777 Bird Avenue Prince George, BC

V2L 0C4

January 6, 2025

The City of Prince George

1100 Patricia Boulevard,

Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

ATTENTION: Mayor Yu, City Councilors

Re: Business Licence for Set Free Recovery House at

3809 Pinewood Street

Prince George, BC

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is a Letter of Reference for Richard and Angie Korkowski of Set Free Recovery House to operate the home at the address above.

Wayne and Adriana Vander Werff have visited the house, toured its floors, and met the occupants. We have seen the maintained yard, clean rooms and kitchen and listened to all the in-house rules for living and sharing together while practicing a 90-day commitment to clean living, abstinence-based.

It is our observation that a very healthy respect for each resident, the house, the neighbourhood, and the leaders is practiced. I personally believe that this present environment is a positive one and promotes hope that re-integration to regular society can be achieved.

I, Wayne, have been set free now for over 35 years. Glory to God.

Sincerely,



Wayne T. Vander Werff

to whom it may concern: re: 3809 Pinewood Ave, Prince George

Jam writing this letter in support of keeping the Supportive Recovery home at 3809 Pinewood Ave., P. G. Flive right across the street from this house + want to let you know that these people are great neighb They are guiet, respectful, helpful + community minded.

I recently attended an informative open house there + was very impressed at the programs, strict regulations and soals for the residents. As I have family members in Chilliwack I wa

aware of the successful operations of the Set Free Recovery ministry on Vedder Rd.

+ was impressed to find that Richard & Angie

Korkowski were the founders + executive directors

of this place. I would be quite happy if the city gives Set Free Recovery site specific approval to continue operating this house.

Thank you for your consideration, sincerely, Carolyn Kassel 3785 James Drive, P.G.

email:

Pritchard, Melissa

From: Phillip Fredriksson <sopureproductions@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 11:02 AM

To: Pritchard, Melissa

Subject: Regarding zoning regulations

You don't often get email from sopureproductions@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Hello Melissa,

My name is Phillip Fredriksson, I am a resident of PG for 3 years now. I am a foster parent, care aide as well as volunteering with many local groups.

In my time here I have developed a working relationship with people living outdoors and in supportive housing in addiction. I refer to detox, recovery programs and resources. The most common issues I find in this program is a lack of local recovery programs. Wait lists are long and have multiple barriers.

I am writing in support of Set Free Recovery House. This residential style recovery program encourages its clientele to participate in community activities. The program provides help to its neighbours (eg: shovelling snow in the winter)

Richard Korkowski and his wife Angelika would be an asset to our community.

The program is faith based and is connected with many community groups.

Please reconsider supporting the TUP or whatever arrangement can be made so they may continue doing the great work they do.

Kind regards, Phillip Fredriksson 1756 8th Avenue

Sent from my iPhone

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.

January 24, 2025

Prince George City Council and Staff 1100 Patricia Blvd., 5 the Floor Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

To all it may concern:

Since 1997, I have served the community of Prince George as a pastor, taking active part in countless endeavors to enrich our northern city. I initiated the birth of a vibrant Christian community, served seven years as Interfaith Chaplain at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre and prior to that, worked as national director of a large First Nations organization that produced healthy, self-governing sub-entities across our nation.

My experience in endeavors to advance thriving communities as well as successful initiatives to address negative societal ills is extensive.

I am writing this letter to advocate strongly on behalf of Set Free Recovery, one of the newest yet most effective efforts in our city. It is my understanding that the executive director of this organization, Richard Korkowski, has met with some degree of hesitation and restriction on the part of our city leadership.

While there will always exist varying perspectives on the long-term effectiveness of different recovery programs, I want to state unequivocally that in my experience, faith based recovery homes integrated into the fabric of the local community are undeniably effective. The success rate of these homes is literally an embarrassment to alternative approaches. In short, they work!

The residents of Set Free Recovery are already proving that. Our church recently launched an Alpha program, a life-changing initiative that has engaged over 30 million participants in 169 nations. Almost half the volunteers running this program are residents in Set Free Recovery. That statement deserves repeating. They are not just participating in the program. They're running it!

With unlimited endorsement, I would strongly encourage City Council and their staff to green-light this work. Grant any variance possible. Approve any request. Allow as many residents as the health code permits. Do whatever is possible to make this happen. We could use 20 facilities like this in Prince George!

Sincerely,

Ian Bennett, Discipleship Pastor, Lakewood Alliance Church

John Sarkozy 32046 Pineview Ave Abbotsford BC V2T 1P9

Re: Letter of Reference – Richard Korkowski Set Free Recovery Prince George

To whom it may concern;

I am writing this letter to speak to my personal experience with Richard Korkowski over the span of 25 plus years.

I have witnessed him being nothing but a caring and dedicated individual when dealing with the many clients in recovery as well as in his personal relationships.

He has a caring heart and a servants attitude towards anyone and everyone he encounters in his daily dealings.

He has inspired myself and others that I know personally in our own journeys.

I have personally witnessed numerous men over the years express great gratitude for all the help Richard has given them and without him they may not even be alive today to share their story. He is a vital asset to the ministry and work of Set Free Recovery with men seeking recovery, and through this make a positive impact on society.

Thank you.

John Sarkozy

Date: 2025-01-21

John and Terry Runions 1316 Elkhorn Crescent Prince George, BC

January 23, 2025

City of Prince George 1100 Patricia Blvd Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Subject: Letter of Support for Set Free Recovery Application for Abstinence based recovery program and house

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to express our full support for the Set Free Recovery application for the abstinence based recovery program in Prince George. We feel that the executive director Richard Korkowski and his wife Angie truly deserve the opportunity to facilitate this amazing program. They have shown remarkable integrity and dedication, not only in caring for men struggling with addictions but also reaching out and becoming part of the Prince George community.

We have had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with several of the men that attend or have attended the Set Free Recovery program here in Prince George and have witnessed the positive and life changing supports that this 12 step Christian recovery program offers.

We feel that the Set Free Recovery program is a great asset to the community of Prince George with helping men get off the streets and off drugs and alcohol.

Thank you for considering our letter of support.

John and Terry Runions

Brad Gustafson

2221 Spruce Street Prince George, BC V2L 2R7

January 23, 2025

Attn: Mayor Yu, Prince George City Hall and City Council

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for Richard Korkowski of Set Free Ministries.

When I began building tiny homes with Phillip Frederickson in the fall of 2023, homelessness in PG had skyrocketed over 200% from approximately 100 people in 2021 to well over 300 people in 2023. The main problem was free food, clothing, shelter, money, but most of all free drugs. There was little motivation for real lifestyle change.

As a person who has been intimately involved with helping and advocating for the homeless, I can testify, like so many others - we need rehab centres!

This is exactly why Set Free Ministries needs all of the aid and support we can possibly throw at him.

As you consider how best to support him, *please consider*:

- 1) The greater good of the city, not just one single neighborhood.
- 2) Streamlining all approval processes
- 3) Removing unnecessary barriers or obstacles
- 4) Looking for creative solutions
- 5) Engaging other community aids & supports, as well as the private sector.
- 6) Moving away from corporate culture think, which tends towards government expansion and self focused benefits and the creation of to much regulation.
- 7) Moving towards selfless thinking, community benefit, and smaller government with fewer rules. Too many restrictions are exactly why Phillip and I were forced to build tiny homes.
- 8) Your city legacy for the nation: you are still a closely watched pilot program for the homelessness issue. Supporting addiction treatment centres will only bolster your legacy.

Addiction related issues, especially homelessness, is the city's number one hot button issue, therefore we must support those seeking to address it. Please enable addiction treatment centres, halfway homes, and the like.

Thanks in advance for your kind support of Richard Korkowski and Set Free Ministries.

Blessings in everything you do towards that end!

Best regards,

Brad Gustafson

Mayor Yu and City Council members,

I am writing on behalf of Set-Free Recovery Home established by Richard and Angie Korkowski at 3809 Pinewood Avenue, Prince George.

As a board member of the Prince George Peacemakers and having seen first-hand the work they are doing with the seven men currently in their program, I have been very impressed with what they're doing.

I understand that the location of the Home is not in an area currently zoned for this type of facility but it's really just a home with six bedrooms that is currently being used to house men who are there voluntarily to receive treatment to overcome their addictions, assisted by a couple who have a proven history of success working in this field for the past 24 years. They themselves have overcome addictions in their past and know what works best. These men are learning what it's like to live a normal life with a daily routine of household chores and teachings from a Christian perspective on how to overcome their addictions, resolve conflicts and build relationships. It's a very positive environment and the men are very thankful to be there.

I've been there several times and interacted with the staff and clients and was impressed with how clean everything was and how grateful the men are to be there. I truly believe this is a vitally needed service in Prince George as there's nothing else like it. The reason it's been set up in a residential area instead of down near Moccasin Flats is to remove these men from the familiar and help them start afresh living a normal life and learning how to live in community, to build their self esteem and feel accepted in normal society. This is a model that has been proven successful and I would hate to see them denied this opportunity.

Therefore, on their behalf, I'm asking Council to reconsider their request for a permit and either re-zone this area to include their home or grant them a temporary permit for two years to see how well they integrate into the neighborhood without complaints before you agree to rezone the area.

Thank you for your consideration, Suzanne Woodrow



3809 Pinewood Ave PG

message

Josie Kohlen

Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 11:40 a.m

o: mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca

Dear Mayor Yu and Council,

On Saturday, January 18th, I attended an event at 3809 Pinewood Ave. Richard Korkowski conducted an open house tour on this site that has been recently renovated to accommodate and support men recovering from substance abuse. It was stated that clients of the program do not have a history of committing sexual offences and this location is not their first stage in recovery. The facility has the appearance of being capable of operating in a safe manner for both the project's residents and staff and residents and properties of the surrounding neighbourhood.

I have signed a petition in support of Richard's and Angie's proposal and it is my hope that you will rule in favour of their application for a business license to operate a "Supportive Recovery" home at 3809 Pinewood Avenue.

Sincerely,

Josie Kohlen, 3754 James Dr, Prince George, BC V2N 4V1 cell phone:

Support Letter for Set Free Recovery Society plans to operate in Prince George

To whom it may concern.

I am writing this letter in support of Richard Korkowski 's Pinewood Avenue recovery home. I am a retired government employee and for the last 35 years I have worked with recovering addicts and alcoholics in our community.

I am very encouraged to see more emphasis being placed onto abstinence-based recovery as I have witnessed many individuals here in Prince George over the years achieve remarkable success under this model!

I have volunteered with several projects in Prince George specifically; The Samaritan Inn, and Sonrise New Directions. These successful local supportive living homes are based on the same programs that Richard has supported and operated for decades in the Lower Mainland. I visited a Chilliwack facility in 2023 that Richard ran and was extremely impressed with the clients I talked with there and how Richard, his leaders, and all aspects of their program functioned.

Richard is experienced and has observed, as I have, many lives changed via an abstinence-based recovery emphasis.

Richard's dedication to this work and the positive outcomes he has achieved are truly commendable. The programs he has supported and led have a proven record of accomplishment, making his proposal for the Pinewood Avenue recovery home a promising addition to our community's culture.

I am confident that Richard's approach and dedication will be a transformative force in our community. His extensive experience, combined with the successful outcomes he has achieved, makes him an ideal candidate to lead such initiatives here.



Patrick George Ellis 113–4 272 Davis Rd., Prince George BC V2N 0B3

Phone-(Email -



Reference Letter for Richard Korkowski

message

homas Talbot <

Tue, Jan 21, 2025 a 8:51 p.m

o: richard@setfreerecovery.ca <richard@setfreerecovery.ca>

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great confidence that I write this reference letter for Richard Korkowski. I have had the privilege of knowing Richard for over 12 years, and during this time, I have witnessed his unwavering commitment to recovery ministries and his dedication to supporting vulnerable adults in their journey toward healing. His work has had a profound impact on countless individuals as he has consistently coached and guided them toward God's truth, helping them navigate their hurts, hang-ups, and addictions.

Even while managing his own recovery, Richard has consistently demonstrated a strong desire to do good and serve others. His selflessness and compassion are evident in everything he does. Whether through one-on-one counseling, group meetings, or his involvement in various ministry efforts, Richard has been a constant source of encouragement and support for those in need.

In addition to his work with individuals in recovery, Richard is exceptionally skilled in planning and organizing. His organizational abilities are exemplary, and he has successfully led numerous fundraising efforts, including motorcycle rides, golf tournaments, and gala events. These events not only raised essential funds but also brought the community together to support the ministry's mission.

Richard's structured approach to both his personal and professional life, combined with his passion for recovery and helping others, makes him a valuable asset to any organization. I have no doubt that he will be a tremendous asset to Set Free Ministries, bringing his experience, organizational skills, and dedication to the team.

I wholeheartedly recommend Richard Korkowski, confident that his contributions will be significant and lasting. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

Tom Talbot

FIRST PENTECOSTAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH of CANADA

FPECC.CA "IGNITE YOUR FAITH, IGNITE YOUR PASSION, IGNITE YOUR LIFE"

Bishop, Rev. John McIlwraith

380 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 2T1 - Phone: (604) 778-7300 - Email: rev.john.mcilwraith@fpecc.ca

January 21, 2025

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To: Whom it may concern.

Re: Endorsement of Richard and Angie Korkowski with respect to Vulnerable Persons, and

Assisted Living / Addictions Recovery Housing Providers.

I am writing this letter to wholeheartedly endorse Angie and Richard Korkowski for their fitness and ability to provide assisted living housing and recovery services to the most vulnerable members of our communities. As a Bishop and member of the active clergy @ The First Pentecostal Church of Canada, active in urban outreach missions with a focus on homelessness, mental health and addictions recovery, I have had the privilege of knowing Angie and Richard for several years (since 2011), and I can confidently attest to their character, dedication, and compassion to those most vulnerable. Me and a colleague, Mike Jobin (Of Downtown Vancouver's Union Gospel Mission) have for years in our own work referred men from the poorest postal code in all of Canada, all of them with severe / acute addictions / drug dependencies and mental health issues to Richard and Angie's recovery program.

Furthermore Richard and Angie's life's work was captured (in part) on film and became a featured segment in a documentary film call "Dead.Boy" that was awarded close to three dozen Laurels in the 2023 international independent film festival. Awards including Best Documentary in Rome, Rio, and was @ Cannes International Film Competition a Semi Finalist – 2023. The films producer Tracey Cochrane had recruited me based on my own life, work, and insight in Vancouver opioid crisis. In addition to my own interview segments and contributing some video and photography to the project producer Tracey Cochrane asked me to think of anyone I would nominate as a candidate to be included in this documentaries filming, with out hesitation my first and only nomination was Richard and Angie and the rest is history as they say.

Link - "Dead Boy": A Multi Award Winning Documentary On Opioid Deaths In Canada

Angie and Richard have been active for over two decades, and their commitment to serving others is evident in every aspect of their lives. They have consistently demonstrated a deep sense of empathy and a genuine desire to help those in need. Their involvement in various ministries, including outreach programs, fund and awareness raising, delivering residential based recovery programs, and support housing for many stages of recovery, has been nothing short of inspiring.

Together, Angie and Richard have created recovery homes that are not only physical spaces but a sanctuaries of love, care, and support. They have opened their hearts and their homes to those in need, providing a safe haven where individuals can find the help and encouragement they need to rebuild

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their lives. Their recovery homes are a testament to their commitment to serving others, and it is clear that they are well-equipped to provide the high-quality care and support required for assisted living and recovery services in their new community of Prince George B.C.

I suspect they will over time receive the same level of support and cooperation in Prince George as they achieved in Abbotsford and Chilliwack.

Their dedication to creating safe and supportive environments for those in need is truly commendable. It is no exaggeration to say they have made a significant impact on thousands of lives of many individuals and families in our communities.

Now that I have said all those lovely but true things about Richard and Angie I am going to include some of what the public record has to say about The Korkowski's proven track record.

20th Anniversary of Joshua House on June-22-2024

For a little over 20 years now there are thousands of men and families lives from Vancouver all the way to Mission and from all the communities in between that have been changed for the better, and not only from Vancouver's Lower mainland but men from all over BC, from First Nations People to new comers to Canada.

I think Global News says it well with respect to Richard and Angie's ability and proven track record:

"The centre is treating more than 100 men battling severe addictions at eight different homes." Joshua House is a registered mental health and substance use home. The program is faith-based, and it receives funding from the B.C. government and some churches."

This is the Global News article from which the above is quoted. It is dated December 10, 2023. https://globalnews.ca/news/10160672/chilliwack-addictions-centre-facing-significant-budget-shortfall/

The City of Abbotsford since 2010 have always worked with Richard and Angie and at times their recovery programs and homes have been under the microscope as they consistently delivered to people in a vulnerable sector "assisted living persons" safe and truly successful recovery homes. When I say they where under the microscope I do not mean under public scrutiny only that they have passed several rigorous evaluations over the years and grew into an operation that actively at any given time severed 100 men all by nature of serious addictions are vulnerable persons.

I refer you to **The Abby News**, The Abby News over the years have published articles dedicated to Richard and Angie's work. See the following for reference:

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"Joshua House projects to move forward - Council gives approval for projects following public hearing" - Oct 13, 2013

"The proposal was discussed at a public hearing on Sept. 23, with supporters and former clients stating that the facility would be a great help to those in need of recovery. On Monday, council gave the proposals third reading, and will give a final approval at an upcoming meeting."

Source https://www.abbynews.com/news/joshua-house-projects-to-move-forward-1736072

In 2014 the people of Abbotsford showed Richard and Angie some love and again The Abby News did a featured news story on them.

"Joshua House needs a new home" - Abbotsford farm-based recovery program must find a new location for two 10-bed recovery homes - Alex Butler Jan 25, 2014

"It's a sad day for Joshua House." "The organization began its application in 2010. The project went to public hearing and was approved by council." "Joshua House is now looking for a four-to six-acre farm with a long-term rental, or lease with an option to own, as soon as possible. The site would preferably have two homes and must have a barn to keep animals."

Source: https://www.abbynews.com/news/joshua-house-needs-a-new-home-1729335

In conclusion, their combined skills, experience, and unwavering commitment to serving others make them proven and ethical assisted living housing and recovery services providers. I wholeheartedly endorse them and am confident that they will continue to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those they serve.

On a final note both Mr. and Mrs. Korkowski have an open invitation @ F.P.E.C.C. for ordination and Clergical licensure within our national and provincial ranks.

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

To write this was truly a pleasure.

Every Blessing,

Rev. John McIlwraith

2nd National Bishop, National Secretary, and Presiding Provincial Bishop of British Columbia

@ First Pentecostal Church of Canada. MCILWRAITH.FPECC.CA





.etter of reference

message

/lurray Lipp <

Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 6:53 p.m

o: richard@setfreerecovery.ca

I have known Richard korkowski for 10yrs .In all of that time I have known him to have only one vocation / passion in life and that has been to counsel and assist others suffering from addiction to get clean and recover their lives. I know several people in the lower mainland who are thriving in their new lives as a result in large part to Richard's efforts .

Sincerely

Murray Lipp

6523 Willoughby Way Langley BC V2Y1K3



9-31205 MACLURE RD. ABBOTSFORD, BC, V2T5E5 P:604.854.5800

Sept 6, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the owner and manager of The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Abbotsford, BC, and I have had the pleasure of knowing and having a business relationship with Richard and Angie Korkowski since 2006. Throughout this time, I have witnessed the dedicated work they have done with Joshua House Ministry, which is truly inspiring. I have seen firsthand the transformative effects on the lives of countless men. Richard and Angie have been pivotal in helping many of these men rebuild their lives, leaving behind addiction and hardship to become men of integrity and purpose.

From a healthcare perspective, my staff and I frequently interact with many of the residents at Joshua House. We consistently find them to be respectful, committed to their recovery, and appreciative of the care they receive. The professionalism and compassion Richard and Angie bring to their work, along with their team, are evident in the success of the residents and the positive atmosphere they foster.

Their interaction with our pharmacy staff has been collaborative and productive. Their proactive approach to streamlining processes has enhanced our ability to serve the residents more efficiently, demonstrating their commitment to continuous improvement and attention to detail. Joshua House, under Richard and Angie's leadership, operates with integrity and professionalism, and their commitment to maintaining high standards in their services has made them valuable partners in the community.

I fully support their ongoing efforts and am confident in the positive impact they will continue to make on the many men who choose Joshua House Ministry as their place of addiction recovery. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Satwinder Mann, BSc. Pharm

Mobile: 604.835.1400

Conduct Letter

From: John Sarkozy <

> Wed, Sep 04, 2024 01:52 PM

Subject: Conduct Letter

To: Richard Korkowski

<joshuahouse@shaw.ca>

To whom it may concern;

I am writing this letter to speak to my personal experience with Richard Korkowski over the span of 25 plus years.

I have witnessed him being nothing but a caring and dedicated individual when dealing with the many clients of Joshua House as well

as in his personal relationships.

He has a caring heart and a servant's attitude towards anyone and everyone he encounters in his daily dealings.

He has inspired myself and others that I know personally in our own journeys.

I have personally witnessed numerous men over the years express great

gratitude for all the help Richard has given them and without Richard

they may not even be alive to share their story.

He is a wital asset to the ministry and work of Joshua House with

men seeking recovery.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Blessings;

John Sarkozy





LETTER OF SUPPORT

January 23, 2025

Mr. Richard Korkowski, Ms. Angie Korkowski

Set Free Recovery

3809 Pinewood Ave, Prince George, BC, V2N 4W4, Canada

FROM: Cerina Jefferies-Nikic

RE: Support Letter for Set Free Recovery

Dear Mr. Richard Korkowski and Ms. Angie Korkowski,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Northern Region staff of Native Courtworkers and Counsellors Association of British Columbia (NCCABC) to voice our support for the Set Free Recovery Program, located in Prince George, British Columbia.

Treatment and recovery programs are vital in the work we at NCCABC provide for the accused. We have seen firsthand how treatment and recovery programs benefit not only the individual attending, but their family and friends, and the community as a whole. The impact that Set Free has on the community is undeniable, and the lived experience from the professionals working with the clients is extremely valuable.

Prince George currently does not have any other recovery or treatment programs with a similar structured, live-in model that Set Free has, making Set Free extremely sought after. This clear need for treatment programs speaks to itself and directly proves that Set Free Recovery is a major asset for our community.

I am confident that Set Free will continue to provide support for individuals with drug and alcohol addictions, which is why I fully endorse their mission and efforts.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to working closely with your organization with the same goal in mind – recovery.

Sincerely,

Cerina Jefferies-Nikic, Virtual Bail Native Courtworker