

*Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ*

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February 10, 2025

His Worship Simon Yu,  
Mayor of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Blvd  
Prince George, BC  
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Dear Mayor Yu:

I am writing on behalf of the End Abuse Program run by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in response to your recent proclamation declaring domestic violence an epidemic in Prince George. We commend your leadership and the attention you are bringing to this critical issue.

As a nonprofit organization committed to supporting survivors of domestic violence, our services are integral to the initiatives outlined by the Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) committee. We fully align with your proclamation, recognizing the urgent need for community action in addressing this pervasive concern.

In light of this, we kindly seek the city's support in providing tangible resources to support the efforts of VAWIR and other organizations working with victims of domestic violence. These resources will play a vital role in educating both the public and those personally affected by domestic violence. We believe that with collaborative efforts, we can foster a safer environment for all residents of Prince George and effectively combat this epidemic.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We look forward to the possibility of partnering with your office to enhance support services for those in need.

Sincerely,



Sue Kupp  
Director of Programs



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End Abuse Facilitator, MCC BC – Prince George  
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Dear Mayor Yu



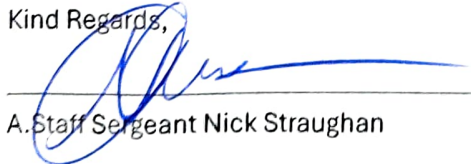
**RE: letter in support of VAWIR committee**

As your office is already aware, intimate partner violence remains a serious issue in British Columbian society and has aptly been referred to as an epidemic. As court officers, our deputies assist victims of partner violence with great frequency and we further acknowledge the overall resource challenges in our communities as it pertains to victim services, accessibility of counsel, access to rehabilitative resources and family resources that might interrupt the systemic cycle of violence. For this reason, the Prince George Sheriffs Office has recently added a Victim Services Liaison Officer (VSLO) position to assist in addressing this epidemic by providing victims with additional support whilst navigating the court process. Our direct objective is to improve victim security, provide an intimidation free space to improve accuracy of verbal evidence in court, offer generalized victim support and to assist our community partners in serving those impacted by domestic violence.

The Prince George VAWIR Coordination Committee is a much-needed collective of community partners, government organizations and non-governmental stakeholders who seek to deal with intimate partner violence in a holistic manner. Prince George, as the hub of the North, has always exerted an influence on surrounding communities with your office's leadership at the forefront. Our deputies are grateful for your continued emphasis on addressing domestic violence in the City of Prince George and commit to working along side our community partners to challenge this cycle of violence at a particularly difficult time for most of our cities residents many of whom live under circumstances of extreme vulnerability.

Please accept this letter as an expression of our support for VAWIR's appeal for further resources to target intimate partner violence in Prince George.

Kind Regards,

  
A. Staff Sergeant Nick Straughan