



# Executive Committee Addendum

Date: February 23, 2022  
Time: 9:00 am  
Location: Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom  
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

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Pages

## 8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

### 8.2. Executive Committee Initiated

#### 8.2.3. Local Planning Services

##### 8.2.3.1. *Minister Announcement of Upcoming Changes on Housing Approvals - BRF*

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**To:** Executive Committee                      **For the Meeting of:** February 23, 2022

**From:** David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services                      **Date Prepared:** February 22, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Minister Announcement of Upcoming Changes on Housing Approvals

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**PURPOSE:** To brief the Executive Committee on a recent announcement from the Minister of Housing regarding potential removal of some local government regulatory powers in relation to provision of housing.

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 21, 2022 two news sources, The Vancouver Sun and Castanet.com (appendix 1), ran a report indicating that BC cities were being put on notice that the Province plans to remove some housing approval powers from local governments. No details were provided on what those changes would be, and the local governments to which they would apply.

The announcement is likely in response to a report (Opening Doors: Unlocking Housing supply for Affordability: final Report of the Canada-British Columbia Expert panel on the Future of Housing supply and affordability (appendix 2)) commissioned by the Province that was released on June 17, 2021. The task assigned to the panel was to:

*examine housing trends for rental and homeownership, exploring options to allow British Columbians to have further access to housing that they need and can afford. Our goal, as we see it, is to develop comprehensive policy recommendations on how to improve affordability by increasing the supply of market and non-market housing, whether for rent or for homeownership.*

The panel outlined five “calls to action”:

- *Creating a planning framework that proactively encourages housing. (page 26 – 7 recommendations)*
- *Reforming fees on property development. Page 29 – 4 recommendations)*
- *Expanding the supply of community and affordable housing.(Page 32 – 5 recommendations)*
- *Improving coordination among and within all orders of government (Page 35 – 4 recommendations)*
- *Ensuring more equitable treatment of renters and homeowners. (Page 37 – 3 recommendations)*

There are a total of 23 recommendations. While the news articles did not indicate what type of regulatory changes we could expect, clues to them can be found in the recommendation on the pages in the report identified above.

The Province has not indicated whether it will be releasing a white paper on the subject for comment (as it did with Riparian Area Regulation amendments) or will simply introduce the regulatory changes as a Bill without further consultation (as it has recently done with post-pandemic amendments).

The Executive Committee may wish to pro-actively meet with the Minister to advocate for consideration of the Islands Trust mandate for any regulatory changes that may apply to the Trust Area. Alternatively, the Executive Committee could take a “wait and see” approach and decide on action, if any, once more details of proposed regulatory changes are made available by the Province.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Minister Announcement  
<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/bc-considers-removing-some-housing-approval-powers-from-municipalities>
2. Final Report – Opening Doors  
[https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2021/06/Opening-Doors\\_BC-Expert-Panel\\_Final-Report\\_Jun16.pdf](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2021/06/Opening-Doors_BC-Expert-Panel_Final-Report_Jun16.pdf)

**FOLLOW-UP:**

As requested by the Executive Committee.

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**Prepared By:** David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services

**Reviewed By/Date:** Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer/February 22, 2022