



City of Parksville
Office of the Mayor

December 12, 2025

The Honourable David Eby, Premier
The Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance
Stephanie Higginson, MLA, Ladysmith-Oceanside
George Anderson, MLA, Nanaimo-Lantzville

Re: Bill M216 - Professional Reliance Act

On behalf of the Council of the City of Parksville, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Bill M216, the Professional Reliance Act.

While we recognize the intent of the legislation to streamline development approvals and reduce administrative costs, we have serious concerns about the implications for local governance and community planning. Bill M216 would force local governments to accept submissions certified by registered professionals as meeting permit or bylaw requirements, effectively removing municipal discretion and oversight. This represents a serious erosion of local authority and undermines the role of local governments as the order of government closest to citizens and best positioned to reflect community priorities. Moreover, the proposed changes create liability for local governments, with limited recourse for reparations.

Furthermore, the bill was introduced without meaningful engagement or consultation with local governments or the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Systemic changes of this magnitude should be developed collaboratively to avoid unintended consequences. Shifting approval processes from local governments to private professionals and provincial dispute resolution mechanisms raises questions about accountability, liability, and public interest. It also places additional strain on the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance, which may not be adequately resourced for this expanded role.

Moreover, local governments are already adapting to significant legislative changes handed down from the Province, including housing targets under the *Housing Supply Act*, Bills 44 and 47 on small-scale multi-unit housing and transit-oriented development, and the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, among numerous others. Adding another sweeping change without consultation risks overwhelming municipal capacity and delaying critical housing and infrastructure projects.

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For these reasons, the City of Parksville supports UBCM's position and urges the Province to withdraw Bill M216. Any future changes to local approval processes should be developed through a transparent, consultative process that respects local autonomy and ensures practical implementation. We also request that the Province engage with local governments and UBCM to explore alternative solutions that balance efficiency with accountability and community input.

The City of Parksville sponsored resolution EB77, which was endorsed at both the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities annual convention and the Union of BC Municipalities annual convention. The resolution urges the Province to conduct meaningful technical level consultation with local governments about the feasibility and practicality of implementation, prior to amending legislation that affects the capacity and authority of local governments; to consider reasonable timelines for local governments to adapt to legislative changes; to consider the timing of multiple significant changes to core legislation across multiple topics; to coordinate the release of regulations and policy with statute amendments to assist local government staff in meeting timelines; and to provide sustained core funding to local governments to accompany permanent changes that create additional workload for local government staff. We strongly encourage the Province to heed the voices of many local governments across BC who endorsed this resolution.

Thank you for considering the concerns being voiced by the City of Parksville, the Union of BC Municipalities and many other local governments. We look forward to working collaboratively on solutions that strengthen, rather than diminish, local governance.

Sincerely,



DOUG O'BRIEN
Mayor

cc: Council
Union of BC Municipalities Executive
Union of BC Municipalities Members