



DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

File No. 0400-08

December 16, 2025

Hon. Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Via email: hma.minister@gov.bc.ca

BC Municipalities Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills
P.MBCCommittee@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Boyle and BC Municipalities Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills,

Re: Bill M216 - Professional Reliance Act

On behalf of the District of Metchosin Council, I am writing to express our deep concerns and opposition to Bill M216, the *Professional Reliance Act*. We acknowledge the Province's commitment to address housing supply challenges and streamline approvals; however, this legislation challenges municipal authority in its significant overreach into municipal jurisdiction and is likely to create unnecessary risks.

As stated, it appears that Bill M216 would undermine local government decision-making authority and oversight over development projects, bypassing the professional expertise of municipal planners, engineers, and building officials, whose knowledge of local context is essential for responsible and sustainable development. It proposes to weaken local government oversight over approvals, bypassing local government oversight at the expense of due diligence in local decision-making in favour of expedited approvals. Under Bill M216, oversight over development shifts from our realm in the public sector, where it is transparent and democratically accountable, to the private sector, where the primary obligation is to the client rather than the broader community. Essentially, the bill removes authority from local governments potentially causing regulatory deadlock leaving projects entwined in the under-resourced dispute resolution process. Furthermore, local governments will be left in a precarious liability situation.

The lack of consultation on Bill M216 is concerning. The bill was introduced without any substantive discussions with local government officials as part of a clear and transparent process. Several local governments have raised questions and valid concerns about how Bill M216 would impact local government powers as defined in the *Local Government Act* and the *Land Title Act*. We believe that

significant legislative changes affecting development, land use and municipal authority need to be developed through a process of dialogue and engagement with local governments.

We respectfully request that the provincial government pause consideration of Bill M216 and engage in meaningful and substantive consultation with local governments before moving forward with changes that fundamentally alter local land use authority and the development process.

Sincerely



Marie-Térèse Little, PhD
Mayor

cc: Premier David Eby premier@gov.bc.ca
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