



10401 10th Street
Dawson Creek BC V1G 3T8
250.782.9325 • www.kpacdc.ca

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Safety for Children in Proximity to My Home Place

Dear Mike Bernier,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Johanna, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre and Kiwanis Childcare Centre in Dawson Creek, BC.

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of great concern related to the BC housing project, My Home Place, situated at 1024 140 Ave, Dawson Creek. Our facility, a hub for daycare, dance programs, and music, has been a fixture at 10401 10th, Dawson Creek BC, for over a decade, catering to a significant portion of our youth population.

Since the commencement of My Home Place, we've been privy to unsettling accounts. Each day, we observe individuals lingering near the premises, with some exhibiting signs of intoxication. Our strategically positioned daycare playground, overlooking the building's entrance, exposes our children to worrisome activities, such as encounters with individuals passed out on the street, instances of open drug use, and frequent altercations. The situation has escalated to the point where emergency services, including the police, ambulance, and fire department, are on-site 3-4 times weekly. Our daycare staff diligently conduct regular sweeps of the play yard, searching for drug paraphernalia, addressing garbage scattered from the dumpster, and moving individuals away from our fence.

Parents have expressed deep concerns about the safety of their children and the security of our building. Regrettably, some have opted to withdraw their children from our daycare due to fears of exposure to such environments. As the Executive Director, it is disheartening to witness the departure of families due to these issues. On average, we lose 2-3 families a month during facility tours, as parents decide against using our services due to the proximity to the BC housing unit. This not only adversely impacts our business but, more importantly, it affects the well-being of the children we serve.

In addressing these challenges, we implemented measures with a sense of reluctance to ensure the safety of our patrons. This included restricting access to the building for non-users, a step deemed necessary for the overall security of our community. Regrettably, this action has unintended repercussions, particularly in limiting access for individuals in need, such as breastfeeding mothers or those requiring restroom facilities in the downtown area. To further shield our children from the events transpiring across the street, we installed privacy fencing around the daycare. Additionally, we heightened security measures, introducing extra locks and security checks for entrance into the daycare. Contemplating the recruitment of a full-time security guard is also underway. It's important to note that all these adjustments come at a considerable cost to our organization. As a non-profit entity, this financial burden compels us to augment the cost of our programming to offset these escalating expenses.

We maintain a strong conviction that the BC Housing project, My Home Place, should not have been situated in such close proximity to our daycare, where our most vulnerable population is intended to flourish. We endorse the pursuit of transformative changes to repurpose this facility into a dry, supportive housing center—a space dedicated to actively promoting positive transformation for those aspiring to lead better lives. Additionally, we believe that this form of housing should not be subject to the BC Residential Tenancy Act, as its current application impedes the RCMP from promptly addressing individuals intoxicated on the property.



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Your attention to this matter is crucial, and we kindly request your support in addressing these urgent concerns to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Johanna
Executive Director
Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre and Kiwanis Childcare Centre
Dawson Creek, BC