

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on June 4, 2025

1. Declaring Housing as a Human Right

Submitted by: Councillor Orr and Councillor Fry

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver and British Columbia struggle with an ongoing housing crisis. From skyrocketing rents to expanding encampments, the failure to provide adequate and affordable housing has become one of the province's most pressing human rights issues;
2. Housing as a Human Right has been legislated in Canada at the federal level since 2019 and is included in the National Housing Strategy. This legislation is Canada's commitment to recognizing the right to housing under international human rights law, and means governments must ensure that the housing system enables everyone to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity;
3. The responsibility and jurisdiction in Canada for delivery of housing is primarily with the provinces. Over the course of a decade British Columbia can expect hundreds of millions of dollars in transfer funds and other incentives from the federal government to administer towards the delivery of housing, predicated in part by the commitment to housing as a human right; and
4. The recognition of housing as a human right leads to more effective, equitable housing policy. Local governments across British Columbia are united in calling for the province to declare housing as a human right.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The City of Vancouver submit the following resolution by June 15, 2025, for consideration at UBCM's 2025 Policy Convention.

Declaring Housing as a Human Right

WHEREAS recognizing housing as a human right fundamentally shifts government motivations by adding critical urgency and responsibility to ensure access to affordable housing (meaning housing costs are aligned with income) through policies that prevent homelessness, address the escalating housing and homelessness crisis, eliminate discrimination, and prioritize the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada affirmed the right to housing as a matter of international law and enshrined it domestically through the National Housing Strategy Act (2019), recognizing housing as a human right and establishing mechanisms for accountability and inclusion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call for the BC Government to enshrine housing as a human right in legislation and forthcoming housing and

homelessness strategies, ensuring that housing policy in British Columbia is grounded in principles of equity, accessibility, accountability, and the inherent dignity of all people.

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