

December 11, 2018

Re: Zoning and OCP Amendment for 461 Quatsino Boulevard

Dear Kitimat Mayor and Council,

I would like to express my full support for the housing project and proposed location put forward by Tamitik Status of Women.

Sadly, women and children at risk in our community face barriers that many of us cannot begin to comprehend. Tamitik Status of Women (TSW), a non profit organization, offers vital services to our fellow community members who are in need. Currently, the need for services far outweighs the capabilities and capacities of the hard working staff, volunteers, and existing infrastructure. As we know from reports shared over the past few years, the need for services is only going to increase with the influx of future development in our region.

Currently, TSW rents office space across town for their different services and can be evicted when the property owners want to lease to a for-profit company who is willing (and able) to pay more in rent. This disruption in services is a deterrent and barrier for clients who need access. For example, if a client in second stage housing needs to access counselling services, they must go to a different location in town. If they then need to get food for the week, they need to get to another location to access the food share. These community members need a single location to access the services they require. These services are offered to people in dire need, they are not life long services. This project gives them an opportunity to not only have a safe place to stay but to access the supports they need to rebuild their lives, regain their independence, and be contributing members of our community. We need to come together to support those who are taking positive steps to change their reality.

Regarding the location, this project has to be located within walking distance to schools and the downtown centre to not only ensure that when they are able to work they have easy accessibility to get there, but to ensure their children are able to get to and from school, so that they are not left to fall behind due to circumstances outside of their control.

This area has infrastructure that is already established, including roadways and a newly created lighted walkway to the downtown core and the design of this project blends perfectly with the aesthetic of the area.

In closing, this project differs from proposals of the past in that it is not a for-profit development. TSW is a non-profit service provider who offers imperative services to our community and we are so fortunate so have them.

Sincerely,

Marli Penner