

To Staff and Management of Pastew Place

My name is Suzette Nelson and I have been a citizen of Fort McMurray for 39 years. I come from a large family of 7 siblings, six girls and one brother, Mitch. Our parents are divorced. My dad and brother are floor layers, our family would move from boomtown to boomtown wherever there was work. Dad pulled Mitch out of school at the first sign of trouble and put him to work laying floors. In hind site, and as our mother always knew (and believe me they fought about it!) this was a mistake. There are many reasons that lead my brother into becoming addicted to alcohol and eventually drugs. Living in an oil patch city booming in the early 70's and 80's, Fort McMurray was nothing but work, drink, party; I know many men and women that did not survive it. My brother has been in a struggle for most of his life here. Mitch has been in and out of many rehabs and sometimes even jail, all because of his addictions. I have never seen Mitch respond to a treatment in a sincere way until he got involved with Janice and the long-term pre and post care program. I have watched the Detox system be first a place where a drug or alcoholic would go for a quick shower, meal, and change of clothes until they felt good enough to walk out of there and go out and find the next party...until now.

Janice has come along and created this program that works...she really gets it. Janice and this program have brought Pastew Place out of the dark ages. People's lives are being changed literally with the long-term care. I can't tell you in one short letter the change in my brother this time, it's the first time I have witnessed Mitch get in touch with the problem with himself, and his family. I thought I was going to bury my brother and lose him forever. Can you imagine how that feels? Really? For the first time in many years I have hope for Mitch, my big brother, my ONLY brother. I need him in my life. Our dad and mom are getting up there in years and will not be around forever. I am a single mother with a 22-year-old son...He needs his uncle very much in his life.

We have seen such a change in Mitch, watched him blossom and transform within the guidance of this program. Larger cities all across Canada have similar programs and they too have many successes, as they understand the addiction. Fort McMurray needs this program badly. You can't give an addict two or three nights, a shower, and a meal, and send them on their way, and consider the job done... they use the facility like a Band-Aid, this was nothing ever changes. With Janice and this program, I see lives changing, people getting back into the work force and back into productive clean and sober living, no longer being part of the problem, but rather part of the solution. Taking extra time in their recovery makes a change.

Isn't that the goal after all??? This program has changed my brother's life, and also mine for the better; I'm getting my brother back to grow old with. Isn't that better than visiting a graveside?

Closing down this program would be a travesty...a mistake. This program really works, it is working. I beg of you, please keep this program going let it expand and grow. Fort McMurray

needs this program. Good people are in need of this program, they deserve it. True recovery cannot and does not happen in the span of 1 week.

Thank you,

Suzette Nelson