

**From:** [Greg Halseth](#)  
**To:** [Babicz, Walter](#); [Brown, Sarah](#); [Rebecca Schiff](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support - SSHRC Partnership Grant on homelessness  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:36:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [SSHRC Portal Preview Graham - short.pdf](#)  
[PGDOCS-#652165-v2-IURC SSHRC Grant Letter of Support - Dec 2022.pdf](#)

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Walter Babicz,  
City Manager

Sarah Brown  
Supervisor of Civic Initiatives and Partnerships  
[sarah.brown@princegeorge.ca](mailto:sarah.brown@princegeorge.ca)

November 14, 2023  
CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE

Walter and Sarah,

**Subject:** Letter of support - SSHRC Partnership Grant on homelessness

We hope and trust that you are well.

As you will recall, last year the IURC Homelessness Initiative submitted a funding application to the national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The application was for a 7-year \$2.5 million project working in Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna. The application writing was led by one of the IURC partners (Dr. John Graham from UBC-Okanagan). At the time, the City provided a very good letter of support – the letter was signed by Walter and the letter process was managed by Chris Bone. As the first stage of a two-stage application process, our application last year came immediately below the funding cut-off line.

With very supportive comments from the funding agency (which included helpful suggestions for improving the application), the process of preparing a new application for this year's intake is now underway. We are writing as we are again seeking for letters of support from our partners. We are also reaching out to the FNHA, NHA, and CSFS.

As was the case last year, the application involves a national team of diverse researchers. It will again be led by Dr. John Graham, and the focus will continue to be on preventing homelessness through community-embedded research with a positive social impact focusing on small to medium sized cities (a copy of past year's application is attached as information).

The application is for a seven-year SSHRC Partnership Grant. As last year, we are requesting the City to join us as an Invited Partner on the application. The City's letter from last year was very good. SSHRC's comments on the collective body of support letters was to think a bit more about individualizing the letters – thinking about anything from the intervening year that might show what the organization hopes to gain from the partnership, what they might be able to bring to the partnership, and any events of changes that can highlight how this research will assist their own decision making and future operations.

We are attaching a copy of your letter of support from last year. Ideally, we are hoping this letter could be placed on your letterhead and provided back to us by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A member of our team will be available to provide direction and support in the process of uploading the letter to the SSHRC Application Portal in January 2024. We would be truly grateful for your support again with this upcoming grant; it will greatly assist in the significant reduction of homelessness in our community.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and are available at your convenience for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schiff and Greg Halseth

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Rebecca Schiff, Ph.D. (she/her)  
Dean - Faculty of Human and Health Sciences  
Professor - School of Health Sciences  
University of Northern British Columbia  
*Nizdeh Nekeyoh Hohudil'eh Baiyoh*  
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Redacted

[Rebecca.Schiff@unbc.ca](mailto:Rebecca.Schiff@unbc.ca)

*En cha huná*

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional, unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, part of the Dakelh (Carrier) First Nations.



## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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December 12, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: Letter of Support - SSHRC PG**

The City of Prince George is pleased to support Dr John Graham's SSHRC Partnership Grant application to establish a cross-sector, national platform to identify, mobilize, synthesize, and apply community-driven research and innovative practices for housing and homelessness in small to medium range cities.

We have reviewed the proposed intent, objectives, and timelines of the application and agree in principle with the proposed partnership research activities. We affirm our support and are willing to participate in developing a Stage 2 application. We believe this research team will be of relevance to our organization and via a collaborative process, the findings/results of our partnership activities will be used by community members nationally to make positive social changes to end homelessness. We will endeavour to provide a senior member of our team to participate in monthly meetings, review documentation, and provide feedback and support throughout the lifespan of the project. It is anticipated that this will consume 3-5 hours per month for the seven-year period, a total in-kind contribution evaluated at approximately \$6,000 each year.

We believe that this innovative opportunity to test and share promising practices and knowledge from small to medium-range cities geared towards ending homelessness will benefit people at-risk of and experiencing homelessness nationally. We hope to achieve the following outcomes as a result of this partnership:

- Better evidence-based research to inform improved access for individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness
- Presents the opportunity to explore longer term impacts of many organizations working toward the same goal of improved collaboration

The City of Prince George is committed to engaging with the research team and community partners to identify these innovative solutions to assist other small to medium-range cities nationally in their work towards ending homelessness. Please contact me for further inquiries regarding this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Babicz".

Walter Babicz, City Manager

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