



CENTRAL INTERIOR NATIVE HEALTH SOCIETY

1110 - 4th Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 3J3

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February 16, 2021

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

RE: Letter of Support for Harmony House Rezoning Zelkwas Avenue from Central Interior Native Health Society


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.

As Executive Director of Central Interior Native Health Society, I urge you to take this opportunity to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Founded in 1991, Central Interior Native Health Society (CINHS), is a not for profit agency that aims to deliver team-based integrated Primary Health Care to communities of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, people living with HIV, high-risk youth, high-risk Moms and people who live on the streets of Prince George, British Columbia. We are committed to ensuring Indigenous culture is central to care delivery and strive to provide culturally appropriate, holistic care that promotes physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harmony. Guided by principles of social justice and harm reduction, CINHS offers a range of services including medical (mainstream and traditional medicine), cultural, social work and addiction services. To reach patients where they are, CINHS also provides care through outreach to local agencies. Harmony House is one of these key agencies that ensures that high risk moms and their families are supported. We believe in their mission, vision, and our clients have had incredible success on their journey to health and wellness, as a result of the dedication, passion and commitment of Harmony House. This next step will ensure that they can continue to support more woman, and integrate them back into our community and a healthy lifestyle that sustains their progress.

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 considering this letter. If I can answer any questions or be of direct support, please contact me at Redacted 

Sincerely,

Redacted 

Shobha K. Sharma
Executive Director
Central Interior Native Health Society