

February 28, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council Members Serving the District of Kitimat

I compose this letter to you to show the immense support I have in favor of the housing project proposed by the Tamitik Status of Women to be located at 461 Quatsino Blvd.

I think it is accurate to say that there is no question how serious this matter has become for those groups both opposing and supporting the project; however as a resident of the Kildala neighborhood – I would kindly appreciate if each of you could take a few moments to understand my views and my reasoning for standing behind and supporting this project. I would like my voice to be heard just as much as those residents of Strawberry Meadows as I feel my opinion and my views matter just as much. I have been keeping notes/ideas and throwing the thought around about writing a formal letter to council but I honestly didn't think it would make a difference. However, when I received a "DID YOU KNOW" document in my mailbox yesterday provided by the residents of Strawberry Meadows, I was at my wits end and made the decision to voice my opinion and my views, so here we are. I have included a copy of this letter for your reference although I am sure a number of you have already been made aware of the document.

I will be completely honest, I have had to rewrite this letter a number of times now as I don't want to come across as rude, inconsiderate or disrespectful to anyone who is in opposition of this project however I am always coming back to the fact that I am completely and utterly disgusted and blown away by the sense of entitlement some of the residents of Strawberry Meadows feel they have. Unfortunately, I cannot hide or shadow this opinion any longer as I feel it needs to be addressed. I have lost count on the number of times I have heard or seen residents state (and without hesitation I might add), *"these individuals that will be utilizing this facility do not belong in our neighborhood,"* or *"we didn't work this hard to build/live in an area such as this to have these troubled and potentially dangerous people walking by our homes,"* another one was *"I don't need angry people fighting with one another and potentially intoxicated/people who are under the influence walking through my property."* I will stop there as I think you can see what I'm getting at and why I feel as though some of the Strawberry Meadows residents are coming off as entitled and I just quite honestly cannot wrap my head around it. I am certain that no one will have their properties walked upon nor will there be intoxicated individuals roaming the neighborhood. My point - It is 2019, and if you ask me, we have been quite lucky in Kitimat to what we've been exposed to or the lack there of is what I should be saying. It is so morally wrong to shut these women, men and families out based on their life circumstances and situations that they are involved in. These unfortunate conditions these individuals are facing need to be accepted and more importantly- they need to be considered. They may not wear nice clothes, drive nice vehicles and have a high social status throughout the community – but they are still individuals who have every right to live in a safe environment where they can feel that they are part of a community and part of a neighborhood – NOT being a burden to one. I firmly believe that it would be a complete and utter disappointment to the community of Kitimat to allow such a small group with such a strong opinion to be the result of this project not going through.

I do feel quite strongly when it comes to the disregard the residents of Strawberry Meadows have concerning the Civeo Construction Camp. I do not know ALL of the history here but from my understanding the Civeo camp appeared to be built without question, there was little to no opposition from the residents of Strawberry Meadows when this structure was being proposed and to be frank – this place literally looks like a prison. I just cannot figure out how the residents of Strawberry Meadows have concern with this housing project and the troubled individuals living in their neighborhood and roaming their streets but yet they are completely ok and comfortable with the fact that there are camp workers living right down the street? In my opinion - camp workers have far more potential and would be far more inclined to 'let loose' on a Friday or Saturday night which may result in them being the individuals roaming the neighborhood and in turn being the one that residents should be concerned about. But yet – you didn't see this concern come up at all when Civeo was proposed did you? And when it is brought up to residents now – they sure are quick to reroute their conversation or to avoid the concern regarding Civeo all in all.

In the "DID YOU KNOW" document I received yesterday, many of the points listed on the letter have been blown so out of proportion and it is really frustrating to know that those Kildala residents who may not be as educated on this project are going to be misled to believe the far-fetched opinions of those who wrote the document. I think that one of the biggest points that others may not understand is that the Tamitik Status of Women HAVE been taking in the wants, needs and opinions voiced by the Strawberry Meadows residents. They have already made many alterations, adjustments and changes to their initial plan based on the negative feedback they've been receiving **but** that is not noted anywhere is it? All that is made to be seen is that the Tamitik Status of Women are NOT cooperating and are refusing to meet or discuss concerns, I know for a fact that this is not the case. Residents of Strawberry Meadows just cannot let go of this idea that they THINK the trees and the privacy will be bulldozed down and this 'monstrosity' of a building will be right in their backyards when Tamitik Status of Women have made it VERY CLEAR that they are MORE than willing to work with the neighboring residents to reassure that a section of trees will stand to remain between the facility and the homes to warrant they are still provided with the privacy they've worked so hard for. I do completely understand where the neighbors are coming from as their concerns are valid when it comes to them losing their privacy but again, the Tamitik Status of Women have provided nothing but assurance that trees will remain to be a buffer to keep that privacy intact.

As mentioned, I am a resident of the Kildala neighborhood. My family and I reside on Omenica Street and we drive, walk or bike by this area every single day – multiple times a day. I strongly feel as though the residents of Strawberry Meadows are disregarding the opinions and views of the rest of the Kildala community and are only considering themselves because they feel as though they are the only ones who will have to 'face the negative outcomes' or 'deal with what this project will bring.' It has been stated that 'the value of all neighboring properties will be substantially reduced' I find this statement to be painstakingly inconsiderate. Regardless of what this small opposing group wants, this structure is going to be built somewhere in a residential neighborhood of Kitimat. I cannot figure out how one can say the property value will be substantially reduced. Everyone in this community is well aware how fabulous and sought after the properties of Strawberry Meadows are, how is a new building on the OUTSKIRTS of the meadows going to affect the properties INSIDE of the meadows? Knowing the significant amount of worth and positivity that is coming from this housing project; should be making the residents of Strawberry Meadows PROUD to say they were involved in supporting such a project. I am a firm

believer in that we each need to consider every positive that comes with every negative and I strongly feel that there are no positives being considered here (not by the opposition that is).

To conclude, I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for taking the time to read my views and concerns regarding the proposed housing project and I truly hope that some of my points will be seriously considered in the decision that is to be made. I look forward to knowing that this letter has been acknowledged and please know that I am open and willing to converse and voice my opinion at any given time.

Sincerely,

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# ??? DID YOU KNOW ???

- Tamitik Status of Women (TSW) are proposing to build a 4 story Microtel size mixed-use building at 461 Quatsino in Strawberry Meadows.
- This project will include **under one roof**, Shelter for Women and Children fleeing violence, Transition Housing, Low Income Housing for Women and Men, Offices, Food Bank, Furniture Exchange, Needle Exchange and Children's Play area.
- TSW have already spent over \$ 100,000 on property they do not even own.
- This project was in the works for over a year before neighbours were officially notified.
- District of Kitimat (DOK) notified only neighbours within 90 meters of proposed project.
- Privacy the existing neighbours now have will be gone as this proposed building will tower over everyone and their parking lot will extend to within 2 meters of the property lines. If built as proposed the trees will be removed leaving no noise or privacy buffer at all between them and neighboring properties. The proposed building is 14.5 meters high. Maximum building height in Strawberry Meadows is 9 meters.
- This building as proposed does not meet the parking demand bylaw. It will have less than half of what is required. TSW states their clients will not need parking spaces as most of them do not own vehicles.
- Neighbors have tried multiple times to meet with TSW to work towards an equitable solution that would satisfy everyone. TSW has refused to meet or discuss.
- Value of all neighboring properties will be substantially reduced.
- **If re-zoning and OCP Amendment approved and this project is permitted to proceed as proposed, then it could happen anywhere – another 4 story monstrosity just like this one could be your neighbour next year !!!!!**

**YOUR LAST CHANCE TO BE HEARD - FINAL PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY MARCH 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM – LUSO HALL ON KONIGUS STREET  
PLEASE BE THERE TO SHARE YOUR CONCERNS**

Please wear red to show your support for Strawberry Meadows residents  
For more information please visit us on Facebook or go to [www.kitimat.ca](http://www.kitimat.ca)