

To Mayor and Council,

My name is Renee Beauchamp and I am writing in support of Tamitik Status of Women's application for rezoning and OCP amendment regarding to 461 Quatsino. I am from Kitimat and work as registered nurse at the Kitimat General Hospital in the emergency room. I am writing to you not as a representative of Northern Health but rather as a concerned citizen with frontline experience.

I want to echo TSW's sentiments that there are members of our community that will be negatively affected by the upcoming LNG Canada industrial boom and I applaud and appreciate that they are trying to prepare their organization to best serve those individuals during that time.

From my first hand experience as a nurse, when there are no beds available at the transition house or when the Cold Weather Shelter isn't open, our hospital – particularly the emergency room – feels a ripple effect. Our local medical services were exhausted during the KMP project and I am certain that we will feel those effects again during our next industrial boom. The project TSW is proposing will help mitigate those negative effects on individuals and therefore will also mitigate effects on frontline staff in other sectors – not just TSW employees.

After reading posts on social media and other letters addressed to council, I think a key message missing is that of first responders. There is no opposition from other nurses, RMCP officers, or social workers. This is because I know that these professionals, my colleagues, serve individuals and families who also access TSW services and will benefit from increased housing options in our community. For the women and children seeking support or who are suffering from homelessness, TSW is the most appropriate and most trusted service provider for those instances.

The emergency room is not the best place to receive emotional support. It can be cold, noisy, crowded and there is no guarantee a nurse can sit for any length of time with an individual. If there aren't adequate shelter services in our community, we will see an increased demand in emergency services as the community prepares for LNG Canada.

When you consider your vote tonight, please do not only think about how your vote will affect the services Tamitik Status of Women provides but how your vote will affect the service providers that work alongside TSW to serve the vulnerable members of our community.

Sincerely,

Renee Beauchamp, RN
38 Gull St.