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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL" <CMCG@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 1/31/2018 6:36:07 PM  
**Subject:** Report Release: UBCM's "A Home for Everyone: A Housing Strategy for British Columbia"

Dear Mayor and Council,

On Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 10 am UBCM will publicly release their "*A Home for Everyone: A Housing Strategy for British Columbia*" report. The report is a product of [UBCM's Special Committee on Housing](#); chaired by Mayor Greg Moore and comprised of municipal elected officials, senior municipal and regional government staff and other non-government stakeholder groups (including UBC, CMHC and BC Non-Profit Housing Association).

The City of Vancouver has been fully involved in, and is supportive of the Committee's work to identify avenues for further work with other levels of government and the development industry to make housing more affordable for people who live, work and contribute to BC's communities.

The report examines current provincial housing conditions and outlines what has not been working, including insufficient rental housing construction, high housing prices, and rising household debt levels, all of which are causing pressure on households across British Columbia and leaving many people at risk of homelessness. As local governments have long advocated for action and are willing to work towards practical solutions, the report affirms the Committee's support of the Province putting forward substantial proposals for action, and the Government of Canada coming forward with the new National Housing Strategy. The report expresses UBCM's goal to have all three levels of government work collaboratively to put its recommendations into action.

The report strongly supports a shift to the right supply of housing, emphasizing rental, social and co-operative housing. It aligns with our [Housing Vancouver strategy](#) and specifically supports the City's position that all levels of government need to take concerted action to address problematic demand and speculation in our housing market. It also maintains the City's approach to homelessness, emphasizing the need for transitional and supportive housing and for a focused strategy to address root causes and prevention.

The City is pleased to see UBCM bringing the housing crisis to light and calling for action to be taken at all levels of government.

The report identifies 32 recommendations to strengthen the housing system in British Columbia. The strategy's three high level recommendations include a need for province-wide:

1. Rental Housing Strategy

- Support for the provincial government's commitment to work with local governments, the federal government, and private and not-for-profit sectors to deliver 114,000 units of affordable market rental, non-profit, co-op, supported social housing and owner-purchase housing over 10 years.
- Call for federal and provincial support for renewal and maintenance of existing non-profit housing, and increased protection of and reinvestment in existing privately-owned rental housing buildings.
- Support for agreements such as the one proposed by the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation which link affordable housing development to key infrastructure like transit.

2. Demand Management Strategy

- Including taxation tools to address foreign investment pressures on demand and target speculation more broadly; and improved data collection, development, and sharing.
- Investigating approaches to regulate short term rentals.

3. Comprehensive Homelessness Strategy

- Based on the Metro Vancouver regional homelessness strategy, the emphasis of this strategy is to prevent, not manage, homelessness, through comprehensive measures to address poverty, mental health, addiction and other key drivers of homelessness. The focus is to reduce pathways into homelessness and increasing pathways out of homelessness, while continuing to provide appropriate services to those who are currently homeless.

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UBCM Special Committee on Housing Members

- *Committee Chair:* Mayor Greg Moore – City of Port Coquitlam. Chair of Metro Vancouver Regional District and Chairperson of the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation.
- Councillor Murry Krause – City of Prince George, UBCM President
- Director Wendy Booth – East Kootenay Regional District, UBCM First Vice President
- Councillor Bruce Hayne – City of Surrey, UBCM Vancouver Metro Area Representative
- Mayor Mike Clay – City of Port Moody. Chair, Metro Vancouver Housing Committee
- Mayor Derek Corrigan – City of Burnaby
- Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability – City of Vancouver
- Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer – New Westminster
- Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer – Capital Regional District
- Doug Gilchrist, Division Director, Community Planning and Real Estate – City of Kelowna
- Kishone Roy, CEO – BC Non-Profit Housing Association
- Dr. David Ley, Professor of Geography – University of British Columbia
- Richard Wozny, Principal – Site Economics
- Carol Frketich, Regional Manager – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Best,  
Sadhu Johnston  
City Manager

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