



June 10, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
One Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Re: CALUC Process

Dear Mayor and Council –

The Urban Development Institute (UDI) Capital Region would like to acknowledge the continued efforts staff are making in keeping the development approvals process moving. During this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic, on top of an already strained housing market, ensuring that applications continue to flow smoothly should be of paramount importance.

Our provincial government recognized the importance of our industry by deeming construction an essential service. Of the hundreds of thousands of people in BC who have been unable to work, our industry was able to maintain a safe and robust work environment. Now more than ever, to help build back our economy, and ensuring that not just housing but all forms of development continue to be built, it is important to keep the approvals process in motion.

As stated in previous correspondence to the City, the development industry recognizes the importance of the CALUC process for the role it plays in informing residents about proposed development projects. In recognition of that, UDI supports staff's recommendations to adapt a new form of CALUC community meetings by posting application plans on the City's Development Tracker with an online comment form to allow the public to provide input.

UDI would like to emphasize that the new adaptation to the process will broaden the accessibility of CALUC meetings for people who are unable to attend in person due to childcare issues, work requirements, mobility challenges, etc. To that end, we would like to suggest that this change remain a permanent part of the process going forward once we emerge out of the pandemic.

UDI would like to again thank staff for including us in the City's engagement process. We look forward to collaborating further to ensure our built environment maintains momentum to assist our economy in rebounding back from this global crisis.

Kind Regards,

Kathy Whitcher (Executive Director)
(on behalf of the UDI Capital Region Board of Directors)

CC: Karen Hoese and Rob Bateman