

5071 Dalhousie Drive
Prince George, BC V2N 1Z8

Redacted

February 15, 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 as a member of Trinity United Church to express support for the rezoning of Lots 606, 614 and 622 Zelkwas Avenue to facilitate the development of supportive housing for the Phoenix Transition Society's Harmony House program.

I was chair of the Official Board of Trinity United Church in 2018 when we began the process to negotiate a Land Lease Agreement with B.C. Housing and Phoenix Transition Society to build a new Harmony House. We, as a board and individually, spent many hours reviewing the Land Lease Agreement before we took the proposal to the congregation. We looked at the advantages and also the concerns about having this facility on our property. We offered the members of the congregation numerous ways to ask their questions and to share any concerns. The question "That the congregation of Trinity United Church support entering into a long term lease of the three lots on Zelkwas Ave. with B.C. Housing" went to the congregation of Trinity United Church on May 5, 2019. The motion was passed with an overwhelming majority.

On a personal note, I have visited Harmony House on several occasions as part of my volunteer work with another community program. I was able to interact with the mothers and their babies and to hear some of their stories. I feel that the success of this program is due to the support of the staff but also to the mothers' desire to turn their lives around to benefit their babies. I also saw how crowded the women and their children are in this small house. A larger facility would give them more personal space and larger common areas. My client, a young mother, shared her anxiety about how she would cope when it came time to leave the sheltered, supportive environment of Harmony House. With a new building on Zelkwas Street, the second stage of supportive housing would be right next door.

Harmony House serves a critical need for mothers and pregnant women in Prince George. Harmony House has been referred to as a "cutting edge model" by the B.C. Women's Hospital (May 2019). Maria Brouwer, the Harmony House manager, has presented the concept and shared the success of the program at conferences in Canada and the U.S.A.

I give this project my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

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Judy Addie
Board Chairperson
Trinity United 2018 to 2020