



CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF POUCE COUPE

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February 18, 2020

PRRD Board
PO Box 810
1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

Tyra.Henderson@prrd.bc.ca

Letter of Support requested from the Peace River Regional Board for the letter below.

RE: PID 013-863-932, Parcel A (D2237) Block B Section 32 Township 77 Range 14 West of the Sixth Meridian Peace River District Plan 3159 (the "Property")

Dear PRRD Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Village of Pouce Coupé to draw your attention to the above Property located at of 5213 Hospital Road, Pouce Coupé, BC, and to request the Environmental Management Branch take action to address concerns about a contaminated site within our community.

This Property was the site of a former Seniors Citizens Long Term Care facility that was operated by Northern Health. The land and buildings were then sold to the North Wind Wellness Centre Society in April 2015 and I understand the Society planned to convert the main building into the North Winds Wellness Centre.

A significant fire occurred at this location in May of 2019. The main building has been left in its fire-damaged state ever since. The Village has made all reasonable efforts to have the Society clean up and remediate the Property, but no action has been taken to date and there have been no communication to suggest that there are any plans to remediate within the immediate future; indeed the Society claims that they cannot afford to remediate the Property.

The local community, and the Council that represents it, is very concerned about the consequences of the Society leaving the open shell of this fire-damaged building as is, including because of:

- Concerns about health risks, namely Asbestos exposure and other fire related hazards, particularly to local children who might go in or near the Property, looking for places to investigate and play.
- Concerns that chemicals and contaminants in the fire-damaged building will leach into the soil of the Property during the spring thaw and melt.

March 12, 2020

- Concerns about the location of the property, (adjacent to the Pouce Coupé River Valley) which would cause significant concerns amongst environmental activists should contamination carry over.

On behalf of the Village, I ask that the Environmental Management Branch investigate the Property and consider issuing a remediation order under the *Environmental Management Act*, if appropriate. The Village is very concerned that the Society is delaying and will not take the appropriate action, as the Society has recently indicated to Council that it is not financially able to carry out this remediation.

When the Property was sold by Northern Health, the Village had received no assurances that any chemicals and contaminants associated with this facility had been removed from the Property. The Village is concerned that Northern Health may have transferred the Property to the Society without ensuring that the hazards associated with this building had been fully mitigated prior to the transfer.

Your prompt consideration of this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mayor Lorraine Michetti