



Mayor's Office, City of Penticton

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January 21, 2020

The Bridge Youth & Family Services

760 Hwy 33 West

Kelowna, BC V1X 1Y4

RE: Youth Recovery House Okanagan – Letter of Support

I wish to advise that Council at their January 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting and passed the following resolution:

22/2020

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council send a letter to The Bridge Youth & Family Services supporting the Okanagan Youth Recovery House initiative.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Further, my colleagues and I endorse the plan proposed by the Bridge Youth & Family Services to build an Okanagan Youth Recovery House for young people under the age of 19 who are experiencing addiction.

We understand that in the Okanagan there are zero facility based options for youth under the age of 17 and believe that at its very core, youth treatment is all about prevention: if our community services can respond to people who are struggling with addiction when they are young, we will positively affect the safety, vibrancy and health of the Okanagan for years to come. We agree that the Youth Recovery House will stem the tide of poverty, trauma, family breakdown, homelessness and mental and physical illness that a lifetime of addiction often entails.

The Bridge Youth & Family Services has a strong reputation for providing expert, evidence-based recovery and addictions care. They have a plan that will provide spaces of solace, healing and recovery for our most at-risk young people and their families. The Mayor and Council of the City of Penticton endorse that plan.

Sincerely,

John Vassilaki

MAYOR