



# BRITISH COLUMBIA

June 14, 2024

Ref. 68598

Dear Mayors and Chairs:

As you know, last fall, we passed legislation requiring local governments to update their zoning bylaws to make it easier to build Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH), like town homes, multiplexes, and laneway houses. These changes support our government's work to tackle the housing crisis and build more homes faster. We know local governments in BC have been working hard to comply.

I would like to remind you that the deadline for local governments to amend their zoning bylaws to comply with the new SSMUH requirements is fast approaching. All local governments are required to notify the Minister of Housing that they have amended their bylaws in accordance with the SSMUH requirements in Bill 44: *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023*, legislation by June 30, 2024. Direction on notification can be found on the Ministry website [here](#).

While the compliance date for zoning bylaw amendments is June 30, 2024, the requirements must be applied to all zones that met the definition in the legislation of a restricted zone on the date the legislation came into force, which was December 7, 2023. In preparing, amending, or adopting a zoning bylaw to permit the use and density required by the SSMUH legislation, a local government must consider any applicable guidelines for SSMUH, including the Provincial Policy Manual and Site Standards and any subsequent policy bulletins issued by the Province. These guidelines were developed to ensure that SSMU projects are viable so more homes will be available in our communities for people. Current and future resources can be found online at: [Local government housing initiatives - Province of British Columbia](#). Of note, the legislation also states that local governments must not unreasonably prohibit or restrict the use or density of use required by Bill 44 for SSMUH.

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I would also like to remind you that the Province encourages local governments to allow for strata-titled SSMUH at every opportunity. This will increase opportunities for home ownership while still adding to the supply of rental housing in the secondary rental market.

Similarly, policy recommendations for parking contained in the [Provincial Policy Manual and Site Standards](#) highlight the influence of onsite vehicular parking requirements on the viability of SSMUH housing forms. Local governments should seek to minimize parking requirements when updating their zoning bylaws, and where appropriate, consider removing parking requirements for residential zones altogether.

Finally, if you have applied for an extension to the compliance date for the SSMUH requirements, please be assured the Ministry of Housing is processing applications, and decisions will be communicated as they are made. Local governments that have applied for an extension for part of their community are still required to adopt an amended zoning bylaw for all areas for which they have not requested an extension by June 30, 2024.

I look forward to our continued work together to ensure that all British Columbians have access to the homes that they need.

Sincerely,



Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Housing

pc: Chief Administrative Officers  
City Managers