



THE DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE

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January 10, 2024

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
P.O. Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Via Email: [PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Farnworth:

I am writing to you in support of the letter of November 29, 2023, from Fort St. John Mayor Lilia Hansen regarding the Community Safety Act and why it has never been brought into force. As Mayor Hansen stated in her letter, it appears the Opposition from the BC Civil Liberties Association has effectively prevented the enactment of this much needed legislation.

The Community Safety Act received its 1<sup>st</sup> reading in 2013 and since that time we have seen the safety and security of neighbourhoods deteriorating at an alarming rate. We all respect and enjoy many civil liberties in Canada but it shocks me that an organization which promotes civil liberties has facilitated the loss and freedom of community members to enjoy the peace and safety of their own homes.

On Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, I brought Mayor Hansen's letter forward to our municipal council to ask for their support on this important issue. Mackenzie Council unanimously supported sending a letter to yourself supporting Fort St. John's request to enact the Community Safety Act.

Ironically and tragically, at almost the exact time Mackenzie Council was discussing this issue, residents of Fort St. John were subject to another frightening incident in their community. As you are aware, on Monday evening, a deadly car chase involving three vehicles exchanging gunfire occurred on the streets of Fort St. John, which left one person involved in the incident fatality injured. It has been reported at least 2 homes in the area were struck by gunfire and RCMP are requesting homeowners to examine their residences for damage due to stray bullets.

On behalf of the District of Mackenzie Council and in support of Fort St. John Council, I respectfully request that the Community Safety Act be enacted as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Atkinson".

Mayor Joan Atkinson  
District of Mackenzie

[joan@districtofmackenzie.ca](mailto:joan@districtofmackenzie.ca)

cc: Mayor Lilia Hansen, City of Fort St. John