

September 21, 2022

Honourable Murray Rankin, MLA
Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
via email: ag.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister

Re: Request for Province to explore a vacancy control policy

The following resolution was passed at the September 7, 2022, regular meeting of Council.

"That Council direct that the Mayor be authorized to write a letter to the Province and ask them to consider regulating rental increases between tenants."

The housing crisis affects individuals, families and communities every day. As you know, our communities are in the middle of a major housing crisis. Not only are there not enough rental vacancies available for people to live in but the rental costs in these buildings are out of reach for many and continue to create barriers to attract and retain workers and increase our existing housing issues.

During this time of unprecedented inflationary pressures, we welcome the news that the Premier announced a cap for the annual allowable rent increase for 2023 at two percent, but that doesn't alleviate the need to consider adopting vacancy control. Vacancy control would assist in the prevention of giant rent hikes between tenants.

We request that you clamp down on the unregulated sections of the rental housing market and adopt vacancy control.

Sincerely



Al Siebring
Mayor

mayor@northcowichan.ca

cc: Sonia Furstenau, MLA, Cowichan Valley
North Cowichan Council
Doug Routley, MLA, Nanaimo - North Cowichan
Ted Swabey, CAO, North Cowichan