
Subject: tonights debate "safe streets" + the right to be in the world

From: Jenn Matthews Redacted
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 5:10 PM
To: mayorandcouncil <mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca>; cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
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I realize I might be too late to register my comments before the debate tonight.

It's too hot for me to articulate my thoughts well, it's 29 degrees in my house, but at least I have a place where I can be in the world safely and with the people I love and my pet.

Here are just a few of my thoughts:

1. It is inhuman to enforce an "eviction" in this heat
2. It is inhuman to care more about a vacant lot than people
3. It is inhuman to use fines and threats on marginalized + vulnerable people to get them "move along" (this is structural violence and if the RCMP are involved it will likely be straight up violence)
4. If there are other solutions for people to live in then find them and help them work for people (help, not MANDATE OR FORCE). If people are saying "no" to your so-called solutions then they don't work and we have to find better solutions.
5. Marginalized + homeless people should be partners in creating solutions
6. The proposed "safe streets" bylaws are a disgrace to compassion and make me sick with despair for the values of my city and government
7. These are people. They are not objects to move around. These are people, most of whom have experienced great trauma, many of whom are a product of the colonial and genocidal treatment on indgenious people by our government. I am horrified that my government is still perpetuating that violence on homeless + marginalized members of our community.

I ask my government to be creative and above all compassionate and kind. You can do it. You hold so much power. Please act in a way that makes us proud.

Jenn and Quinn Matthews
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