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**From:** Amelia Merrick [Redacted](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:57:47 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca)>; Mayor Yu, Simon <[Simon.Yu@princegeorge.ca](mailto:Simon.Yu@princegeorge.ca)>  
**Subject:** An Opportunity at the Pool

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To be included in the council agenda

Dear Mayor and Council,

I disagree with Mayor Yu. I am writing to you with regards to the closure of the PG Aquatic Centre. Given the ongoing debates about our downtown, I think the pool closure could actually **contribute** to a thriving PG. However, we need to make good choices now. Through this email I would like to share some opportunities.

1. In order to create vibrancy in our downtown, we need to increase densification. Our footprint is too big for our population - we are like a sprawling gawky teenager on the couch. By increasing the use of a single pool we will force neighbors to come together. That builds [social capital](#) and it will drive more activity downtown, putting "[eyes on the street](#)" - which increases safety. Yeah! Our lifeguards, maintenance team and pool staff are already awesome community builders and over the next 2 years they are going to do more for our city than we realize. I want to publicly praise them for creating community at the pool. (Shout out to Ross, Maria, Tyler and Paige!)
2. Many seniors, students and citizens will lose the use of the weight room. This is bad for our health and other gyms are far more expensive. To maintain good posture and increase our densification, can I recommend we find space in the Stantec building for our weight room. (Or library.) We don't need all the bells and whistles - just the weight facilities and a toilet. We could probably walk across the street to shower and hot tub :)
3. Because we have less pool time and more people will have to drive further, some of us will need to take our wet bathing suits to work. Would it be possible to install a [bathing suit dryer](#)? This will make us all a bit happier.
4. We've been talking about public toilets in downtown for a while. We don't think we can afford them but then business owners find poop in their doorways and they are over it! Now that the pool is open 6 am - 10 pm could we share the toilet and shower facility with those who don't have a bathroom of their own? Maybe we could figure out a way to let them use the facility without having to pay. Double whammy solve 2 problems at once. (I can share some ideas so we can make sure it's safe and welcoming for kiddos!)
5. Making the weight room operational at Stantec will cost money. So does a bathing suit dryer. I know that as elected officials you have to make difficult choices. I would prefer our tax money be spent on recreation, culture and belonging. I would approve a reduction in policing and security to support community health and well-being.

Signed,  
Amelia Merrick, PhD  
**Redacted**

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Amelia F. Merrick  
**Redacted**