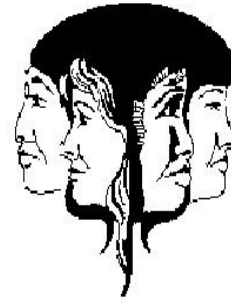


Omineca Safe Home Society

P.O. Box 1126, Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
Phone: (250) 567-9959 Fax: (250) 567-5022
E-mail: info@ominecasafehome.ca
www.ominecasafehome.ca



City of Prince George Mayor and Council
1100 Patricia Blvd
Prince George BC
V21 3V9

Re: Harmony House Rezoning Zelkwas Avenue

Dear Mayor and Council,

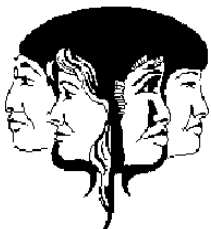
My name is Lynne Stuart, and I am with the Omineca Safe Home Society in Vanderhoof BC. I am writing to express my unconditional support of the rezoning application put forth by Harmony House.

Although this letter is coming from a community about an hour away, it is important to know that Harmony House has supported dozens of women from our community. In fact, my colleagues and I had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with Maria who answered all our questions and explained to us her successful model for keeping mothers with their children. We are planning on pursuing our own version of Harmony House in our community.

The Omineca Safe Home also strives to keep women with their children. For us, it is the main goal. Our safe home is open and staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We are also right downtown in a suburban neighborhood. We have a great relationship with our neighbors, and we have taken steps to ensure it remains that way.

For example, we let our neighbors know who to contact (besides the RCMP) if they have concerns, we let them know that we have twenty-four-hour surveillance cameras. We stop by and introduce ourselves to newcomers and keep the communication open. We have been at the same location for close to twenty years and have had zero complaints. This is even though we are a low barrier transition house. In fact, we have requested letters from our neighbors to demonstrate to mayor and council in Fort St. James that having a fully staffed home for women in their neighborhood was a benefit, not a concern.

Program Funding is gratefully acknowledged:



*Working to have a safe
violence-free society
for women.*

Ministry of Justice
Victim Services and Crime
Prevention Division

BC Housing



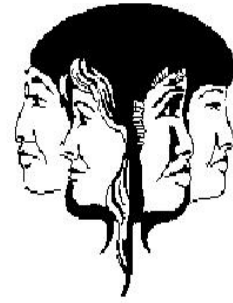
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To be frank, we do not believe that drugs or crime will be an issue with this particular model, given that its one we intend to replicate. Having the right people doing the work is the most important part of these endeavors, and we strongly feel that after spending some time with Maria and her dedicated staff, there could not be a stronger, more dedicated team.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Stuart RSW, Med.

Director Omineca Safe Home Society

Vanderhoof BC

V0J3A0



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