

25 February, 2019

To: Kitimat Mayor and Council,

Re: Tamitik Status of Women's Proposed Housing Project

After reading the material on the District of Kitimat's website regarding the zoning amendment for 461 Quatsino Avenue, listening to several council meetings and attending the open house and facilitated discussion held on February 11th, I believe the amendment should be approved.

With over 40 years of operation in Kitimat, the Tamitik Status of Women knows the needs of the women and children in our community who have experienced violence and those who don't have the financial means to afford housing in Kitimat. They have incorporated all the necessary services and supports in this project to help these community members move forward in their lives. Looking at the plans, TWS has designed an amazing facility that will benefit the individuals and families that will call it home.

As a lifetime Kitimat resident, 35 of those years living in Kildala, I believe the proposed Kildala location is well suited for this housing project. TSW has stated many of the residents won't have vehicles so it is important they are in walking distance to grocery stores, medical offices, recreation facilities, Kildala Elementary School, and public transit. It is also important for the residents to be part of a neighbourhood and not sent to live in a commercial part of town.

I think the belief –“It takes a whole village to raise a child”, really applies in this case. We need to support, encourage and help in any way we can. We are all part of this community, we are all neighbours, and we all belong. We cannot let BC Housing's funding for a new transition house and low income housing end up in a different community, when it is needed here in Kitimat.

The drawings for the proposed building show it is behind only the first two lots on Cranberry St but many other residents have raised concerns over building location and height, operation of programs and perceived negative impacts on the neighbourhood. Many questions were answered in the 'Fact Sheet & FAQ' prepared by the District and others by TWS and their clients at the facilitated discussion. I'm hoping that during the permitting phase of this process, where it says the form and character are addressed, the neighbours, the city, TSW and BC Housing will be able to work together to make this project a success and a welcomed addition to the neighbourhood.

Thank you, and good luck with your deliberations.

Linda Penner
52 Moore St.
Kitimat, B.C.
V8C 1G7