



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2019

Date: January 11, 2019

From: Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday

Subject: Extension of Vacancy Taxation Authority to Local Governments

Recommendation:

THAT Council endorse the following resolution and direct staff to forward copies to the Premier of British Columbia, the Ministers responsible for Local Government, Finance and Housing, the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention, and member local governments and regional districts within the Capital Region, AVICC and UBCM, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

Resolution: Extension of Vacancy Taxation Authority to Local Governments

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia responded to a housing affordability crisis in 2016 with legislation empowering the City of Vancouver to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties, resulting in \$38-million in revenues for that community in 2018 and creating a strong disincentive to leaving properties vacant;

AND WHEREAS communities across British Columbia face housing affordability pressures, while a portion of the housing supply in all communities remains vacant, including properties that have remained derelict for years or decades;

AND WHEREAS vacant and derelict buildings pose substantial risks in terms of public safety in communities, as well as liveability and desirability for nearby and adjoining neighbourhoods and properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia extend the authority to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties to local governments across British Columbia, providing communities with the discretion to decide whether to introduce an additional tax to discourage vacant and derelict buildings, and encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt".

Councillor Isitt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Loveday".

Councillor Loveday