ACCELERATING PROVINCIAL HOUSING AUTHORIZATIONS

Housing supply and affordability is one of the leading issues across B.C. Some of the barriers include the time, cost and confusion associated with the provincial authorization process.









Average time to get provincial building authorizations:

Housing-related authorizations 1,500 pending review:

Ministries overseeing various steps in the approval process:

4

It can be a time intensive process that can be difficult to navigate and lacks transparency.

WHAT DO NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTRIES (NRMs) HAVE TO DO WITH HOUSING?

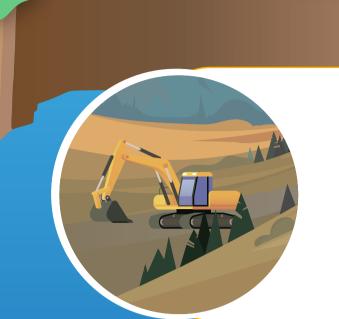
The authorization process may involve obtaining multiple applications from various NRMs, each with its own set of regulations and standards.



Want to build near a wetland?
You may need a Riparian Area Assessment from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.



Want to connect to an existing roadway? You'll need an access permit from the Ministry of Transportation before you even get started.



Want to dig down?
You may need a Site Alteration permit from the Archeology branch of the Ministry of Forests.

Want to build on a previously developed piece of land?
You may need an authorization from the Ministry of Environment.

NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTRIES:

Forests

Transportation and Infrastructure

Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Environment and Climate Change Strategy





Permits and authorizations play a necessary role in ensuring environmental and safety standards and reconciliation principles are met.



PRE-

Identify permits

APPLICATION CREATIO

Engage with a municipalities to comply with regional zoning laws

Engage with First Nations

APPLICATION CREATION

Seek guidance on Status review and special requirements identification of land and authorizations resource conflicts

with regional zoning laws Submit applications

APPLICATION INTAKE

Applications sent

back for revisions if

elements are missing

If applicable, Indigenous communities, general publication

communities, the general public or environmental subject matter experts are consulted

CONSULTATION

5 REVIEW

Technical assessment are undertaken to ensure environmental and safety requirements

DECISION

Decision is made

Contract Creation /

Permit Issued

These processes are important, but there is an opportunity to allow an easier path to build much-needed housing for British Columbians.

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE?

HOUSING ACTION TASK FORCE

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) is leading the Housing Action Task Force and cross-ministry work to improve timing and transparency of authorization processes.



42 new full time NRM positions dedicated to fast tracking housing authorizations added this year.



Immediate focus will be on Indigenous-led projects, BC Housing applications and multiple-unit applications.

The Housing Action Task Force has been established and the lessons learned will be applied more broadly to other Natural Resource activities.

The goal is to simplify the application and review process, so that there is transparency and clarity in seeking a provincial authorizations.



Through the efforts of the Housing Action Task Force a Single Window and Single Application will be developed and implemented.





We will be engaging with building and housing associations, Indigenous groups, and the natural resource sector to identify opportunities for improvement.