



February 4th, 2021

City of Prince George Mayor and Council
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

RE: Harmony House Rezoning Zelkwas Avenue

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express support for the rezoning at 606 Zelkwas Avenue to facilitate the development of Supportive Housing for the Phoenix Transition Society's Harmony House program. Harmony House serves a critical need for mothers and pregnant women in Prince George. Harmony House has successfully been operating their six-bedroom house for four years and has served 94 women from across northern BC. To date, 89% of the women who participated in the Harmony House program have successfully gone through the program and are living independently with their children. This success rate is attributed to the highly effective and unique program that provides 24/7 staffing and focuses on strengthening the bond between mother and child and promoting the women's confidence by teaching life and parenting skills in a non-judgmental and caring environment.

North Coast Transition Society has moved into neighborhoods that at first had concerns. However, after we moved into the neighborhood these concerns become null and void. The services are run with staff 24/7 strict guidelines are in place for the running and use of the shelter. This includes the upkeep of grounds, noise levels, and a general good neighbor approach. It was not long before the neighbors became one of our biggest supporters and contributed to many of our functions and endeavors.

We support Harmony House and know that they are committed to constructing a building that fits into the neighborhood and is a maximum of 2-storeys. We believe that the neighborhood concerns about safety, drug use and crime are unwarranted and will be non-issues, as the building will be staffed 24/7 and Harmony House has demonstrated success in their existing development.

We urge you to support this rezoning application, as it serves a critical need in our community and region. From a land use perspective, this development is in an ideal location as most of the mothers living in Harmony House will not have vehicles and therefore having services, schools, and parks within walking distance is important.

Thank you for considering this letter.

Sincerely,
Christine White
Executive Director