

---

**Subject:** Proposed Safe Streets Bylaw Amendment

**From:** Madeline Wilson [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 5:12 PM  
**To:** mayorandcouncil <[mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca)>  
**Cc:** Kalen Geddes [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Proposed Safe Streets Bylaw Amendment

**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

**This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Mayor Lyn Hall and Councillors Frank Everett, Garth Frizzell, Murry Krause, Terri McConnachie, Cori Ramsay, Kyle Sampson, Susan Scott, and Brian Skakun,

My name is Madeline Wilson, and I have been a resident of Prince George for the past 7 years. My partner, Dr. Kalen Geddes, has been a resident for the last decade. We own property in this community, and are both deeply invested in the medical and mental health communities, the University of Northern British Columbia, downtown social services, and the outdoor recreation community.

**We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed Safe Streets Bylaw** that passed three readings at the June 14 City Council meeting. We understand this bylaw is awaiting final approval at the June 28th Council meeting, and we urge you to act now to ensure it is not passed.

We appreciate that as a municipal government, you are faced with many more complex issues than you have the resources and jurisdiction to address. Many of the issues that we are currently facing in Prince George, including those of substance use and the current opioid poisoning crisis, lack of appropriate and affordable housing, and the difficulty in supporting small business owners to compete with large retailers and online shopping, are clearly facing municipalities across North America. I think we can all agree that there are no easy or straightforward solutions to these complex problems. However, we urge you to act from a place of compassion, informed by the expertise of people with lived experience, when acting for the supposed safety of our community.

As a Clinical Counsellor and Family Medicine Specialist, we are well aware of the multiple public health and safety crises this city is currently facing. However, we feel it is clear that the people experiencing the most harms and risks from these crises are folks without access to affordable housing, safe drug supply, harm reduction resources, and mental health supports; folks who are already disproportionately targeted by law enforcement and overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Like so many other places across North America, while the solutions for these issues may not be known, it is well-documented that punitive approaches are ineffective. "Solutions" that fail to respect the personal autonomy of individuals are ineffective (i.e. telling people where and how to live). While these issues are complex, we are so lucky to have vast resources and expertise available to us: a local university, a community of committed individuals providing direct support services, creative entrepreneurs bringing new business ideas forward, and a Mayor and Council dedicated to supporting a thriving downtown. We hope your vision for downtown, and for the entire city, includes not only folks with enough privilege to own businesses and shop at local stores, but the inspiring and resilient people who survive everyday despite the odds.

**We urge you to show vision and leadership for people without housing in Prince George (and their allies) by opposing the approval of the Safe Streets bylaw amendment on June 28.**

Thank you for your time,

Madeline Wilson and Kalen Geddes