

Hi David,

I'd like to have the following motion added to the next GP meeting:

1)a) To adopt the following resolution from LGLMA and send to UBCM to indicate strong support for additional municipal tools to deal with the housing crisis.

Whereas the Province of British Columbia responded to a housing affordability crisis in 2016 with legislation empowering the City of Vancouver to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties, resulting in \$38 million in revenues for that community in 2018 and creating a strong disincentive to leaving properties vacant;

And whereas communities across British Columbia face housing affordability pressures, while a portion of the housing supply in all communities remains vacant;

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to extend the authority to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties to local governments across British Columbia, providing communities with the discretion to decide whether to introduce an additional tax to discourage vacant and derelict buildings, and encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

2)b) Implement a cost-recovery House Boarding Fee to address the ongoing burden on tax payers for vacant and boarded houses. Boarded houses use a disproportionate amount of resources, such as Richmond Fire Rescue, RCMP, Bylaw staff, and more. There were 333 boarded properties in 2018.

Thank you,

Kelly Greene
Richmond City Councillor

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