



VIA EMAIL

Ref: 66489

April 8, 2024

Their Worship Rob Douglas
Mayor of the District of North Cowichan
Email: mayor@northcowichan.ca

Dear Mayor Rob Douglas:

On April 5, 2024, I introduced new legislation, Bill 16, intended to support local governments in their efforts to build more affordable and liveable communities. The proposed legislation strengthens the shift towards pro-active zoning by providing local governments with new authorities to secure affordable housing units and site-level infrastructure in new developments and to enable municipalities to adopt bylaws to help tenants facing eviction from redevelopment.

These changes are part of the broader set of local government changes that started in fall 2023 with Bills 44, 46 and 47 to help get more housing built faster while enabling updated and new tools to effectively fund the costs of infrastructure and amenities to support increased housing supply and growth. Those changes will result in fewer site-by-site rezonings, which many local governments currently rely on to secure key outcomes such as affordable housing, tenant protections, and site-level infrastructure. If passed, Bill 16 will provide authorities to local governments to secure these outcomes within a pro-active zoning framework.

Bill 16 will establish a new **Inclusionary Zoning** tool that allows local governments to require affordable housing in new development without relying on the rezoning process and to accept cash-in-lieu of affordable housing or affordable units on a different site by agreement. Local governments will need to undertake a financial feasibility analysis and consultation when developing Inclusionary Zoning bylaws to ensure that enough density is provided to offset the costs of providing affordable housing. They will also need to report annually on the outcomes of Inclusionary Zoning bylaws for transparency and to support provincial monitoring of implementation.

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The **Density Bonus** tool will be updated to clarify how it is used and to help ensure it works effectively with Inclusionary Zoning. Financial feasibility analysis and consultation will now be required to ensure that Density Bonus provisions are achievable and calibrated to local conditions. The proposed legislation clarifies that local governments can accept cash-in-lieu of affordable units and/or units on a different site. It also clarifies use of Density Bonus authorities in Transit-Oriented Areas (TOAs).

By mid-2025 (or a later date prescribed by regulation) local governments will be required to update all existing density bonus bylaws to comply with the new legislation, and density bonus authorities will only be able to be used above the minimum allowable densities in TOAs.

Bill 16 will also provide municipalities with the authority to develop **Tenant Protection Bylaws** that are implemented at the development permit stage. Municipalities will be able to withhold development permits until owners meet the conditions of the tenant protection bylaws. In addition, municipalities will be able to request information about the effect of proposed redevelopments on tenants, which will give municipalities more data to design tenant protection bylaws.

Lastly, Bill 16 proposes new authorities for local governments to secure site-level infrastructure to service new development without relying on the rezoning process. These changes will give local governments clearer authority to require **works and services** for infill developments (i.e. at the building permit stage). As well, the legislation provides local governments with an expanded list of works and services they can require, including, for example, benches, street lamps, parklets, and sustainable design features like rain gardens. Local governments will also be able to require developments provide land adjacent to developments for new or upgraded roads without subdivision to support alternative transportation, accessibility and safety (such as wider sidewalks, bike lanes, and street trees). The legislation also gives local governments a new authority to define and require **Transportation Demand Management** measures within new developments, which can include, for example, charging stations or secure bicycle parking facilities.

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If Bill 16 is passed, local governments can use the capacity funding distributed in January to adopt these new tools.

The Province will continue to engage and collaborate with local governments to support implementation of the new legislative tools and requirements. Later this year, we will provide guidance for adoption of the new authorities: Inclusionary Zoning and Density Bonus, Works and Services and Transportation Demand Management, and Tenant Protection Bylaws. In the coming months, we will also be providing further guidance to support the implementation of the fall 2023 legislation, including guidance on the Interim Housing Needs Reports and comprehensive guidance on the development finance tools.

I appreciate all the work being undertaken to transition to a pro-active zoning planning framework and to help get more homes built for British Columbians.

Sincerely,



Ravi Kahlon
Minister of housing

pc: The Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Teri Collins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Bindi Sawchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Ted Swabey, City Manager/CAO (ted.swabey@northcowichan.ca)

Links:

Local Government Housing Initiatives Webpage: [Local government housing initiatives - Province of British Columbia](#)

Bill 16 Announcement: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024HOUS0049-000471>

