
Subject: OCP and UCP Feedback

From: Greg H **Redacted**
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 2:38 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>; Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: OCP and UCP Feedback

Some people who received this message don't often get email from

Redacted

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the council's plans to discourage development outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB). In the midst of a dire housing and cost of living crisis, this policy reflects a concerning disregard for the immediate needs of our community.

Restricting development to inside the UCB ignores the reality that our housing supply is critically insufficient. Families and individuals are struggling to find affordable homes, and limiting development areas will only compound this crisis. While the UCB may have been intended to promote sustainability and responsible growth, applying it rigidly in this context will have the opposite effect—deepening inequality and driving young people away from the community they call home.

I personally know young families who have been forced to relocate to places like Alberta, where policies are far more conducive to affordable living. This is a painful reminder that restrictive development policies here are not just theoretical—they are actively driving our neighbors and loved ones away. Losing these families weakens our community and undermines its long-term sustainability.

Some may raise concerns about urban sprawl as an adequate enough reason to defend the UCB. However, it is important to recognize that addressing the housing and affordability crisis must take precedence. Restricting development to avoid urban sprawl benefits no one if families are priced out, forced to relocate, or unable to secure stable housing. Thoughtful, planned development beyond the UCB can mitigate the risks of sprawl while ensuring that residents have access to the homes they need. Balanced growth strategies can include preserving green spaces, investing in infrastructure, and prioritizing mixed-use developments that promote community cohesion and environmental responsibility.

What our city needs is a bold and adaptive approach that acknowledges the urgency of the moment. Expanding development opportunities beyond the UCB is not only necessary but responsible, given the scale of the current crisis. Prioritizing policies that increase housing supply across a wider area will create more options for residents, ease pressure on the market, and help stabilize costs, and turn PG into the northern capital it deserves to be.

I urge the council to reconsider this restrictive policy and adopt pro-development measures that truly address the housing and affordability challenges we face. The well-being and future of our community depend on leaders who are willing to adapt and respond to the needs of their constituents.

Sincerely,

Greg Huston
Prince George
7875 Rochester Cr