



September 2, 2021

Ref: 267418

Their Worship Mayor Fred Haynes
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Dear Mayor Haynes:

Thank you for your letter regarding the implementation of the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) report. I appreciate hearing from you, and I apologize for the delay in responding.

Our government's commitment to housing supply is long-standing. In 2018, government released [Homes for B.C.: A 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability in British Columbia](#), where we committed to delivering 114,000 units of housing over 10 years, including over 80,000 units of non-subsidized housing. That same year, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs initiated the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) to address challenges and identify opportunities for improvement in development approvals processes and support local governments in removing barriers to affordable housing and accelerate the construction of homes needed in B.C. communities. The [final report](#) on DAPR province-wide stakeholder consultations was released in September 2019.

Since the DAPR report's release, challenges faced by local governments and developers during the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the pressing need to find efficient and effective ways of making land use decisions, and for continual innovation. To support the continuation of business during the pandemic, the province enabled local governments to hold public hearings electronically so they could continue to make important land use decisions while complying with public health orders on gatherings and recommendations on safe physical distancing. Most recently, the province prioritized \$15 million for Development Services under the Canada-B.C. Safe Restart Fund, to continue the work identified through DAPR and support innovative local government efforts to improve the efficiency of development approval processes.

Moving forward, initiatives under DAPR will seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local government development approvals process, ultimately streamlining the movement of housing supply to the market. As these initiatives are developed and rolled out, the ministry's continued engagement and collaboration with our local government partners and other stakeholders will be critical to their success.

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Although I understand the District of Saanich's recent application to the UBCM administered Local Government Development Approvals Program (LGDAP) was not approved, I deeply appreciate the District's advocacy for and interest in DAPR's continuing work, particularly your participation in our latest round of local government engagement, and I look forward to future opportunities for collaboration including the District as DAPR initiatives progress. In the interim, if you or your staff have any other questions or feedback related to DAPR, please contact Jessica Brooks, Executive Director, Planning and Land Use Management, Local Government Division, by email at: Jessica.Brooks@gov.bc.ca, or by telephone at: 778 698-3483.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josie', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Josie Osborne
Minister

pc: Jessica Brooks, Executive Director, Planning and Land Use Management