
Subject: Concerns about Air Quality - Millar Addition

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:30 AM

To: Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca <mailto:mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca> >

Cc: peter.jackson@unbc.ca <mailto:peter.jackson@unbc.ca> ; info@pgairquality.com <mailto:info@pgairquality.com>

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FOR OFFICIAL INCLUSION IN COUNCIL MINUTES

Dear City of Prince George Mayor and Council,

I woke up early this morning. Unfortunately, I missed the Northern Lights but I was awake early enough to get a whiff of our “fresh morning scent.” Since moving to the Millar Addition I have been alarmed at the poor air quality. Most mornings I check the PurpleAir map <<https://map.purpleair.com/1/mAQI/a43200/p604800/cC0#11.1/53.8854/-122.6458>> and the Millar Addition consistently has worse air quality than our neighbors. (See Appendix 1)

For example, this morning we are at 91 (US EPA PM 2.5 AQI) while our neighbors are at 37 – 77 (lower is better). On Saturday our air quality was at 28 while our neighbors were at 4 and 6. Our neighborhood has the worst air in Prince George.

I believe change is possible, but first we need to understand the source of the poor air quality. Many neighbors who have lived in the Millar Addition for several decades tell me it is because of the encampment. That is why I am coming to Mayor and Council. I would like to ask for help to collect data on air quality.

Here are three ideas:

1. Could the City of Prince George partner with PGAIR and UNBC to collect historical data on air quality? For example, we could compare the air in the Millar to neighbors in 2014, 2018, 2022 and present. This might show us how the encampment has impacted air quality.
2. Could the City of Prince George procure two Purple Air monitors – one for Lower Patricia and one for Upper Patricia?
3. Could the City of Prince George invite student groups to conduct air quality research in the Millar Addition? All levels of students, from elementary to University could participate.

Change is possible. In 1988 I moved to Ontario from BC. I remember the first time I went to Lake Ontario we found dead fish, floating belly up. The levels of pollution in the Lake were too harmful to swim. However, after extensive efforts that involved industry, community and government, the lake is now swimmable. The first step to change is to understand the source of the problem.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am hopeful that we can make data-informed actions that are centered on the wellbeing of people. Breathing is pretty important to us.

With respect,

Dr. Amelia Merrick

P.S. Will the City support a clean up crew at Mocassin Flats on April 21? Less garbage = less burning garbage.

Appendix 1 – Screen shot of a 1 – Month Average Purple Air monitor (Taken March 25, 5:45 am)

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