

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,

Please accept this letter in support of the rezoning at 606 Zelkwas Avenue to facilitate the development of Supportive Housing for the Phoenix Transition Society's Harmony House program.

As you are aware, Harmony House provides wrap-around services and supports for pregnant women and new mothers in our community who are surviving life stressors that may be exacerbated by the tremendous transition to motherhood. As a counsellor with experience working with many marginalized women in the Prince George community who have not had access to these kinds of supports throughout their pregnancies and have had to endure the heartache of child apprehension, and with youth in the community who are currently experiencing the impacts of the foster care system, I view these services as a human right.

The current services provided by Harmony House are a vital resource in the Prince George community, and across the northern region. These kinds of supportive services for pregnant women and new mothers are readily available in other parts of the province, and the currently limited access to these supports is another example of the unique struggles faced by northern communities. The success of their programming is well-documented and evidence-based.

I believe the concerns that have been brought forward by current residents in the neighbourhood have been addressed in the development plan and staffing model that has worked successfully at their existing site. I believe that the benefits of the proposed site are significant; it is centrally located, with walking access to a grocery store, parks, and main bus routes, and will provide a sense of community—and home—to program participants.

The expansion of the services offered by Harmony House is an amazing opportunity for this community, and I urge you to support this rezoning application.

Thank you for considering this letter.

Sincerely,

Madeline Wilson