



Making a difference...together

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December 17, 2025

File: 0400-20
Via email

The Honourable Premier David Eby Premier@gov.bc.ca
The Honourable Christine Boyle HMA.Miniser@gov.bc.ca
George Anderson, MLA, Nanaimo-Lantzville George.Anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Select Standing Committee for Bill M216 PMBCommittee@leg.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Boyle, MLA Anderson, and Select Standing Committee members:

RE: PROPOSED PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL M216 – PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE ACT

I write on behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board to express our concerns regarding the Private Member's Bill M216, the proposed *Professional Reliance Act*, and to respectfully request additional opportunities for local government input prior to the January 6, 2026 submission deadline.

The CRD Board recognizes the important role that professional reliance plays in British Columbia's regulatory framework, particularly in areas related to land use, environmental protection, infrastructure development, and public safety. As a regional government providing a wide range of services across 13 member municipalities and three electoral areas, the CRD relies on professional expertise and our ability to independently assess professional submissions related to permitting or bylaw requirements, in order to maintain public accountability, mitigate potential liability, and to assist in dispute resolution.

Given the potential implications of Bill M216 for local government decision-making, regulatory oversight, and risk management, the CRD Board is concerned that Bill M216 has not been subject to local government consultation nor broader consultation with stakeholders. The proposed legislation may have far-reaching impacts on how local governments interact with qualified professionals, exercise due diligence, and fulfill statutory responsibilities.

We are committed to working collaboratively with the Province to ensure that any legislative changes strengthen public confidence, maintain appropriate accountability, and support effective and responsible governance.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss our concerns further and to contribute to the development of a framework that reflects the realities and responsibilities of local governments across British Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Cliff McNeil-Smith

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: The Honourable Diana Gibson, MLA Oak Bay - Gordon Head
The Honourable Nina Krieger, MLA Victoria - Swan Lake
The Honourable Grace Lore, MLA Victoria - Beacon Hill
The Honourable Ravi Parmar, MLA Langford - Highlands
The Honourable Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South
Darlene Rotchford, MLA Esquimalt – Colwood
Rob Botterell, MLA Saanich North and the Islands
Dana Lajeunesse, MLA Juan de Fuca – Malahat
CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD