



BRITISH
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July 30, 2024

Reference: 69234

His Worship Peter Jones
Mayor of the District of North Saanich
1620 Mills Road
North Saanich BC V8L 5S9
Email: pjones@northsaanich.ca

RE: Housing Target Order for the District of North Saanich

Dear Mayor Jones:

Thank you for your letter of July 9, 2024, in response to the proposed Housing Target Order (Order). I appreciate your feedback and have addressed your comments in this letter below.

I have attached the Order for the District of North Saanich effective August 1, 2024 (see Appendix A). The Order sets out the total five-year housing target to be met by July 31, 2029, and annual cumulative housing targets (Schedule A), housing target performance indicators (Schedule B), and progress reporting dates (Schedule C). The Order will be published on BC Laws and must also be published on the District of North Saanich's internet site.

I want to thank your staff for working with the provincial team throughout the consultation process and the commitment from the District of North Saanich to address the housing crisis in your community. Strong action is required from all levels of government, and we will continue to work with municipalities to ensure provincial housing legislation supports the delivery of more housing.

Page 1 of 4

The Province launched the \$1 billion Growing Communities Fund, providing grants to every local and regional government to deliver infrastructure projects necessary to enable growth in their communities. The Province also allocated \$51 million to support local governments in meeting new density initiatives, including updating Housing Needs Reports, Official Community Plans, and zoning and development finance bylaws. Budget 2024 provided \$198 million in funding for BC Builds to support development of housing for middle-income earners through low-interest financing, grant funding, and leveraging government-, community- and non-profit-owned and underused land. BC Builds will benefit from an additional \$2 billion in recently announced financing from the Government of Canada to help deliver thousands of more homes. BC Housing's Community Housing Fund is also giving consideration to non-profits, co-operative and municipal housing providers, and First Nations delivering housing in municipalities issued Housing Target Orders. Together, these funding initiatives provide a foundation for municipalities to move forward with the implementation of housing targets within their communities, as well as contribute to the wider goal of addressing the housing crisis in BC.

Housing Targets

Housing targets set out in the Order reflect 75 per cent of the Province's total estimated housing need for the District of North Saanich. This is the minimum number of net new units to be measured cumulatively each year for the five-year period of the Order. The District of North Saanich should strive to achieve 100 per cent of the estimated housing need over the duration of the Order.

Appendix B includes the unit breakdown (size, tenure, unit affordability and supportive housing with on-site support) as interim guidance for the District of North Saanich. I encourage the District of North Saanich to strive toward meeting and monitoring the unit breakdown to deliver the right type of housing needed in your community. The unit breakdown is currently not required but can be reported as supplemental information.

Progress Reporting

Housing target progress reports must be received by Council resolution within 45 days after the end of each reporting period as set out in Schedule C. As soon as practicable after receiving the housing target progress report, the District of North Saanich must submit the report to the Minister at Housing.Targets@gov.bc.ca and publish the report on its municipal website.

In addition to reporting on net new units, the District of North Saanich must also report on information about actions taken and progress toward meeting the housing targets (see housing target performance indicators in Schedule B). If a housing target has not been met, the District of North Saanich must also report any planned actions toward meeting the housing target within the two-year period following the report.

In response to your feedback, the Province understands that municipalities alone do not develop housing. Progress report evaluation takes into account external factors such as market conditions that impact the pace of housing, land constraints due to Agricultural Land Reserve requirements, as well as federal and Provincial lands within a municipality. I appreciate the feedback regarding establishing a Community of Practice for municipalities that have received housing targets. I have directed Housing Targets Branch staff to explore the potential for this initiative for further consideration.

First Nations Engagement

Municipalities have an important role to play in reconciliation, particularly with First Nations whose territory includes your municipality and Indigenous Peoples living in or near your community. I strongly encourage the District of North Saanich to frequently and meaningfully engage with First Nations on land use planning to ensure that increased housing supply is responsive to Indigenous housing needs and does not negatively impact on culturally and environmentally sensitive lands.

I appreciate your commitment to working toward our shared housing outcomes.

Sincerely,



Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing

Attachments:

Appendix A: Housing Target Order for the District of North Saanich

Appendix B: Housing Unit Breakdown as Guidance for the District of North Saanich

His Worship Peter Jones

Page 4 of 4

CC: Teri Collins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Bindi Sawchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Stephanie Munro, Chief Administrative Officer, District of North Saanich
Housing Targets Branch, Ministry of Housing