

From: *redacted
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Re: Receipt of letter.
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 3:19:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Dear Ethan,

thank you for your e mail.

My letter was in relation to the proposed Temporary Use Permit.

My concerns are, and you may add to my already submitted letter,

(1) That the proposed temporary accommodation site, although technically allowed for two x three year periods consecutively, will end up being permanent in the end, just like the encampment on lower Patricia has become permanent, and the City has no way of removing it.

(2) That the proposed accommodations will do nothing to clear away the tent encampment site on Lower Patricia, which has turned into a monstrosity and is a constant danger to the health of both its own and the Millar Addition Citizens.

(3) That there will be people who continue to insist on living in the encampment and not in the proposed temporary residences; so in fact, we will then have both lawless situations to deal with, not just one.

(4) With more and more accommodations being provided, there will be an unending stream of people coming in from surrounding areas, replacing those individuals who may choose to move into the temporary accommodations.

Thank you,

respectfully,

Marie Hay

From: "cityclerk" <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
To: "MARIE HAY" *redacted >
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:25:37 PM
Subject: RE: Receipt of letter.

Hi Dr. Hay,

I can confirm I have received it.

It is being processed.

Can you confirm if the letter was in relation to the Temporary Use Permit being considered on Monday, or was it of a general nature about air quality? If unsure, please see this link:

<https://www.princegeorge.ca/city-hall/news-notices/public-notice-397-3rd-avenue>

Thank you,

ETHAN ANDERSON

Manager, Legislative Services/Corporate Officer



5th Floor, 1100 Patricia Blvd., Prince George, B.C. V2L 3V9
p: 250.561.7793 | f: 250.561.0183
ethan.anderson@princegeorge.ca
www.princegeorge.ca

We respectfully acknowledge the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh, on whose land we live, work, and play.

From: MARIE HAY <*redacted >

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:23 PM

To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>

Subject: Receipt of letter.

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 City Clerk,

please acknowledge if you received my e mail/letter to Mayor and Council,
which I wanted placed on the agenda for the Council meeting of the 22nd.

Kind regards,

Marie Hay

April 10th 2024.

Dear Mayor Yu and City Councillors,

As a thirty-four-year resident of the Millar Addition, I am writing to you with major concerns I have about the serious public health threats we collectively face as a city, due to the presence and proximity of the Moccasin Flats Encampment.

The current serious Public Health Hazards in the Millar Addition, downtown PG and in the Moccasin Flats areas, are as follows.

- (1) **Toxic air;** from the burning of garbage/tents/tarps/plastics/...which is both chronic and episodic.
- (2) **Untreated human excrement.**
- (3) **Rodent infestation;** (rats and mice).
- (4) **Bears attractants.**(discarded food waste).
- (5) **Fires;** out of control tents/trailers/tarps and other structural fires in Moccasin flats posing a risk of death from burning, on an almost weekly basis.
- (6) **Dangerous access for First responders,** to individuals suffering from opioid overdoses or other issues.
- (7) **Violent crime;** infestation by criminal gangs.

The information facts I wish to share with you are as follows;

- (1) TOXIC AIR.

A brief from Health Canada (read below). Please note this information does **not** include the deadly pollution from fine particulates, which is currently being measured by a Purple Air recording monitor on Patricia Blvd.

Open burning of garbage: health and environmental risks

[Open Burning of Garbage Brochure](#) (PDF, 329 KB)

What Is Open Burning?

Open burning refers to burning garbage in barrels, open pits, outdoor furnaces, woodstoves, or fireplaces. Open burning of garbage is much more harmful to your health and the environment than you may think.

Some people may say, "We've been burning garbage for ages, so what's the big deal now?"

We now understand that open burning of garbage -- even seemingly harmless materials like paper, cardboard, yard waste, and construction debris -- releases a hazardous mixture of cancer-causing compounds and other toxic substances when open-burned.

Open Burning Bylaws

Many Canadian communities have developed bylaws prohibiting open burning or restricting the types of materials that can be open-burned. To complement these bylaws, some communities are issuing burn permits and promoting safer alternatives. For example, when it comes to managing fallen leaves, communities are encouraging residents to either mulch them into the lawn with a mower or compost them in their backyards or through an organics collection program.

Up in Smoke

Open burning of garbage poses health risks to those exposed directly to the smoke. It especially affects people with sensitive respiratory systems, as well as children and the elderly.

In the short term, exposure to smoke can cause headaches, nausea, and rashes. Over time, it can increase the risk of developing heart disease. Some of the pollutants contained in the smoke from open burning of garbage can include:

- Dioxins
- Furans
- Arsenic
- Mercury
- PCBs
- Lead
- Carbon monoxide
- Nitrogen oxides
- Sulphur oxides
- Hydrochloric acid

Some of these pollutants can also end up in the ash that is left behind from open burning of garbage.

Dioxins, Furans, and Your Health

One of the greatest concerns with open burning of garbage is the health risks posed by the release of dioxins and furans into the environment. Exposure to dioxins and furans has been linked to:

- Certain types of cancers
- Liver problems
- Impairment of the immune system, the endocrine system, and reproductive functions
- Effects on the developing nervous system and other developmental events

In Canada, the open burning of garbage produces more dioxins and furans than all industrial activities combined.

Dioxins, Furans, and Your Environment

Since open burning of garbage is more common in rural and agricultural areas, there is particular concern for high levels of dioxins and furans settling on crops, in our streams, and in our lakes. Dioxins and furans produced by the open burning of garbage are deposited on plants, which are eaten by animals. The dioxins and furans are absorbed by these animals and stay in the food chain until they ultimately end up in our meat and dairy products. In fact, over 90 percent of our intake of dioxins and furans is from our diet.

Photographs of Moccasin flats and a Purple Air reading of 120, on Patricia Blvd. April 10th 2024

Moccasin Flats April 10th 2024 at 7:45 am.



US EPA PM2.5 AQI Get a sensor and become a community scientist



(2) THE DANGERS OF UNTREATMENT HUMAN EXCREMENT:

Diseases from human poop often carried by insects are not contained or confined to the court ordered protected area of Moccasin Flats. As public health history unfortunately tells us, such diseases can distribute far and wide.

- Hepatis A and E.
- Norovirus
- Parasites (worms)
- Giardia
- Adenovirus
- Toxogenic E. Coli
- Herpes
- Antibiotic resistant super bugs, like MRSA
- Clostridium difficile
- Dysentery
- Salmonella
- Cholera



San Francisco Poop Map 2024.

(3) RODENT INFESTATION, attracted by piles of food waste/garbage in Moccasin Flats.

Rats and mice diseases transmitted to human-population diseases.

- Leptospirosis
- Hanta virus
- Tularemia
- Bubonic plague (*Yersinia Pestis*)
- Toxoplasmosis
- Salmonella
- Rat bite fever
- Typhus
- Parasites
- LCM Lymphocytic choriomeningitis.

(4) BEAR FOOD ATTRACTANTS in Moccasin Flats.

(5) FIRES OUT OF CONTROL almost weekly.

- Which threatened the lives of the citizens living in the Flats, and the people and houses living on Patricia Blvd., when the fires race up the embankment. A mother and seven children were recently evacuated from Patricia Blvd, during a bad fire where hot embers were landing all around her house.



Moccasin Flats : Remnants of fire from March 28th 2024.



Fire in Moccasin flats December 19th 2023.

(8) DANGEROUS ACCESS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

See bolded paragraph below, about the police having to escort First responders, in this March 12 2024 Police report to Council

Crime report shows Lower Mainland gangs making city more violent

Moccasin Flats homeless encampment considered by RCMP 'the busiest 300 metres we have in town'

Ted Clarke Mar 12, 2024 5:30 AM



From left, RCMP Insp. Darin Rappel, RCMP Insp. Shaun Wright and BC Conservation officer Sgt. Eamon McArthur attended Monday's Prince George city council public meeting to discuss 2023 crime statistics. Ted Clarke

Increased criminal activity related to gangs from the Lower Mainland moving into northern B.C. is an alarming trend for Prince George police, city council heard in a report delivered at Monday's public meeting.

RCMP Supt. Shaun Wright delivered the 2023 crime statistics for the city that shows there were 2,673 violent incidents police had to deal with last year, up eight per cent from 2,472 in 2022, while incidents of assault rose to a four-year high (1,449) up 11 per cent from 2022.

Yearly increases were also noted in the number of charges of aggravated assault/assault with a weapon (455) and robbery (149, up 43 per cent from 2022), while there were

fewer sexual offenses (186) and fewer break-and-enters (615) in 2023 compared to the previous year.

“The disturbing trend we’ve seen going back at least over the last two years which is certainly picking up pace is the push from individuals involved in the Lower Mainland gang conflict up into Prince George and the level of violence and criminal sophistication that brings with it,” said Wright.

“Those are province-wide and interprovincial networks definitely involved in high levels of violence. The violent gangs pushing up into Prince George has resulted in many of the violent offences, including some of homicides and shootings that we’ve had.”

Prince George has already had two homicides and is on track to equal last year’s eight homicides. By comparison, Vancouver had 15 homicides in 2023. Of the eight local homicides the majority of suspects were out on bail for violent offences when the crime was committed, including some of the 50 people in the city on electronic monitoring.

Downtown Prince George and the Moccasin Flats homeless encampment remain trouble spots. The first homicide of the year happened Jan. 5 when a man was shot inside the warming centre at Moccasin Flats and later died after about a week in hospital. Since then there have been two other shootings in the camp and multiple stabbings.

“For us, Moccasin Flats is the busiest 300 metres we have in town and it will be for some time,” said RCMP Insp. Darin Rappel.

“We escort BC Ambulance in (mostly for overdose cases) for their safety and that’s also true of Prince George Fire Rescue. We are in there multiple times a day. It’s a vulnerable population (of 35 residents) and they are at risk of being robbed and beaten and assaulted. In turn, many of these victims are victimizers themselves, it’s a bit of hierarchy. There’s always somebody bigger and meaner than you around the corner and sooner or later you will be the victim.”

“There’s a significantly high rate of violence and an equally high rate of non-cooperation when we speak to the victims down there.”

Police are seeing a concerning rise in violent street-level crime such as robberies and they are at a loss to find a solution. They recognize that unabated drug use with only occasional mental health and addictions interventions and the glaring lack of residential treatment centres to get people to stop using illegal substances will continue to spike crime rates.

SHOPLIFTING STINGS LEAD TO STORE ARRESTS

The RCMP worked with larger retail outlets to conduct Boost and Bust shoplifting stings using undercover officers and store security to apprehend people stealing items from

store shelves and dozens of arrests were made. The sting operations typically involved four or five officers working over one or two days. They've seen fewer arrests and fewer repeat offenders, which indicates to the RCMP the program is effective.

Loss prevention officers do have the authority to stop shoplifters but Wright said the police are better equipped to handle making those arrests.

"We've seen a very disturbing alarming trend over the last year or two of the brazenness and the level of violence used by these individuals," Wright. "When confronted they'll often pull bear spray or knives or needles and threaten these individuals and it can be very dangerous for them. If they're willing to step in and bring the resources we're willing to partner with them."

The RCMP continued to use bait cars and bait bikes to nab habitual thieves.

INCREASED TRAFFICKING LINKED TO DECRIMINALIZATION OF HARD DRUGS

Wright expressed his frustration over the decriminalization of hard drugs by the BC government a year ago which he says has handcuffed police now powerless to stop drug use in public places such as parks or beaches and the front entrances of stores and businesses. He considers that "by far the largest paradigm shift I've seen in policing in nearly 30 years.

"It seems ironic that we're vilifying cigarettes to the extent we do but we're increasing the availability of smoking methamphetamine and opioids in public," he said.

"Drug use and mental health issues directly contribute to a significant amount of criminal offences, particularly violent offences. We've noticed an increase in a lot of drug trafficking to support the open drug use."

He said at one point, half of the residents of the former Knights Inn downtown motel, which now serves as a homeless residence, were associated with selling drugs.

The B.C. law was changed to allow government-funded safer-supply medications obtained by prescription as an alternative to illicit drugs in an attempt to reduce the number of opioid overdose deaths. But Rappel said in the past year since decriminalization drug deaths have increased five per cent.

"The year previous we would have interdicted in some of these instances and taken the drugs away because it's illegal," said Rappel. "We wouldn't have charged and haven't charged in a long time, but it's an open question as to whether or not with all of those no-case seizures, were we taking away fatal doses of street drugs that we now are not."

There were 5,796 cases of property crime investigated by the RCMP, down slightly from 2022.

POLICE HAVE LESS AUTHORITY TO DETAIN SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS

Wright told council the province's policing agency has enacted a policy change which discourages police from confronting an individual wandering the streets at night to check what they were up to and whether they had any arrest warrants or were in violation of court order.

"That used to be a very effective crime-suppression tool, and that has been removed from our toolbox, at least a couple years ago," said Wright.

Overall, the RCMP in Prince George had 44,881 calls for service in 2023, down from 45,465 in 2022 and 50,182 in 2021. The number of charges forwarded to the Crown dropped to 1,680 in 2023, from 1,993 in 2022 and 2,068 in 2021 which Wright attributed largely to reforms in the criminal code contained in Bill C-75 in 2019.

The prisoner count in the city climbed slightly to a four-year high to 2,950 in 2023.

BC Conservation officer Sgt. Eamon McArthur sat with Wright and Rappel to speak to council about the unprecedented number of bear encounters in the city last year that in some cases also involved the RCMP.

Watch the Citizen website for more on the bear problems that kept the city's four conservation officers so busy during July, August and September.

In conclusion, we the residents of the Millar Addition, do not require further studies of an already well documented spiral of violence against the environment, citizens and businesses of PG caused by the presence and proximity of Moccasin Flats to our neighbourhoods.

Just as there is Provincial legislation banning indoor second-hand cigarette smoke, because of the health hazards to people who have to live and work in a smoke filled environment.

so too the Citizens of the Millar Addition have a human right to health and wellness, and to be allowed to breath air that is not going to kill them or their children, born and unborn. We have three facilities for children in the neighbourhood, Sacred Heart School, the preschool at Le Cercle Francais and the soon to be opened Aboriginal Daycare near Lheidli T'enneh Park.

What we need is immediate action to remediate this disastrous situation, by using all means possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. M.D Hay

(Retired) Clinical Assistant Professor UBC, Dept. Medicine

MB.,BAO.,BCH.,DCH.,DRCOG.,MRCP(UK),,FRCP©., BA.