

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

2. Keys to Housing Affordability

Submitted by: Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's residents have the right to life, liberty and security of the person [1] and this includes the right to safe, secure, and affordable housing;
2. Canada recently defined a national poverty line which compares family disposable income to the cost of basic needs in a community. 20% of Vancouver's population have incomes below this line [2], which means a significant portion of residents are limited in their access to essential resources for life and security, particularly food and housing;
3. The 2018 Canadian Housing Survey stated that 25,200 households in B.C. were on waiting lists for affordable housing [3]; and
4. On June 16, 2021, the Federal Government of Canada and the Province of BC released "Opening doors: unlocking housing supply for affordability. The Final Report of the Canada-British Columbia Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability." In Section 3: Policy Issues and Recommendations, the expert panel outlines recommendations for local municipalities to increase housing supply for affordability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back on recommendations for local municipalities from the "Final Report of the Canada-British Columbia Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability" [4] to determine what the City of Vancouver can do to:

- i. address housing barriers to local Indigenous communities by working with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to identify policy changes that support affordable housing solutions, including, but not limited to design, programming, wrap around support services and access to land (such as the provision of City-owned sites). Further that staff work with Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) and Indigenous non-profit housing providers to eliminate barriers to Indigenous-led housing projects;
- ii. explore initiatives to support the expansion of entry homeownership, including but not limited to strata-titling for accessory dwelling units, community-based infill housing with dedicated affordability and co-ownership/shared equity models;

- iii. prioritize a land use planning framework within the Vancouver Plan that provides clear and simplified direction on development opportunities, developed in consultation with community, which directly responds to the Housing Needs Report (and its assessment of existing demand and population growth projections);
- iv. explore density bonus policy for affordable housing developments that specifically receive federal and provincial construction and redevelopment funding. This is to enhance alignment between planning approvals and funding programs; and
- v. designate and prioritize infrastructure requirements and amenity preferences, as well as the associated share of costs to be generated to service the demands of new housing, to ensure those costs are factored into land values.

[1] [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Section 7](#)

[2] City of Vancouver. Vancouver City Social Indicators Profile. 2020.
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/social-indicators-profile-city-of-vancouver.pdf>

[3] Statistics Canada table 46-10-0042-01 available at:
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=4610004201&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.1&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1>

[4] https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/588/2021/06/Opening-Doors_BC-Expert-Panel_Final-Report_Jun16.pdf

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