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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: Webform submission from: Comment on the Budget

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**From:** City of Prince George <noreply@princegeorge.ca>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 25, 2026 8:39 PM  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Comment on the Budget



## Comment on the Budget

Submitted on Sun, 01/25/2026 - 20:39

### Contact Info

**Contact Info**  
Amelia Merrick  
1417 Gorse Street  
Prince George

**Redacted**

### Comments

#### Comments

Thank you for creating ways for the public to engage on the budget. As a citizen of Prince George, your work is very important to my well-being. I have five comments related to the budget:

1. I request MORE TIME to review and comment on the budget. As a tax paying citizen, I have multiple responsibilities and there simply wasn't sufficient time for me to read the budget, think on it, discuss with diverse citizens and provide response. Next year, please ensure there are at least 4 weeks between publishing the budget and public discussions. I also want to recognize that the Natural Resource Forum was a significant political event for Prince George and many of us – including City Council - are simply exhausted after it. I recommend our budget discussions happen in October or November.
2. As a City we continually discuss social disorder and homelessness. (While these are two separate

issues, we often conflate them.) I recognize the role that BC Housing, Northern Health and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction play to exacerbate/remediate these issue, and I realize that often our power to intervene with Provincial bodies is limited.

That said, I am concerned that we have not invested sufficient funding for programs that will alleviate the public burdens of homelessness and reduce social disorder. I recommend that we increase funding for peer-based social and Indigenous organizations, like the Northern Peer Guardians, the Pounds Project and Fire Pit. These organizations are an effective way to intervene instead of Bylaw and Protective Services.

3. I understand that the BC Housing funds Emergency Expenditures, such as Emergency Warming Centres and that is why there is a revenue of \$29K (2024). We are a winter city and we need indoor spaces that are open 24 hours a day, 365 days. This will allow people shelter from the elements and will offer a safe, predictable place to build community and grow towards healing. It will also provide a respite for downtown businesses who have “turf wars” with people who use public places for survival. I strongly urge the City of Prince George to include funding for daytime shelters.

4. The City of Toronto developed a Shelter Standards for shelters that are funded by the City of Toronto (See: <https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/> <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/9828-Toronto-Shelter-Standards230328AODA.pdf> .YzJ1OmNpdHlvZnByaW5jZWdlb3JnZTpjOm86YVWkMDk2MTBkYmUyM2IxMDQ4ZmQ5ZWFiYTRmMWFjNWE6NzpmYTAxOmM2MmViNzVmZDQ0ZDMxNTc5NTM5N2ZmYWlyZmM5NDY5NTAyNjNkMzk4OTU4M2M5Nz11OGQ5ODU4ZjNiMWNjMGY6dDpUOKY). The Standard addresses issues like restrictive access – which is a significant issue in PG. I advocate that funding is allocated to develop a Shelter Standard for the City of Prince George. This will cost money at the onset, but it will reduce spending for protective and bylaw services in the long-run.

5. I do not believe that increased funding to enforcement services (police and bylaw) will bring the return on investment. I do not support the increase in funding to either police or bylaw services.

Thank you for reading this,  
Dr. Amelia Merrick

**I acknowledge and agree that my submission, including my full name and address, will be published on the City’s website as part of the Council meeting agenda. This information will be part of the official public record, and once published, it cannot be removed or edited. Additionally, my submission may appear in internet search engine results.**

Yes

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