Subject: FW: Greenway

From: Willow Mundreon Redacted

Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:58 AM **To:** cityclerk < cityclerk@princegeorge.ca >

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Redacted

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members, April 9th, 2025

(4 Amendment of the OCP to save Ginter's, FFTW/Greenway, Moores Meadow)

Full Name of Your Address, I come before you today not just as a concerned citizen, but as a representative of a broader movement that seeks to ensure the health, prosperity, and cultural integrity of Prince George for generations to come.

Our city is at a crossroads. As development expands, we must ask ourselves: Are we building a city that prioritizes balance between nature and urban growth, or are we allowing long/short-term gains to compromise our long-term well-being?

The green belt zones of Prince George are not just patches of land; they are the lungs of our city. They provide clean air, reduce pollution, and offer essential spaces for mental and physical wellness. Research confirms that exposure to natural red and infrared light—absorbed through time spent in green spaces—boosts cellular regeneration, improves immune response, and supports mental clarity. These are not just aesthetic benefits; they are essential to human health.

Moreover, these lands hold deep cultural and historical significance. Prince George sits on the unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and as city leaders, you have a unique opportunity to uphold the principles of truth and reconciliation. Protecting these lands is an act of respect, an acknowledgment of history, and a step toward repairing past wrongs. To destroy these lands for unchecked expansion would not only be a disservice to the environment but also to the Indigenous communities whose heritage is intertwined with these spaces.

Beyond history, these spaces are also essential in teaching future generations how to be good stewards of the land. They serve as living classrooms, where children and young people can learn the importance of sustainability, gratitude, and the interconnectedness of all life. The green belt is a place to pass down the knowledge of how to live harmoniously with nature, ensuring that what remains of history is kept alive and honored. The entire forest ecosystem plays a critical role not just in our physical health but in our spiritual well-being, reminding us of our responsibility to nurture and protect the land that sustains us.

Legally, there are clear avenues to protect and enhance our green belt. A strong legal framework exists to support environmental conservation, and many other cities across Canada have successfully reinforced their green zones through policy and strategic land use planning. I urge you to consider this, not as an obstacle to development, but as an investment in the future health and prosperity of our city.

The question before you is not just about land; it is about legacy. Will you be the council that prioritizes sustainable development, reconciliation, and the well-being of all who call Prince George home? Or will history remember this as the moment we let go of what makes our city truly livable?

I urge you to stand with us in preserving the green belt. Do not let short-term interests dictate the fate of our natural and cultural heritage. Let's make the right choice—for our health, for our history, and for our future.

Thank you.

Your local concerned citizen Willow Mundreon
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