From: "van Dyk, Donny"
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 6/1/2026 4:48:12 PM
Subject: Summary: BC Spring 2026 Legislative Session

Dear Mayor and Council,

On Thursday, May 28, the 2nd session of the 43rd Parliament of British Columbia concluded, following a Spring sitting that highlighted several of the provincial government's most significant policy challenges and priorities.

Indigenous rights, private property rights, resource development, and economic growth were recurring topics throughout the session.

Recent court decisions related to mineral tenure and private land title prompted renewed discussion regarding Aboriginal title and consultation requirements. Political debate on these matters was further amplified during the recent BC Conservative Party leadership race. All leadership candidates campaigned on a platform to repeal the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), including Kerry-Lynne Findlay who was elected leader of the BC Conservatives this past weekend, highlighting a growing policy divide regarding reconciliation, project approvals, and economic development.

The provincial government continued to emphasize economic growth, investment attraction, and major project delivery as key priorities. These issues are expected to remain at the forefront as the Province advances its economic and resource development agenda. The provincial government also advanced several economic priorities during the session, including legislation establishing a new $400 million Strategic Investment Fund. The Fund allows the Province to provide financing to, or acquire equity positions in, BC-based companies, signalling a more active government role in supporting strategic industries, economic competitiveness, and domestic investment. These initiatives reflect the government's continued focus on the Look West Strategy, including efforts to strengthen economic resilience, diversify trade relationships, accelerate major project delivery, and enhance British Columbia's competitiveness in a changing global economy.

The Legislative Assembly is expected to return for the Fall sitting in October 2026.

The Spring session saw the passage of several significant pieces of legislation. Of particular interest to local governments are:

1. Bill 2 – Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2026 – Enforces the tax and fiscal policies outlined in the BC Budget 2026. Bill 2 expands the PST to a range of professional services, increasing the cost of infrastructure projects and municipal operations. Because municipalities generally cannot recover PST costs, the changes may place additional pressure on local government budgets and property taxes.

2. Bill 3 – Budget Measures Implementation Act (2), 2026 – Enacts fiscal and taxation changes alongside the provincial budget. It establishes the $400-million British Columbia Strategic Investments special account to leverage federal funding for national sovereignty, economic opportunities, and job creation.

3. Bill 11 – Residential Tenancy Amendment Act, 2026 – Amends the Residential Tenancy Act to provide supportive housing operators with additional tools to address serious health and safety concerns within supportive housing environments. The legislation introduces measures to help keep weapons out of supportive housing, establishes a range of options to temporarily restrict tenant access in situations

3. involving significant safety risks, and allows operators, in limited circumstances, to restrict access while awaiting an expedited eviction hearing. The amendments also clarify the application of the Residential Tenancy Act in supportive housing settings, with the goal of balancing tenant rights with the safety and well-being of residents, staff, and visitors.

4. Bill 16 – Miscellaneous Statues Amendment Act, 2026 – An omnibus legislative package introduced to update enforcement, housing, justice, and transparency laws, including the Zero-Emission Vehicles Act (which adjusts zero-emission vehicle sales targets to respond to evolving market conditions while maintaining the transition toward environmental goals), and the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act, South Coast BC Transportation Authority Act, Local Government Act, Vancouver Charter. The bill amends several local government statutes, including the Vancouver Charter, to temporarily extend development charge protections in the Metro Vancouver region, providing greater cost certainty for housing projects already underway. More broadly, the changes are intended to support housing delivery by reducing development barriers, improving access to infrastructure funding, and helping local governments align with future federal housing and infrastructure initiatives.

5. Private Member's Bill M217 - Dashboard Cameras in Commercial Vehicles Act – Makes BC the first jurisdiction in Canada to legally mandate outward-facing dash cameras in large commercial vehicles. The bill unanimously passed third reading in the B.C. Legislature to improve highway safety and streamline crash investigations.

In addition, the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs has directed the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Member's Bills to not continue consideration of Bill M216, Professional Reliance Act, in light of the Province's commitment to undertake further work on the bill's core principles. Bill M216 sparked debate between local governments and parts of the development industry, with municipalities raising concerns about reduced oversight and accountability, and industry stakeholders viewing the proposal as an opportunity to streamline approvals and support faster housing delivery.

Further Resources:

- The Earnscliffe summary of the Spring session can be found here.
- The Province's summary of the Spring session can be found here.
- Information on all bills considered during the Spring session can be found here.

Thanks,
Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver

CITY OF VANCOUVER

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.