

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. 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 a nurse who serves the downtown community of Prince George, I and my colleagues have worked with the women that this project aims to serve witnessed first-hand the successes of this program. These are incredibly resilient people who unfairly experience the stigma associated with trauma, mental health and substance use while striving to provide a safe environment for themselves and their children. By approving an expansion of this project, it will continue to play a monumental role in addressing these needs and providing supports to ensure these families are able to thrive within this community and region.

I 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. I 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.

I 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.

Sincerely,

Redacted

Torie Beram RN, BScN, BA