



January 23, 2025

Reference: 71574

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street
PO Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6
Email: cmcneilsmith@crd.bc.ca

Dear Chair McNeil-Smith:

Thank you for your letter of November 27, 2024, requesting that the Province consider adding a targeted rural housing funding stream and supports to facilitate the construction and operation of affordable housing within rural communities.

The housing needs in communities across British Columbia are diverse, and the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs is continually working to apply a regional lens to new and existing housing strategies. Feedback on how our programs can be adjusted to improve outcomes is always valued, and I have taken your request for rural-specific funding under advisement.

I appreciate the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Rural Housing Pilot Project Analysis and insights on the need for additional housing in rural areas of the District. I noted the conclusion that supporting accessory dwelling units is important for increasing housing supply. This may be an area where the Province could collaborate with CRD in the upcoming years. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can connect rural communities with our existing policy initiatives that may suit their needs.

I commend the CRD for undertaking this process to meet the continually evolving needs of the communities in your district and I look forward to hearing your findings once the pilot program is complete.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ravi Kahlon', written on a light blue background.

Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs