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February 28, 2019

Re: Tamitik Status of Women Housing Project

Mayor and Council/To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to express my support of the rezoning of the property at 461 Quatsino Boulevard to allow construction of Tamitik Status of Women's new Housing Project. This proposed housing project is a positive step to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in the District of Kitimat.

Tamitik Status of Women is successfully operating a transition house for women and their children fleeing abuse, however, the need for housing is critical, especially for families experiencing domestic violence. The proposed project is responding to the needs of the community and is essential for community members to access support services during the most difficult of times.

Ksan Society built a new Transition House in 2004. This proposed new construction included combining the shelter with office space, and therefore the safe house for women and children would no longer be in a discreet location. It is currently located close to downtown, beside a multi-unit apartment building. This project faced opposition and nimbyism, but we have very little, if any, issues with our neighbors.

The truth is, wherever the proposed location is, there will always be nimbyism. We've experienced this numerous times with the multiple projects we have developed over the past few years and are currently in the process of developing. I personally know how much time and collaboration it takes to put a project like this together, and how difficult it can be to raise the capital funding. Any delays or redesign of a project can increase the cost significantly and make the development unfeasible to the funders.

I urge Council to pass the zoning amendment in support of this project.

Thank you,

Amanda Bains
Executive Director