
Subject: "Safe Streets" Bylaw and Amendments

From: Dara Campbell Redacted
Date: June 28, 2021 at 11:36:05 AM PDT
To: mayorandcouncil <mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca>
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Hello Mayor and Council,

I hope you're all staying cool and hydrated through this heatwave - one of my favourite things about Prince George is that we have no shortage of beautiful swimming spots nearby.

As you can tell, I'm reaching out again regarding the proposed "Safe Streets" Bylaw and Amendments on which you'll be voting this evening.

Many members of our community, especially Indigenous groups, have loudly and urgently called on you, our elected leaders, to reflect on the true impact of these proposed policies -- which have been widely documented and researched (if data speaks to you more clearly than compassion, then I urge you to read through any of the many academic, peer-reviewed articles on the matter). I'm reaching out as a fellow settler to urge that you listen to Indigenous advocates and trust their expertise on the matter.

If you have donned an orange t-shirt, changed your Facebook profile photo frame, put an orange heart in your office window, and expressed compassion or grief for the Indigenous children whose bodies are recently being recovered across the country, then you should also renounce punitive, short-sighted, and colonial "anti-nuisance" policies and evictions.

Every single Indigenous person on the street is living with the trauma inflicted by Canada's residential school system, whether they went to a "school" themselves or are descended from survivors (i.e., intergenerational trauma). And they are actively and endlessly villainized for it every single day. You cannot be sad for those who were buried nameless yet also be working to have survivors pushed out of sight and marginalized in the exact same way.

If you want to honour the babies who never made it home, please support and protect the ones who did. Don't evict them from their homes. Don't criminalize their existence. Listen to Indigenous leaders, advocacy groups, and service providers when they tell you that this type of approach will do much, much more harm than good.

Thank you,

Dara Campbell (she/her)
Lheidli T'enneh Territory