



TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

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March 18, 2026

Sent via Email

LETTER TO ALL BC MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Judicial Review Coalition Update — Provincial Housing Legislation (Bills 44, 47, 13, 15, and M216)

This letter provides an update further to the Town of View Royal's correspondence dated December 4, 2025 regarding a potential coordinated Judicial Review of recent provincial housing legislation .

Since issuing the initial invitation, the Town of View Royal, the District of West Vancouver, the District of Oak Bay, the Regional District of North Okanagan, and the Township of Spallumcheen have formally indicated their participation in the coalition. These early participants have recognized the shared concern regarding the cumulative impact of recent provincial housing legislation on local governance, planning authority, and accountability to residents. Dozens of other municipalities have attended information sessions, and others have reached out for further information and support. We continue to receive expressions of interest from councils across British Columbia.

This initiative is not occurring in isolation. Recent actions across the province reinforce the concerns raised in our initial letter. Metro Vancouver mayors sought meaningful engagement with the Province on housing legislation that materially affects municipal authority, planning responsibilities, and public accountability. While the Province acknowledged this request, its response confirmed an implementation-focused approach and did not address the broader governance and procedural concerns raised. This exchange underscores the absence of a forum to resolve these issues collaboratively and reinforces the need for legal clarity. Councils across British Columbia have similarly raised concerns regarding the pace and scale of legislative change, the removal of public hearings, the shift of land-use authority away from locally elected councils, and the implications for infrastructure planning, financial sustainability, and service delivery. Bill M216 and related legislation continue to raise questions regarding the balance between provincial objectives and municipal responsibilities, particularly where expectations are evolving without a clearly defined framework for delivery.

As noted previously, this process is not about opposing housing but about obtaining legal clarity. The coalition's first step will be to commission a shared legal opinion to assess the scope of provincial authority relative to municipalities, the implications of the legislative changes on

procedural fairness and democratic accountability, and the extent to which municipal powers have been altered or constrained. Municipalities that formally join the coalition will have full access to this legal opinion. The estimated budget for the legal opinion is \$150,000, to be shared among participating municipalities through a cost-sharing model to be confirmed.

Following completion of the legal opinion, a subsequent meeting will be convened with participating municipalities to review findings, discuss implications, and determine whether there is sufficient basis and collective support to proceed with a Judicial Review.

In the absence of clarity, municipalities are left managing uncertain planning frameworks, increasing infrastructure and financial pressures, and a growing disconnect between responsibility and authority. At present, a coordinated Judicial Review remains the only available mechanism to obtain a clear and authoritative interpretation of these issues.

Councils are asked to signal their intent to join the coalition no later than March 31, 2026. Municipalities indicating intent will receive a formal invitation and next-step materials in the first week of April, including a cost-sharing framework, a draft Memorandum of Understanding, and the scope for the legal opinion. A meeting of participating and interested municipalities will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 10, 2026, to review the approach, confirm participation, and discuss next steps. Participation at this stage does not commit a municipality to a Judicial Review but ensures access to the legal analysis required to make an informed decision.

This effort is grounded in a shared interest in ensuring clarity in the roles, responsibilities, and relationships between orders of government. We encourage your Council to consider joining this collaborative process.

For further information or to confirm participation, please contact me at Mayor Sid Tobias at mayortobias@viewroyal.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Tobias', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Mayor Sid Tobias
Town of View Royal