

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear City Council and the community of Prince George,

I'm writing this letter in support of the new Harmony House development at the St. Andrew's church location.

We know from the experience of other communities and from the literature that the type of support that Harmony House offers results in positive outcomes for families and our society in general. The highest probability for change is during pregnancy. The research tells us that pregnancy is a time when women are most likely to make big changes in their lives. With the proper supports they are much more likely to refrain from harmful substances, remove themselves from unsafe relationships and look for safe housing. If we have a community ready to support this momentum with supportive housing resources we have a much higher chance of bringing healthy babies into the world and a very good chance of supporting healthy mothers who will in turn be at the centre of healthy families.

This kind of support for mothers and babies does not in any way negatively affect our neighborhoods, but rather elevates our city to the status of other, similar sized, but more progressive cities in BC and across our country.

I realize there is a 'not in my backyard' (NIMBY) mentality at play here and in some ways, as a home owner, I get that. But for all of the supportive developments, that would be very beneficial in all of our communities, e.g. community centers, community associations, other supportive housing, etc. Pregnancy support is absolutely the lowest risk and helps to define us as a caring and nurturing community. As neighbors of this facility we can take some pride in supporting this endeavor from a distance, as an advocate or we can support as good neighbors with all that that entails. As the saying goes "it takes a village to raise a child".

As a citizen of Prince George, I intend to support this initiative in any way I can.

Sincerely,

**\*\*Redacted\*\***

Olive Godwin