

To Prince George City Council

From the board members of Prince George Metis Community Association who are against the safe streets by-law as it stands.

We are against the proposed safe streets by-law as it is currently written. There needs to be a more humane, common sense approach to dealing with our city's most vulnerable population. Financially penalizing people who have no means to pay will not be effective. It will further alienate and make them feel rejected from society. This by-law will not fix the problem, nor will it help resolve some of the social issues that plague our downtown.

We have had legal consultation regarding this by-law and there are concerns that it is a breach of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We believe that having a designated camping area with reasonable and realistic expectations of the occupants would be a good compromise for all parties. It is important that this area include bathrooms and a culturally sensitive RCMP officer for support. This would provide a single place for all the homeless who are not living in shelters and would make it easier for organizations who provide support to help them. An ideal temporary location would be "moccasin flats" located at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Ottawa Street. We would be interested and available to have a representative on a committee to help find realistic solutions for our most vulnerable.

Thank you in advance for finding a more compassionate approach to dealing with this complex issue.

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