

Prince George City Hall
April 9, 2025

Re: Amendment of the OCP to Protect Ginter's Field, Forests for the World/Greenway, and Moore's Meadow

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

My name is Kyle Moffat, and I write to you today not only as a deeply concerned citizen, but as a voice for many in our community who are calling for the protection of the vital green spaces that define the heart and soul of Prince George.

We are at a pivotal moment in our city's story. As development pressures grow, we must ask ourselves a fundamental question: are we shaping a city that lives in harmony with the natural world, or are we allowing the priorities of corporations, companies, or individual investors—pursuing long- and short-term developments that are not equally beneficial to all who live here—to shape our future at the cost of our health, peace of mind, and quality of life?

The green belt zones—Ginter's Field, Forests for the World, Greenway, and Moore's Meadow—are far more than just patches of undeveloped land. They are living systems. They purify our air, buffer climate extremes, provide refuge for wildlife, and serve as irreplaceable sanctuaries for the mental, physical, and spiritual health of our residents.

Modern research confirms what many have always known: that time spent in nature improves immune function, supports mental well-being, and even enhances cellular regeneration through exposure to natural red and infrared light. These are not abstract benefits—they are fundamental to public health.

These spaces also carry profound cultural significance. Prince George exists on the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. Protecting these areas is more than an environmental issue—it is an act of reconciliation. It's a chance for the City to uphold the values of truth, respect, and healing by preserving lands that are deeply connected to Indigenous history, identity, and traditional knowledge.

Our green spaces are also living classrooms. They teach our children about **sustainability, gratitude, and honorable respect**—core values that guide how we relate to the land and to one another. They are where the next generation learns to care for the land, to appreciate the balance of ecosystems, and to inherit the responsibilities that come with living on this land.

From a legal and policy perspective, you have the tools—and the precedent—to protect these spaces. Many cities across Canada have successfully safeguarded their natural assets through thoughtful urban planning and strong land-use protections. We urge you to use the OCP amendment not as a barrier to growth, but as a strategic opportunity to lead by example and invest in long-term community health and resilience.

This is about more than land. This is about legacy. Will this Council be remembered as protectors of the public good, visionaries who stood for sustainable development, and leaders in reconciliation? Or will this be the chapter where we allow irreplaceable ecosystems and cultural heritage to vanish under the weight of corporate expansion and developments that serve few at the expense of many?

I urge you to act with courage and clarity. Protect the green belts. Preserve what makes this city whole. Let's ensure that future generations inherit not only a city with buildings and roads, but a community that values life, land, and legacy.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

With respect,
Kyle Moffat

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