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**Subject:**

FW: Increase in duration outdoors -&gt; increased demand for public toilets

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**From:** Amelia Merrick Redacted**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2026 4:58 PM**To:** Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca)>; P.G. Hope Dealers Redacted; cityclerk <[cityclerk@princegeorge.ca](mailto:cityclerk@princegeorge.ca)>**Subject:** Increase in duration outdoors -> increased demand for public toilets

For Inclusion in Official Meeting Agenda

I am writing on behalf of our research team who are conducting a study called “Places of Belonging in Prince George.” The preliminary results of our recent surveys may be helpful for tonight's discussion about public toilets.

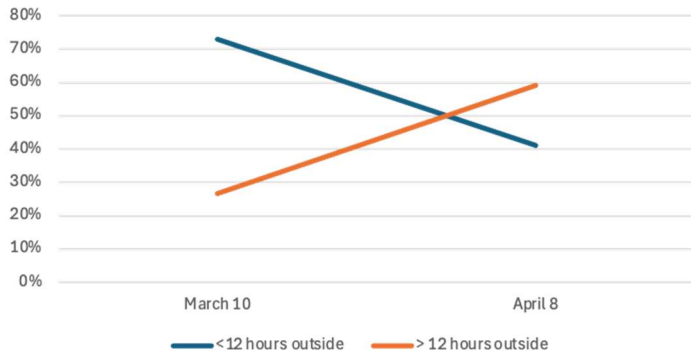
Our research project is interested in how much time people spend outside in public spaces. So far we have conducted two interactive surveys in March and April during the Healing Fire at the City of Prince George Courthouse. We disaggregated respondents according to those who have living rooms, and those who don't.

This month we noticed a significant increase in the duration of time people without living rooms are spending outdoors. In March, 27% of people surveyed said they spent more than 12 hours in public spaces. That number shot up to 59% April. Said more clearly: 59% of people without a living room spent more than 12 hours outside. (For the average person, that's at least 3 pees. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/321461>)

We are in the middle of our research and have not yet drawn conclusions about our data. We suspect that the closing of the warming centre has resulted in an increase in the number of people who rely on outdoor public space for their survival and safety. Daniel Roy, co-founders Northern Peer Guardians said “the increase in demand for harm reduction supplies and snacks has doubled, if not tripled since March 31, when the warming centre closed.

**This data suggests that there may be increased demand for public toilet facilities, now that the warming centre is closed.**

### How many hours did you spend outside yesterday?



Redacted Gorse Street

Amelia Merrick, PhD

Redacted

*I am a lucky visitor to the ancestral unceded lands of the Lheidli T'enneh where the soap berries, huckleberries and blueberries grow in abundance.*

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