



URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE- OKANAGAN CHAPTER

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July 13, 2020

Honourable Selina Robinson,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Attention: Minister Robinson

Subject: Request for Meeting to Discuss Proposal to Extend Grandfathering Period due to COVID-19

As a partner in community building and an advocate for the real estate development industry, UDI Okanagan has been listening to our members to see how they have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most pressing issue that our members have communicated to us is that they are concerned that the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic could jeopardize their ability to activate their permits for their in-stream development project applications in time to realize the lower Parks Development Cost Charge (DCC) under the existing 12 month grandfathering period. There are concerns that some approvals that would otherwise be going ahead are now either not happening or are being delayed due to COVID-19. This could result in the 12 month grandfathering period expiring before they are able to make their Parks DCC payments to realize the savings they anticipated having when they successfully submitted their applications on-time. If the new Parks DCC rates wind up applying to these in-stream projects, it will deter construction in an already tough time, which will be a net-loss.

In light of this, we are requesting that the Province provide municipalities with the option of extending the grandfathering period by six months without having to go through the cumbersome and prohibitive process of re-submitting the previous bylaw to the Province for re-approval, then amending the new bylaw and re-submitting it to the Province for approval before final adoption.

In our discussions with municipal staff, they have indicated that the current process would be too cumbersome and costly for staff to undertake. However, staff would be willing to put the option forward to Council for their consideration if there was a more streamlined way for municipalities to extend the grandfathering period.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity to make our case to you for why this is an important step for the Province to take and how housing affordability risks being further eroded in our region if the grandfathering period is not extended.

For this reason, we request a virtual meeting with you to discuss this topic and our concerns further.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OKANAGAN CHAPTER

Per:

Jennifer Dixon, Executive Director of UDI Okanagan

Rich Threlfall, Chair of UDI Okanagan

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