly considered by Mayor and Council for the 2020 Budget.

In the interim, we encourage you to:

- Take steps for immediate action to ensure the safety and well being of all members of our community;
- Review existing policies and bylaws to support a safer and cleaner community;
- Stand united with business leaders in advocating to the Provincial and Federal Governments and Health Authorities for meaningful change;
- And, that Mayor and Council participate in a long term working group with all relevant parties in an open and transparent manner.

We strongly hope that action will be taken, as accountability is required.

Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jodyne Green

Green Mobile Veterinary Services Ltd.

829-5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Prince George, BC V2L 3K5

**From:** Redacted  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Downtown Social Issues  
**Date:** Friday, November 29, 2019 3:19:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Public Session Letter.docx](#)

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**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi,

Please see attached letter.

Thank you

Regards,

Nikki Crawford  
General Manager  
Advanced Industrial Group Inc.

Redacted



\*SENT VIA EMAIL\*

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Advanced Industrial Group for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Nikki Crawford



Brownridge  
& Company  
Insurance

Nov 29, 2019

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Brownridge & Company Insurance for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Gord Brownridge  
President

TR Brownridge  
VP Personal - Partner

Sean Friend  
VP Commercial - Partner

Brownridge & Company Insurance Services Inc.



**\*SENT VIA EMAIL\***

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of L&M Engineering Ltd. for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, we have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. We would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Sincerely,



\*SENT VIA EMAIL\*

November 29, 2019

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Multicultural Heritage Society for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce & Downtown Prince George I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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We strongly hope that action will be taken, as accountability is required.

Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

**Marlies Greulich**

Executive Director

Multicultural Heritage Society of PG

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Budget Brake & Muffler Auto Centres for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce/Downtown Prince George/Gateway BIA, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Mike Godfrey, Owner

Budget Brake & Muffler Auto Centres, Prince George.

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Team Powerhouse Realty and 1253 Fifth Avenue Incorporated for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Prince George, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Mark McVey



Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of S. Desjardines & Assoc. Ltd. for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Prince George, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Sincerely,



Sheldon and Melanie Desjardines

S. Desjardines & Assoc. Ltd.

**From:** [T.Stringer](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** City of PG Consultations  
**Date:** Sunday, December 01, 2019 10:26:45 AM

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**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Travis Stringer for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues.'

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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- And, that Mayor and Council participate in a long term working group with all relevant parties in an open and transparent manner.

We strongly hope that action will be taken, as accountability is required.

Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues.'

Sincerely,

Travis Stringer

**From:** [Karen McKenzie](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Downtown Prince George  
**Date:** Sunday, December 01, 2019 5:27:30 PM

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This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Our names are Karen and Red McKenzie. Our son Troy, owns two businesses on 5th Avenue. I have already sent a letter including pictures of all the needles we picked up on one day, Labor Day, in the alley immediately behind his businesses, to all the City Council Members and Mayor Hall. Mayor Hall did call and speak with me regarding my concerns, he was really unable to offer much in the way of solutions. He did tell me all the things they have tried and the money that has been spent with very little to no success.

I was born in PG and have lived there for all except 8 years of my life. This spring, summer and fall my husband and I took a couple of walks almost every day from 6th Avenue along Vancouver Street to 3rd Avenue, to George Street, over to 15th Avenue then to Parkwood and back along Vancouver Street home. We were shocked to see the state of our downtown. We were accosted daily for money. There was garbage, bags, shopping carts and people all over many of the sidewalks. We daily saw people "shooting up" drugs in doorways of businesses along our route. It has never been this bad in all of my adult years.

Our son has tried many different things to limit the garbage, drug paraphernalia around his business, used condoms, defecation and vomit against his buildings, at great cost and to no avail. On Christmas Day for the last 9 years he has provided a free sit down turkey dinner in his banquet room for all the "homeless" folks or those who have no where to go for a Christmas dinner. In return he gets hours of work cleaning up messes, destruction of his property, break-ins to his employees and his own vehicle and one employee's vehicle stolen right from behind the restaurant. No help or support has been forthcoming from the City, the Social Agencies in the downtown area or up until now, the general public. The RCMP have responded on several occasions but no charges have ever been laid to his knowledge.

The time for solutions is long past. A very strong action plan needs to be drawn up and implemented NOW before we lose any more of our downtown businesses.

We would be at this meeting tonight if we were in town but unfortunately we are away until December 14th. We do not want to hear anymore about what you have done that has not been successful. We want to see a workable plan implemented so we can go back to being proud of and feeling safe in the downtown area of the city we live in and care about.

We are waiting to hear your response to this outcry from your tax paying, concerned citizens.

Sincerely,  
Red and Karen McKenzie

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Judy Mitchell](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on the social issues that affect the community of Prince George.  
**Date:** Sunday, December 01, 2019 9:50:57 PM

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**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Your Honor the Mayor of Prince George and members of the Prince George City Council,

I am deeply troubled over the discussion around "cleaning up the downtown".

If this were a question of garbage, I'm sure the City leadership would have identified the issue and installed more garbage cans, needle containers and recycling bins, said garbage containers would be emptied more frequently, and possibly have even hired more people to comb the streets and alleyways picking up garbage.

This isn't a conversation about garbage though; it's a discussion about people and more specifically the people who are living on Prince George's streets. As a municipality we already wage war on the poor justifying high rents (they are in line with the rest of the province). Allowing slumlords to press people into sex for rent, shoddy living conditions with poor wiring and the only affordable housing in areas where low income people are afraid to live.

The City of Prince George had approximately 167 people living without safe secured housing at the last PIT count. These are the people held responsible for most of the crime in the city. Many of these people won't leave about a six-block radius in the downtown core because of fear. How will they receive services? Where can they live? Will they be safe? Some of those 167 are couch surfing or renting a room, not knowing from day to day if they will have a couch or a room to sleep in at night.

This is a conversation about economics, specifically how this demographic is impacting some of the businesses downtown. I acknowledge it must be frustrating trying to catch or catching people shoplifting and not seeing a justice system supporting the businessperson. However, the ones that businesses are pointing at as the reason they are losing money wouldn't even be allowed in their shop.

The fact is that the downtown core has been struggling for a long time and Walmart being welcomed to Prince George dealt a killing blow. We need better ideas than new structures and partnerships that will take years to build. We need to remember that we are all just one provincial or federal decision away from being homeless without compensation. We need to value the people with visible addictions as much as we do the professionals that hide their addictions. We need to acknowledge that the people living on the streets are not CHOOSING to live in addiction and mental illness. NO ONE would.

People who feel this is an easy way to go through life, living off society and without responsibility would benefit greatly from spending just 4 hours walking in the shoes of a street-involved person. How good would you feel carrying all your belongings with you day after day? How motivated would you lining up for food or clothing? How safe would you feel when darkness falls? How amazing would you feel if your family disowned you or the community curses and ignores you?

Prince George needs educating because winter is coming.

Thank you for your time  
Judy Mitchell

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [C. Prieston](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public consultation on social issues written submission  
**Date:** Monday, December 02, 2019 9:22:17 AM

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**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

My suggestions are as follows with regards to the downtown of Prince George

Stop Giving Free Stuff at each turn - rather create a work for service model. While I understand there is not such thing as "Free" as someone will eventually pay for it and in this case the Taxpayers of Prince George at the end.

When people just hand things to their kids it doesn't teach them any value. Why would we continue this practice with adults? If the general public stops giving food / blankets / coats to make themselves feel better then we will see a marked decrease in "intentional homeless or occasional homeless" (Those who have actual homes elsewhere but just don't want to live in them). Perhaps the City could look into a ban on this practice and funnel it through the agencies that exist already to help those less fortunate. Collect the data to determine the real need so it will allow people can ensure their "donations" go to those who actually need them not a for profit company with their own agenda.

Stop using Drug Addiction and Mental Health as an excuse, this enables so many people who don't actually suffer from these issues but use them to justify bad behavior and abuse systems. The wait list for Rehab or Mental Health is a huge issue, let's look at funding those programs and staff to run them, instead of increasing salaries to City employees. If you offer help to someone there has to be the help available at that time, not in 6-8 months. There is a lot of unused space in the city that can be used for these places, but they need to be placed in strategic areas, not just downtown.

Create a crime watch employing the street folks, a street level Crimestoppers if you will. They are the best source of information on your streets and they would be in paid employment and free up the RCMP which could be paid in cash or credits for food vouchers, clothing, housing ,etc. Low Level Criminals can be sentenced to cleaning up the streets and clearing snow in winter instead of using Bylaw services. Make people accountable for their actions, not rewarded for bad behaviour.

I know there is not any one solution, but the 4 pillars approach has been short 3 pillars, either do it or scrap it, like the war on drugs it's a losing battle.

Thanks  
Crystal Prieston



\*SENT VIA EMAIL\*

December 2, 2019

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of AiMHi for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, we have witnessed a shift in our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces.

People we serve here at AiMHi who are already vulnerable are often being drawn into activities which leave them at additional risk; including, being victims of crime, having readily available access to drugs, and in some cases, being left homeless. We would like to see strong leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

As business owners and operators, we are all passionate supporters of doing the right thing for our community. AiMHi employs almost 500 people in the City of Prince George, in addition to the many people we serve who are working throughout the City. Collectively, as businesses in Prince George, we employ thousands of people who contribute to our local economy on a daily basis. We are willing, and must work collaboratively to help facilitate positive change.

We hope that recommendations presented by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Prince George and Gateway BIA on December 16, 2019 are strongly considered by Mayor and Council for the 2020 Budget.

In the interim, we encourage you to:

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- And, that Mayor and Council participate in a long term working group with all relevant parties in an open and transparent manner.

We strongly hope that action will be taken; together, we are all accountability for the outcomes we achieve.

Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melinda Heidsma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melinda" being more prominent than the last name "Heidsma".

Melinda Heidsma  
Executive Director



\*SENT VIA EMAIL\*

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Craig Leonard for All-West Glass Prince George Ltd. for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce/Downtown Prince George/Gateway BIA, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Craig Leonard

Redacted





**TBJ** LLP ♦ *Accounting For Your Future* ♦

Jeff A. Janzen CPA, CGA\* ♦ Theresa N. Gaboury CPA, CA\* ♦ Chelley Kortenbach CPA, CGA\* ♦ Frankie Albano, CPA, CA\*

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of TBJ LLP for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Janzen', written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Janzen, CPA, CGA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Theresa Gaboury', written over a horizontal line.

Theresa Gaboury, CPA, CA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chelley Kortenbach', written over a horizontal line.

Chelley Kortenbach, CPA, CGA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frankie Albano', written over a horizontal line.

Frankie Albano, CPA, CA

**From:** [Smooff](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Cc:** [murry.krause@pg.ca](mailto:murry.krause@pg.ca); [cori.ramsay@pg.ca](mailto:cori.ramsay@pg.ca); **Redacted**  
**Subject:** Downtown Prince George  
**Date:** Monday, December 02, 2019 10:03:06 AM

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**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

To Whom It May Concern – That is all of us here in Prince George

So --- **To Those Looking for Action Suggestions.**

I write as a 40 year resident, a retired social worker, and a strong supporter of downtown. For years I have said...we just need lots more people there so the small minority who are “homeless” do not make others feel unsafe. It is wonderful to see all the new eating establishments, the small businesses, and the housing being built.

However...the over abundance of social services and people needing help is clearly an issue. My thoughts about this are guided by an old and well known saying

ARE YOU OFFERING A HAND OUT OR A HAND UP?

It also needs to be understood that solutions will only work if they involve all the players: downtown businesses, downtown residents, street people, social agencies, and city council.

As a member of Trinity United Church I am part of the Hand Outs – monthly Soup Bus at St Vincent is topped up with about 150 Shoeboxes each Christmas. Then I read about Nurses collecting items and so many other organizations and individuals doing similar activities.

My knowledge and experience tells me that to make significant lifestyle changes most people need supportive relationships. So....I wonder how we can redirect some of the time and money resources of HAND OUTS shared by caring citizens into resources for a HAND UP? A recent news story mentioned the need for Volunteers at the Native Friendship Center...for Seniors, for tutoring. They do manage shelters. Could they use volunteers there somehow?

My sister in Winnipeg volunteered with a program organized through a church which matched them with folks in prison. The volunteers then became community support people when the prisoners were released...to help them navigate the systems for health care and housing and such. Here we have Project Friendship...for folks with developmental disabilities. We are all aware of Big Brothers and Big Sisters programs. I am sure there are other models.

I wonder if anyone has an overall picture of existing supportive housing options in our city. Are there waiting lists? If yes...then what help is needed so that those in the existing units might move on to a less intense service and still succeed? I think it is important to not house everyone downtown, but to assist them to move on and succeed as part of suburban communities. I am sure much of this is happening...how can we help? There is, for example, lower cost housing on the Hart but people would need funds and skills to use the bus, and support to access the local community

(Tim's, the Library, the Seniors Center, etc) Would groups somehow support local people needing help in the way some of us have supported refugee families - with a combination of some funds and some social contact?

My guess is that AiMHi is the largest agency in Prince George that provides supportive housing and overall services. The individuals they support live all over the city...some with 24 hour staffing, but many in their own apartments – but with adequate support worker hours.

Enough said .... thank you in advance to all who work with this concern to seek solutions that are respectful of all involved.

Beth Quesnel

Redacted

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

\*SENT VIA EMAIL\*

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of Victor Surplus Equipment Ltd. for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce/Downtown Prince George/Gateway BIA, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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We hope that recommendations presented by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Prince George and Gateway BIA on December 16, 2019 are strongly considered by Mayor and Council for the 2020 Budget.

In the interim, we encourage you to:

- Take steps for immediate action to ensure the safety and well being of all members of our community;
- Review existing policies and bylaws to support a safer and cleaner community;
- Stand united with business leaders in advocating to the Provincial and Federal Governments and Health Authorities for meaningful change;
- And, that Mayor and Council participate in a long term working group with all relevant parties in an open and transparent manner.

We strongly hope that action will be taken, as accountability is required.

Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Victor Caron  
President  
Victor Surplus Equipment Ltd.

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this written submission on behalf of the Prince George & District Senior Activity Centre Society for your 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Prince George has seen many different issues and opportunities arise throughout the years. As a member of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce/Downtown Prince George/Gateway BIA, I have witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, additional at risk and vulnerable persons on our streets, waste and drug paraphernalia scattered around our public and private spaces. I would like to see stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

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Please add this letter to the public record for the December 2, 2019 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

Sincerely,

Treena Wight

Centre Manager

**From:** [Kyla Turner](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public Consultation on Social Issues  
**Date:** Monday, December 02, 2019 11:47:29 AM

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**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

To His Worship Mayor Lynn Hall and City Councillors,

I am deeply troubled by the tone that has been set and permitted around the discussion of downtown "cleanliness and safety." I am sure you have received numerous form letters from members of Downtown PG expressing their concern over the perceived increases in crime and improperly disposed of sharps in the downtown core. As Dr. Andrew Gray stated in his interview with the Citizen on October 2, 2018, Northern Health sees a return rate of over 90% for needles distributed through approved harm reduction programs. Let us be clear about the source of that return rate. It is not the business owners who have helped the City achieve this high standard of returns. It is the people who use drugs, who, both as part of organized groups and individually, pick up needles, store them safely in sharps containers and return them to appropriate drop-sites every day. These concerned citizens make laps of the downtown area before the City bylaw enforcement officers arrive, cleaning up as much of the downtown as they are able to. Why do they do this? Because they are also genuinely concerned about public safety and civic pride. They are citizens of our downtown, same as any other citizen and they do care about the cleanliness of their home neighbourhood. As if the daily evidence of this wasn't enough, the Prince George Community Action Team has organized a Garbage Pick Up party for today to get the streets free of garbage and paraphernalia before we get more snow. I ask the council to consider the last time they were publicly harassed and threatened with being "rounded up" and kick out of their home when they offered to clean up garbage downtown. This is precisely what this dialogue allows to happen.

Beyond the work our street-entrenched citizens and neighbours do in keeping downtown clean, they also work endlessly to prevent deaths from overdose. What the dialogue around the downtown core seems to wholly lack is a recognition that we are in a health crisis due to the toxic supply of drugs in our province. We are seeing hundreds of death each year (with some 1600 deaths in 2018 alone) due to overdose. The death toll would be twice as high without people who use drugs intervening by providing naloxone injections for their peers. I personally work with peers who have reverse over 60 overdoses each in community. I work with peers who are up at 4am to patrol the streets making sure people are using safely (including disposing of their gear safely and cleaning up the areas around them). I work with peers who have responded to overdoses in community when it was too late to save the person who overdoses. I see those peers pick themselves up and keep going for the rest of the day after having to tell people their friend, their brother, their sister, their child didn't make it. I have seen peers exposed to levels of trauma and death that our first responders would struggle to match. And I watch them do all this every day without nearly the same level and types of support offered to professional first responders. Instead of the praise we give to first responders in uniform, our peers face stigma and discrimination. I watch them be kicked out of doorways while trying to provide someone with the education and help they need to stay safe while using, to decrease their use and even get off drugs when they are ready. I watch these peer heroes be harassed and treated as less than by people who have so much more than them.

"Rounding people up" and shipping them out of town will never get rid of garbage and drug paraphernalia downtown. It might, however, remove the people who are saving lives every day when we need them most. I sincerely hope that we never see a day when we are faced with unattended overdoses instead of litter downtown each morning and I hope council sees fit to take action to prevent this.

I will be in attendance tonight at your meeting. However, as council should be aware, members of the HIV/HCV support community will be arriving late, as today we observe World AIDS Day with a vigil to remember those lost to HIV. Tonight we remember those who died from HIV related illness, often alone and uncared for, whose communities rejected them out of misplace, misinformed, racist, homophobic, and transphobic fear. I am appalled to see that we have not progressed at all since then, and are currently, actively looking for the next group of marginalized people with stigmatized health issues to shun, force into hiding, and leave to die alone and uncared for. Shame on all of us if we let fear win out over common sense and common decency.

Sources:

Dr. Gray's interview with the Citizen: <https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/local-news/needle-return-rate-better-than-90-per-cent-public-health-officer-says-1.23450359>

Coroners's Report on Overdose: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

CBC Article on Naloxone: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-od-crisis-lives-saved-1.5163581>

Regards,

Kyla Turner, MA (she/her/hers or they/them/theirs)  
Interim Executive Director  
Positive Living North: No kheyoh t'sih'en t'sehena Society  
#1 - 1563 Second Avenue, Prince George, BC V2L 3B8

Redacted  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]



**From:** [Jennifer hawkes](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Written submission for council meeting  
**Date:** Monday, December 02, 2019 11:59:23 AM

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This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening,

I have two items to bring up for the public consultation on downtown issues.

The first suggestion I wanted to bring up that the "Clean Team" approach has worked well for communities such as Quesnel and Terrace where peers are paid by the city and given equipment to pick up needles and syringes that are left on the street. We do have this five days per week in partnership with BIG for "basic sidewalk and street litter pick up" but maybe this program can be expanded to seven days per week and also hire some peers.

The second is to advocate for low income and supported housing with adequate street lighting around these buildings. I have heard that people living on the street are not feeling safe. There is a need for low income housing that is maybe subsidized by the city or government to make it affordable but also a safe place where people that are living there are not surrounded by crime that they feel helpless to change. Perhaps looking at on site managers 24-7 that are equipped to triage calls to police vs car 60 for safety concerns.

Thank-you,  
Jennifer Hawkes

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ron J Davis](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public consultation input council meeting Monday, December 2, 2019  
**Date:** Monday, December 02, 2019 12:01:38 PM

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**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

One of Prince George`s biggest assets is also its biggest liability, which is its isolation from other large communities.

As a result, over our cities history, we have been able to grow because industry that has established here has needed on site businesses to provide services to them, the pulp mills and saw mills being the two most obvious examples. The snowball effect has been that smaller businesses have flourished in the shadows of industry. This has attracted other business that support the whole community including retail and commercial. We are no longer a town, but a city, providing services to not only business, but also our general population, the whole population. Not only profit making but also non profit. We have seen a proliferation of community services to help those that need help. Unfortunately, a few specific incidents over the past two or three years have occurred that have overwhelmed our ` service community`. Detailing what has happened to reach this tipping point is not the issue, but addressing that fact that we have a problem with capacity to meet the need, albeit not a business model we usually look at. Meeting the needs of this underserved community will not be able to be measured in profit of dollars and cents. That I will leave for others.

The questions is what are we going to do now? I would suggest that this requires a collaboration between our Province and our Federal government, with our City as the delivering agent and partner. How? Not sure.....but I do recognize that we have the assets to solve this problem, we just need the leadership and management to plan, organize, develop and control this community service.

**Ron Davis**

"Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one."

\*SENT VIA EMAIL\*

Nov 29, 2019

Dear Mayor & City Council,

Please accept this letter as contribution to the 'Public Consultation on Social Issues'.

This letter is being sent to you from my business, True Self: Wellness for Mind, Body & Spirit. I offer counselling, spiritual life coaching and meditation in downtown Prince George. I am currently an active member of Love Downtown Prince George and I often partner with many downtown businesses (InJoy, 3Sisters Rocks N Gems, Books & Co, etc) in order to generate and revitalize the downtown core. My intention is to support the personal and community psychological, emotional and spiritual growth of Prince George. It is a challenge to do this when our physical and psychological space is not conducive to such growth.

Over the past 15 years that I have lived in Prince George, I have seen much growth and devastation in our downtown core. I was so excited to see the City participate in a large initiative to rejuvenate and bring life back to our downtown core. However, over the past few years, it is with a very heavy heart and with much frustration that I've witnessed a shift to our community - resulting in increased crime, and a huge increase in our homeless and at risk and vulnerable population in downtown Prince George.

I had a counselling office on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dominion for 2 years and during that time, I can not express how much debris, garbage, vandalism, make-shift shelters, drug paraphernalia and even feces was scattered around that corner on pretty much a daily basis.

I have contacted the City and RCMP for the following concerns during a 2-year period

1. yellow mucous on the keypad at Columbus parking pay station which was not cleaned for almost three weeks (thank goodness my plate number did not contain the letters and numbers that were covered in yellow "snotty phlegm", I had a glove just to key in my plate number -- GROSS),
2. a large jug of unknown liquid (was it urine, was it flammable, I don't know, but I called numerous times over 3 weeks and was passed from one department to another, it was cleaned when I personally stopped a city worker in the back alley, who stated it was not their job but they cleaned it anyway),
3. a make-shift shelter (which I was informed would be taken down by a special crew at a designated time, it sat there all day but was not there the following day),
4. I called the police because 5 people were sitting in the doorway and on the sidewalk wrapped in blankets and pillows at 7pm (not very late at night) heating up some drugs which they were injecting. I run a counselling business, working with vulnerable population and there was a young girl (a minor) in my waiting room, waiting for her parent who were in a counselling session with another counsellor at the time. She was in a vulnerable situation with these people sitting outside shooting up. Police called me 45 mins later stating the people shooting up, were now gone (of course they were gone 45 mins later!). RCMP offered for me to try and identify them (to what end?).

A few things that I did not call the city nor RCMP about: grocery carts full of garbage being left for days and weeks behind the Generator, bag of clothes torn apart and left on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dominion for almost a week, numerous needles on the ground. The time I saw someone slumped, whom I was not sure if they were alive or dead, I insisted their “friend” wake them before I drove away. The harassment from one man whom I saw on the streets on a regular basis. The three people, each on separate occasions, who came into my building who were not clients, one of which was sleeping inside my front entrance. The urine on my building door, the vomit in front of my building, the broken glass. And just for laughs, the piece of bread that was stuck to the side of my building for almost a week. And these are just the things that come quick to mind.

It is sad when clients, colleagues and friends cringe when I tell them that my office is downtown. Many people are afraid to be downtown when it is dark (in the winter that means downtown is barren by 4pm!!!!) VERY SAD!! Are we not big enough and have enough need for City Police!!???

We NEED stronger leadership from our Mayor and Council to address these issues.

As a business owner I’m passionate about offering a service for the betterment of our community. I know the downtown business owners employ and support thousands of Prince Georgians and surrounding communities who contribute to our local economy on a daily basis. Collectively, we can make our community a cleaner and safer place to live and do business. It is next to impossible to make change unless there is strong leadership support. We must work collaboratively to help facilitate positive change.

I hope that recommendations presented by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Prince George and Gateway BIA on December 16, 2019 are strongly considered by Mayor and Council for the 2020 Budget.

In the interim, we encourage you to:

- Take steps for immediate action to ensure the safety and well being of all members of our community;
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We strongly hope that action will be taken, as accountability is required.

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Sincerely,

Tammy Skomorowski, MEd, CCC, CSLC