
From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: Letter for inclusion in Agenda

From: Cyan Lemoal [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 10:32 AM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: Letter for inclusion in Agenda

From: Cyan LeMoal, Prince George, BC, [Redacted]

Dear Mayor and Council,

My name is Cyan LeMoal. I am a student at UNBC, a Prince George citizen, and a concerned community member. I came to Prince George in 2019 to attend UNBC. Despite coming to Prince George with the intention to leave after my completing my undergraduate degree, Prince George quickly became home, and I am now planning to stay for at least another 2 years to complete my Masters. Despite my great love for Prince George, I am equally disappointed with how our city treats the de-housed population. I spend a lot of my time downtown, studying in coffee shops and shopping at local businesses, I truly what downtown Prince George has to offer and I have never been scared for my safety.

I am writing in regard to the Parks and Open Space Bylaw No. 7370, 2002, Amendment Bylaw No. 9389, 2023.

I would like to express my frustration with the City's stubborn commitment to the unsafe and unjust downtown de-housed centralization plan. As Federal Housing Advocate Marie-Josée Houle has pointed out, "the proposed plan will violate Indigenous rights and the human rights of people experiencing homelessness."

As such, it is extremely disappointing to see the city's renewed commitment to a strategy that will enact violence on our de-housed population rather than actually helping them survive as the housing situation across the province continues to deteriorate. I was very involved in the 2022 municipal election, attending many of the debates and reading about everyone running for mayor and council. When it came time to vote, much of my votes were based on how everyone spoke of the de-housed population. I voted for many of you because I believed that you cared that you wouldn't make the same mistakes that the last council and mayor did.

As any online comment section demonstrates, there are many people in this city who think of our de-housed as valueless and disposable. Those private citizens may offend me, but to see the full power of the Corporation of The City of Prince George continually leveraged in service of the most inhumane attitudes in the community is more than I can stand in silence.

The time has come to accept that living on the street is simply the only viable option for some people in the short term. There are many experts advocating for different approaches that would make the streets safe for everyone, including the people forced to shelter themselves in public spaces, and I hope you will pause this plan to collaborate with them on a new way forward.

Sincerely,

Cyan LeMoal
1160 Dahl Street