

November 16, 2021

The Honourable David Eby
Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
PO BOX 9044
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Eby:

RE: Presentation to Housing Central

I am writing to seek clarification on your statement at the Housing Central conference on November 15, that the Province "could withhold funding for programs if a municipality refuses to work on the supply challenge."

In particular, I am requesting clarification for our members on what constitutes refusing "to work on the supply challenge", and what funding could be withheld.

I would note that the vast majority of local governments are working with the Province to support development of attainable housing, often financially supporting such developments through land contributions, DCC exemptions and waivers and more, all while constrained by a narrow tax base. Local governments large and small, across the province, are well aware of the affordability crisis, and at this time, over 90% have undertaken work to complete housing needs reports.

UBCM and local governments also continue to participate in the Development Approvals Process Review, recognizing the potential for efficiencies in development approvals amongst all parties including local governments, the development industry and the Province. Moreover, we have worked closely with the Province to address the housing crisis through the implementation of a suite of measures identified in Homes for BC, a plan for affordability that was informed by our own housing strategy released in 2018¹.

We are concerned that the punitive approach suggested by your comments would erode local government autonomy as established in legislation. The *Community Charter* confirms that municipalities and their Councils are an order of government within their jurisdiction that is "democratically elected, autonomous, responsible and accountable" and must operate under strict statutory conditions associated with public consultation and public interest. Furthermore, the *Local Government Act* grants local governments the powers and flexibility required to respond to the needs of their communities within that mandate.

¹ <https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2021-08/UBCM%20Housing%20Strategy.pdf>

We look forward your response and to continuing dialogue in support of a collaborative approach towards addressing the affordability crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "LA Roodenburg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg
UBCM President

cc: Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs