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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, many of whom I have had the pleasure of working with over my 3 years of being a nurse practitioner 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. Many of the women who enter Harmony House have never had positive examples of parenting themselves. Harmony House provides them an opportunity to change their lives and their children's lives forever. The opportunity to not only support but empower women to become healthy role models and providers for their children is a gift that will last generations, not only for the one family at Harmony House but for the community as a whole.

We support Harmony House and know that they are committed to constructing a building that fits into the neighbourhood and is a maximum of 2-storeys. We believe that the neighbourhood 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 your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Gueret, MScN, NP(F)