



To: **Mayor and Council; Chair and Board**

From: **UBCM President Trish Mandewo**

Re: **Register for 2024 UBCM Housing Summit**

I am writing to invite you and your Council or Regional District Board of Directors to attend a housing summit for local government in Vancouver at the Westin Bayshore on February 13-14.

Local governments can see firsthand how B.C.'s entrenched housing crisis is impacting our communities. While impacts vary from one community or region to the next, the bottom line is the same everywhere: there are too many people who can't find a home, or if they can, afford to keep it.

Last fall the province introduced a sweeping set of legislation aimed at increasing the supply of new homes in British Columbia. Most of the legislation was focused on the role of local governments in the housing system:

Housing targets for specified local governments;

- Pre-zoning for multiple homes on single-family lots;
- Requirements for municipalities to update Official Community Plans every five years;
- A restructured development finance system;
- Increased density minimums in areas around public transit hubs with frequent service; and
- New rules to restrict short-term rentals.

The recent legislation represents a seismic shift in how B.C. communities are developed. In light of the speed with which the legislation was introduced, there is a need for local governments to gather to discuss the implications of these changes. As BC's population continues to surge largely due to federal immigration policy, British Columbians need solutions that work.

I am aware that we are providing short notice for this summit, but we can't wait until the next UBCM convention to gather local governments together.

UBCM members know the value of gathering in person for critical discussions, and so we are offering this event in person. We are also aware that the short timelines or cost of attending may be a barrier to some local governments, which is why we will also make this event available virtually. The cost to do so for UBCM will be considerable, but we believe it is critical to hear from as many members as possible over the two days of the event.

As our draft program is taking shape, there are key themes that will shape the summit agenda:

- The legislation's potential to increase housing supply and improve affordability;
- Areas where unintended consequences are apparent;
- Impacts of the legislation on staffing capacity and infrastructure;
- The diversity of housing needs among B.C. communities and the unique capacity constraints faced by smaller communities;
- The effect of the legislation on current local government policies aimed at increasing supply, safeguarding affordability and building complete communities;
- Gaps within the current legislative framework; and
- A common approach for local governments moving forward.

[Registration for the event is now open.](#) I encourage all of BC's councils and boards to participate. If you have any questions, please contact UBCM's administration at ubcm@ubcm.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mandewo'.

Councillor Trish Mandewo

UBCM President

