



BRITISH COLUMBIA

June 26, 2024

Reference: 68528

Her Worship Mayor Megan Knight
Mayor of the City of White Rock
15322 Buena Vista Avenue
White Rock BC V4B 1Y6
Email: mknight@whiterockcity.ca

Dear Mayor Knight:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 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 City of White Rock effective July 1, 2024 (see Appendix A). The Order sets out the total five-year housing target to be met by June 30, 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 City of White Rock's internet site.

I want to thank your staff for working with the provincial team throughout the consultation process and the commitment from the City of White Rock 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 is being adopted to support the delivery of more housing.

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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 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 City of White Rock. This is the minimum number of net new units to be measured cumulatively each year for the five-year period of the Order. The City of White Rock 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 City of White Rock. I encourage the City of White Rock 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 City of White Rock 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 City of White Rock 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 City of White Rock must also report any planned actions toward meeting the housing target within the 2-year period following the report.

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I am encouraged by the various initiatives developed by the City to increase housing supply, including strategic priorities that align with Provincial Bills 44, 46, and 47. I recognize that the timing of these Provincial requirements, alongside housing targets consultation has put pressure on municipalities, and I appreciate the hard work of City staff throughout the implementation phases of this work.

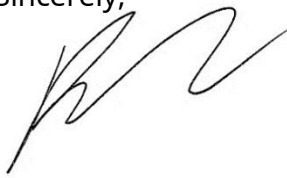
In response to your comments regarding the use of completions as the primary metric for measuring progress toward achieving targets, the Province is committed to measuring the targets against move-in ready housing (occupancy permit); however, building permits are also collected as part of the assessment of housing units in the pipeline and overall evaluation of municipal effort to meet targets. In addition to assessing progress towards meeting a housing target, the Province will consider external factors like market conditions.

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 City of White Rock 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 the City of White Rock's commitment to working toward our shared housing outcomes.

Sincerely,



Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing

Attachments

Appendix A: Housing Target Order for the City of White Rock

Appendix B: Housing Unit Breakdown as Guidance for the City of White Rock

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

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Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer, City of White Rock
Housing Targets Branch