

Feb 3, 2021

Dear Mayor Hall and Council,

Please receive this as my letter of support for the new Harmony House Initiative, proposed to be built behind Trinity United Church, on land they have donated for this project. This is an amazing endeavour which serves to protect and enhance family life by the preservation of the Mother-Child relationship; specifically, for women who suffer from addictions and their babies. (Addictions often being rooted in past trauma). In addition, it will help to alleviate some of our 'social' challenges with so many homeless and addicted persons on our streets. By giving Mothers and their babies this terrific opportunity to bond/ attach to one another in such an emotionally supportive home as Harmony House; this will really put them (and we their neighbours) on a very positive trajectory for our futures.

As a physician working at Central Interior Native Health, I have had the privilege of seeing Harmony House in action. Pregnant patients have gone from living on the street, using drugs daily, to parents who can take active roles in their children's lives, have the tools they need to parent successfully and expand their lives beyond their previous trauma (some are now going to college, many are maintaining independent living).

This project is vital. Please support it every way you can, as the Mayor and Council of Prince George.

Thank you for your attention to this most important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

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Heather Smith, MD CCFP