

March 24, 2023

Dear Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer,

In a spirit of continued partnership with the provincial government to address the issue of housing, which is pressing in so many of our member communities both rural and urban, we are writing to convey a voluntary request on behalf of the Ministry of Housing. The Ministry is seeking your assistance with respect to documenting potential municipal land for housing as the Province rolls out and implements its refreshed housing strategy in the coming months and years.

The provincial government is currently undertaking an inventory of provincial lands that could potentially be used for the creation of affordable housing of all sorts: co-ops, non-profits, affordable home ownership and other opportunities to get more people into housing they can afford.

At the same time, the Ministry of Housing would like to invite willing local governments to provide a list of municipally owned land that could potentially be used for housing. This can include bare land. And they are also encouraging local governments to think ahead for the next five to ten years: in addition to potential bare land, is there a community centre, library, firehall or other municipal infrastructure that you plan to build or rebuild where, through partnership, housing could be part of the development or redevelopment?

Providing a list to the Ministry creates no obligation on behalf of the Province or the local government to take any further action. The purpose at this point is to get a sense of public land available for housing and understand which municipalities might be interested down the road in partnerships to create more housing in their communities. All information shared with the Province will be kept confidential.

To make it simple, the Ministry is providing an example (see Appendix A) of the kind of information they are seeking. All that is being requested at this point, as per the Appendix, is a simple description of the lot or lots and any maps or information easily available to share.

Please submit any information you wish to share in confidence with the Ministry by July 31st 2023 by email to housing.policy@gov.bc.ca

In Minister Kahlon's words, "The Province and local governments have been working together to address the housing crisis and together we've had success. In 2017, our government committed \$7 billion to get housing built for people and today we see new affordable housing opening in communities across the province. Yet still with a strong economy and high quality of life, our province, and your communities, continue to grow. That's why in budget 2023 our government is

committing another \$4.2 billion to continue to work with you to build housing that working people, families and seniors can afford, so they can make a good life and have a good home in your cities and towns.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jen Ford". The letters are dark and fluid, with a prominent loop on the "J" and a long tail on the "d".

Jen Ford
UBCM President