



# BRITISH COLUMBIA

Reference: 187521

October 2, 2025

Laura Patrick  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
200-1627 Fort Street  
Email: [lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Dear Chair Patrick:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 10, 2025, regarding the Islands Trust Council's request for a revision of the Housing Needs Report (HNR) methodology specifically for rural areas.

In my new role as Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, I am pleased to have the opportunity to reply to your concerns.

I recognize that every community across British Columbia, including local trust areas and other rural areas, has different local housing needs. To ensure that they can reflect local size and context, the legislation provides communities a lot of flexibility in terms of the length, organization and format of HNRs. Beyond the relatively limited set of required content, communities are free to focus their HNRs on housing challenges of most local relevance.

At the same time, for planning purposes it's important to ensure a more robust, consistent, and comparable calculation of the overall amount of housing needed in each community. This is why the legislation requires use of the standardized 'HNR Method', which estimates the total number of homes to address a community's current and anticipated housing needs over 20 years.

The HNR Method was developed in collaboration with housing experts and informed by recommendations from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Expert Panel on Housing Supply and Affordability. To ensure applicability across the province, it is based on data sources that provide community-level data. Of note, the HNR Method varies in one key respect for the Islands Trust and regional districts: in recognition of their more rural nature, it does not include the 'demand factor' component. This component only applies to municipalities and is meant to account for some extra capacity to meet healthy market demand in urban areas.

Page 1 of 2

Laura Patrick  
Page 2 of 2

Ministry staff continue to monitor local implementation of the 2023-2024 housing-related legislation, to ensure it is working as intended. With the next updates to housing needs reports due in 2028 feedback like this from the Islands Trust will be helpful to our thinking about the requirements, including the HNR Method.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boyle', written in a cursive style.

Christine Boyle  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

CC: Islands Trust Council  
Bowen Island Municipal Council