



Patrick Johnstone
Mayor

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Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, MLA New
Westminster-Coquitlam
335 Sixth Street
New Westminster, BC V3L 3A9

Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA
Burnaby-New Westminster
5234 Rumble Street
Burnaby, BC V5J 2B6

Steve Kooner, MLA
Richmond-Queensborough
130 – 12560 Bridgeport Road
Richmond, BC V6V 2N5

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Re: Advocating that Provincial Legislation Requiring Housing Targets or Density be Directly Tied to Infrastructure Funding

At its Regular Council meeting on May 25, 2026, New Westminster City Council passed the following resolution:

THAT the City of New Westminster write a letter to the Province of British Columbia including the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the Premier, and the three MLAs for New Westminster advocating that any provincial legislation requiring housing targets or density be directly tied to infrastructure funding; and

THAT this letter be shared with other BC municipalities; and

THAT a motion be submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities aligned with the above.¹

Background

In November 2023, the Provincial Government introduced wide-ranging changes to the legislation governing how municipalities plan for and approve new development. The City has complied with all of the recent legislative changes and have always supported adding new housing, increasing housing choice and supporting affordable options. Our community has also expressed their concerns about park space, high-quality community amenities, sustainable infrastructure, and school spaces. They expect these things as benefits of the sustainable growth model, not things they must sacrifice to live in a region that is booming, and school spaces. They expect these things as benefits of the

¹ Union of BC Municipalities resolution attached as Appendix A

sustainable growth model, not things they must sacrifice to live in a region that is booming.

Analysis

The new legislation hampers our ability to align municipal capital projects with more concentrated growth. Despite taking advantage of new financing growth tools, there is a significant gap between what we can potentially fund through our new Amenity Cost Charge (ACC) and updated Development Cost Charge (DCC) programs, and what's actually needed to support growth in New Westminster. As discussed in our previous meeting, we have calculated that Cost Charges set at a level that allows us to meet infrastructure needs would likely make development unviable.

Need for Provincial Housing Legislation to Be Tied to Infrastructure Funding

The City has seen and deeply appreciates significant investment in health care, schools, and affordable housing in recent years. We want to see consistent Provincial support, aligned with our commitment to housing growth, and tied to Provincial legislation requiring housing targets or density. Additional sources are needed to address the funding gap for community-funded infrastructure.

A program built on municipal competition for limited infrastructure funding and forcing reductions in DCCs will not meaningfully help a rapidly growing community like New Westminster. The City has always supported adding a diversity of new housing; we are asking the Province to recognize these efforts by prioritizing infrastructure funding for those municipalities actively encouraging more homes.

Need for Provincial Services to Keep Pace with Municipal Growth

The City appreciates the grant funding, investments and financing tools that senior levels of government have provided. We need the Province to continue investing in affordable housing, schools and transit in our community. Continued partnership will help ensure that as New Westminster grows toward its Housing Target, it remains a livable city.

The requests outlined in this letter are also reflected in a Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) resolution, attached as Appendix A.

Your attention to this important matter is appreciated.

Yours truly,



Patrick Johnstone
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Appendix A – Union of BC Municipalities Resolution

Need for Provincial Housing Legislation to Be Directly Tied to Infrastructure Funding

Submitted by the City of New Westminster

WHEREAS local governments are committed to implementing Provincial legislation aimed at delivering new housing supply and clarifying development contribution to growth-related infrastructure and amenities, and also rely on the Government of British Columbia to directly deliver certain services, including schools, transit, affordable housing, and supportive housing and related services for those living with homelessness, mental health and substance misuse;

AND WHEREAS City of New Westminster analysis has found the amount of funding necessary to support infrastructure and amenities required to meet the needs of growth enabled through legislation, exceeds what can be collected while still ensuring that development remains financially viable, and at the same time, the Province of British Columbia and the federal government are actively collaborating to stimulate development by reducing Development Cost Charges (DCCs) to lessen financial barriers for developers and homebuilders, to help them build more housing in the current uncertain economic environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM call on the Government of British Columbia to provide funding for the infrastructure and amenities needed to achieve the legislated housing targets and density for those local governments that are actively working toward enabling new supply;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UBCM call on the Government of British Columbia to provide the services within their mandate, such as schools, transit, affordable housing, and supportive housing and related services for those living with homelessness, mental health and substance misuse, needed to serve the population growth anticipated based on the legislated housing targets and housing needs report, in those municipalities where the local government is actively working toward enabling new supply.

Office of the Mayor

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