



**CITY OF
PRINCE
GEORGE**

Office of the Mayor

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada, V2L 3A9
250-561-7600 | mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca | PrinceGeorge.ca

Rural Governments in British Columbia

Transmitted via email

August 20, 2026

RE: City of Prince George requesting support for the Northern and Rural Homeowners Grant

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Prince George City Council, thank you to the many local governments that have supported our request for the Province to reconsider its decision to end the Northern-Rural Homeowner Benefit.

Background:

The homeowner grant offered by the Government of British Columbia helps reduce the amount of property tax residents pay each year on their principal residence. The grant is available to homeowners who pay property taxes either to a municipality or directly to the Province if they live in a rural area.

The current regular grant amount is \$570 for properties in the Capital, Metro Vancouver, and Fraser Valley Regional Districts. For all other areas of the province, the grant amount is \$770. Effective for the 2027 and subsequent taxation years, the additional \$200 Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit will be repealed.

Why this matters:

Repealing this benefit will have a disproportionate impact on northern and rural communities, where residents already face higher living costs associated with transportation, longer supply chains, increased heating and cooling expenses, and more limited access to services than those typically experienced in southern urban centres.

Maintaining regional recognition within provincial programs remains essential to supporting affordability, economic resilience, and fairness for northern and rural residents.

Requested action:

The resolution was endorsed at the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Convention and has been forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration at the September 2026 Convention. The resolution has been included in the 2026 UBCM Resolutions Book and can be found on [page 84](#).

We are also pleased to note that MLA Rosalyn Bird has expressed support for the resolution, and NCLGA is advocating to the relevant provincial ministers in support of maintaining the benefit.

We believe a strong and united voice opposing this planned provincial change remains important. We encourage northern and rural local governments affected by this decision to support the resolution at the September 2026 UBCM Convention by speaking in favour of it at the Pro Mic and voting to endorse the resolution.



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We also welcome additional letters of support that the City can reference as part of ongoing advocacy efforts, including meetings with provincial ministers and government officials.

Finally, we encourage local governments to engage directly with their MLAs to reinforce the importance of maintaining fair and regionally responsive provincial programs that recognize the unique challenges facing northern and rural communities.

Respectfully,

Simon Yu
Mayor
City of Prince George