

July 23, 2024

File: CR-07-16-HOU

Mayor Megan Knight and Council
City of White Rock
15322 Buena Vista Ave
White Rock, BC V4B 1Y6
VIA EMAIL: mknight@whiterockcity.ca; whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca

Dear Mayor Megan Knight and Council:

Housing Needs Reports – Opt-In Opportunity for Metro Vancouver Member Jurisdictions

In April 2019, legislation took effect requiring that all local governments in BC prepare Housing Needs Reports (HNRs) describing their current and anticipated housing needs. Historically, Metro Vancouver has assisted member jurisdictions by collecting and issuing close to 50 distinct types of data required by the Province for HNRs and providing the information in a report format.

At its March 22, 2024 regular meeting, the Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) adopted the following resolution:

That the MVRD Board:

- a) direct staff to provide an ‘opt in’ opportunity for member jurisdictions for Metro Vancouver to undertake the Housing Needs Reports as per the provincial methodology and requirements;*
- b) direct staff to advance and coordinate ‘opt in’ opportunities for co-operative procurement of consultants for member jurisdictions necessary for implementing the new provincial housing legislation; and*
- c) advance advocacy actions to the Province directed towards: infrastructure programs and funding to ensure that sufficient infrastructure is in place to accommodate the increases in population and housing projected; better alignment with Metro 2050; and stronger support for non-market and affordable housing.*

On June 18, 2024, the Province released the new methodology and instructions for interim HNRs that local governments are required to complete by January 1, 2025, using the standardized HNR Method to identify 5- and 20-year housing needs in their communities. Municipalities must then update their official community plans and zoning bylaws by December 31, 2025 to accommodate the number of units identified. The first “regular” HNRs will subsequently be required by December 31, 2028, and every five years thereafter. Metro Vancouver is well-positioned to support member

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jurisdictions by generating HNRs using the standardized HNR Method, in line with the supportive role that has been provided to member jurisdictions in the past.

The HNR Method can be applied using Excel or the HNR Calculator, an online tool being developed by UBC's Housing Assessment Resource Tools (HART), that will not be available until mid-July 2024 at the earliest. On an opt-in basis, Metro Vancouver can immediately start using the HNR Method Technical Guidelines provided by the Province to calculate 5- and 20-year housing needs for member jurisdictions using Excel instead of the HNR Calculator. Metro Vancouver can also offer this after the release of the HNR Calculator for member jurisdictions wanting to have their calculations available in an Excel tool for internal planning purposes going forward.

Should your jurisdiction be interested in receiving support from Metro Vancouver staff to complete the Housing Needs Report as per the provincial methodology and requirements, you or your staff are invited to contact Jessica Hayes, Program Manager, Housing Policy and Planning, by email at jessica.hayes@metrovancover.org.

Please note that this invitation was sent to members of the Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC) and Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) via email in late June. While staff have already received many positive responses, we encourage you to connect with your RAAC and/or RPAC representative to coordinate a response if you have not already, and still wish to opt-in.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hurley
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

MH/JC/jh

cc: Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer, City of White Rock
Jerry W. Dobrovlny, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver
Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning, Metro Vancouver

Encl: [MVRD Board report dated February 23, 2024, titled "Provincial Housing Legislation: Provincial Advocacy and Supportive Roles" \(pg. 225\)](#)

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