



Via email: HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca

June 21, 2023

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Ministry of Housing
PO Box 9844 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9T2

Dear Honourable Kahlon:

Re: Province of British Columbia's Home for People Action Plan

At its Regular Council meeting held June 19, 2023, the District of North Saanich Council approved the following resolution:

"That the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to the Minister of Housing, with copies to the MLA for Saanich North and the Islands and all members of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, regarding the recently announced action plan "Homes for People" and request that the Minister take into consideration the following:

- 1. The diversity and size of communities throughout the province and their unique housing needs;*
- 2. The differences between rural and urban communities and their availability of infrastructure; and,*
- 3. The significant impact on existing local infrastructure capacity to service increased development and density.*

And that the Minister be further advised that the District of North Saanich is concerned that broad legislative changes may curtail the local planning authority vested in local governments and expressed in their Official Community Plans and Zoning bylaws, for which significant public input has been received and accounted for in these important planning policy instruments."

A good portion of North Saanich is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR); as such, we have concerns regarding the potential conflict between residential and agricultural land use. We have struggled with this very issue in recent years as have other communities surrounded with rural areas and have experienced development pressure.

Respectfully, we request you consider that there are other communities, just as unique as ours, for which a province-wide, "one-size-fits-all", approach to increasing housing supply may not be in their best interest and may result in communities that no longer resemble the ones that people chose to live in. If the Province targeted support to communities either better suited or desirous of increased density, British Columbians would have the ability to choose the housing type and the community that is the best fit for them.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns on this very important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Jones" clearly distinguishable.

Peter Jones
Mayor

cc: Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands
Members of the Union of BC Municipalities