



NORTHERN SOCIETY FOR
DOMESTIC PEACE

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Mayor and Council;

On behalf of the Northern Society for Domestic Peace I am writing to express our full support for the Tamitik Status of Women current housing project. Our organization has been providing Shelter and support services for individuals and families with lived experience of violence/abuse in Smithers for 30 years. We have alongside Tamitik worked to raise awareness regarding women's isolation and unique challenges they face living in the Northwest. As our northern communities face continued resource development, and increased homelessness it is imperative to identify the social impact this has on our already vulnerable populations. Women and women with children are amongst the most vulnerable in our region.

Of all the hardships faced by vulnerable women and children securing safe and affordable housing is a primary concern. As a like service provider we are all too aware the position women face when needing to decide where to go after leaving the shelter. The lack of options for affordable housing and support service leave women and children with few choices, for many the only options are to return to their abusive relationship, some find temporary shelter with friends or family, some find unsuitable and unsafe housing that comes with the risk of sexual exploitation by inappropriate landlords, or elements of crime, all of which can lead to higher levels of child apprehension and health concerns.

The economic health and vibrancy of our northwest communities must first responsibly consider the long term, intergenerational impacts this has on our social, familial, cultural wellbeing. I am confident that the TSW has the experience and the knowledge necessary that demonstrates the need for safe and affordable housing solutions for many women and children who are currently impacted by the current and future housing crisis.

Housing is basic human right; to be free from violence is a human right, we are fortunate to have organizations such as Tamitik address this issue for women and children. I truly hope you will support this proposal. Please don't hesitate to call me should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Carol A Seychuk
Executive Director