NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2025HMA0046-000507
May 29, 2025

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Housing targets deliver more than 16,000 homes, new priority communities added

VICTORIA – More people are finding homes as the Province and municipalities boost housing delivery through targets, with new communities joining the program.

Housing targets have delivered 16,130 net new homes, built across the first 30 priority municipalities. In 2023, the Province implemented the Housing Supply Act, which enabled government to establish housing targets for communities based on areas of greatest need and highest projected growth. Achieving the targets within five years will help communities address projected population growth and local housing demands.

“I appreciate that these communities in the next group are already making progress in building more housing for people. Setting housing targets allows us to further align with our broader goals as a province,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. “As we add new communities to the housing targets program to keep up with demand, we will continue to work together with municipalities to make sure more people can find homes that fit their needs and budgets. We’re also delivering real results – more than 16,000 homes have now been built through housing targets and thousands more are on the way.”

A fourth group of priority communities will soon be given housing targets, after targets were announced in 2024 for the second and third sets of priority communities. Many in the fourth group are already leaders in building more homes. By joining the housing targets program, they will demonstrate that all communities, big and small, have a vital role to play in addressing the housing crisis.

The group will include Burnaby, Coquitlam, Courtenay, Township of Langley, Langford, Penticton, Pitt Meadows, Richmond, Squamish and Vernon. Targets for these communities will be set following consultation and will reflect 75% of each municipality’s estimated housing need.

“Burnaby has been proactive in delivering the housing our community needs,” said Mike Hurley, mayor of Burnaby. “By streamlining our planning process and reducing barriers, we’ve increased our housing starts. In 2024, we issued permits for more than 2,300 homes, and so far this year we have issued permits for more than 4,000 more.”

In addition, to ensure people benefit from more homes being built faster, the Province is expanding the list of communities that may receive housing targets. Twelve communities with high demand, low vacancy rates and limited housing availability are being added to the list. Three of these communities are already included in the fourth set of priority communities receiving targets.

The new communities joining the list are Coldstream, Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland, Lake

Country, Parksville, Peachland, Penticton, Qualicum Beach, Salmon Arm, Summerland, and Vernon. Many of these communities are already taking steps to increase housing supply. Joining the program will support them in accelerating homebuilding and meeting the needs of their growing populations.

“Over the past two years, Penticton has advanced development by refining key policies and building strong partnerships with industry and community organizations,” said Julius Bloomfield, mayor of Penticton. “These efforts are delivering results, with many new housing units already approved and built. We welcome provincial support to help accelerate solutions that meet the urgent need for housing.”

Building on the progress of the first 10 communities announced in 2024, which reported more than 8,300 homes built in their first year of targets, six-month progress reports from the second and third sets of priority communities show more than 7,800 net-new homes have been built. Many communities, including Central Saanich, Esquimalt, New Westminster and Kelowna, are trending toward exceeding their first-year housing targets. This shows strong local commitment to building the homes people need and planning for future growth aligned with the Province’s new housing policies.

“Affordable housing is a top priority for our council, and locally we are taking action, already surpassing 38% of our five-year housing target in the first year,” said Tom Dyas, mayor of Kelowna. “As we increase housing options, we look forward to partnering with the Province to align infrastructure delivery with community growth.”

Other communities are on track to meet their first-year targets with projects in the works. The Province will continue to support them as they accelerate approvals and meet the new provincial requirements, and will also monitor progress and consider next steps for municipalities that do not meet housing targets.

The housing targets program is part of the Province’s Homes for People action plan to deliver more homes in B.C., building on its historic $19-billion housing investment. Since 2017, the Province has nearly 92,000 homes delivered or underway throughout B.C.

Quotes:

Nathan Pachal, mayor, City of Langley –

“Langley City is proud to deliver a variety of housing for various needs. With an official community plan that aligns with provincial housing goals, we remain focused on getting homes built while preserving walkability and livability in our city. To support timely, high-quality housing delivery, we will continue to streamline our development processes, which remain among the most efficient in Metro Vancouver.”

Patrick Johnstone, mayor, New Westminster –

“Meeting the Province’s one-year housing target demonstrates New Westminster city council’s and staff’s commitment to addressing local needs across the housing spectrum. Staff’s work to streamline permitting, develop new funding tools and update zoning bylaws builds on our record of strong leadership in tackling the housing crisis.”

Quick Facts:

- To facilitate implementation of the housing targets and other initiatives, the Province has provided local governments with a range of resources and supports, such as:
    - the historic $1-billion Growing Communities Fund to help all 188 local governments address population growth;
    - $51 million in grant-based funding to support activities or projects, such as updating existing zoning bylaws, housing needs reports and official community plans; and
    - $10 million for a second intake of the Local Government Development Approvals Program administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

Learn More:

To learn more about municipal housing targets, visit: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/local-governments-and-housing/housing-targets

To learn about the steps the Province is taking to tackle the housing crisis and deliver affordable homes for people in British Columbia, visit: https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/housing/

A backgrounder follows.

Contact:

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Media Relations
236 478-0251

BACKGROUNDER

For Immediate Release
2025HMA0046-000507
May 29, 2025

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Progress on housing targets

Housing targets for the second and third sets of priority communities were announced in 2024. Below is a summary of the six-month interim report findings, highlighting progress toward first annual net-new targets. The evaluation of progress goes beyond just the assessment of net-new units and includes policy actions, initiatives, innovative approaches and partnerships that municipalities put in place to create the conditions needed to increase housing supply.

Second set of priority communities: total of 6,272 units

- Central Saanich: 304 of 77 units (395%)
- Esquimalt: 224 of 81 (277%)
- Kelowna: 1,501 of 1,363 units (110%)
- Nanaimo: 539 of 783 units (69%)
- Maple Ridge: 376 of 612 units (61%)
- Surrey: 2,567 of 4,233 units (61%)
- City of North Vancouver: 351 of 581 units (60%)
- Sidney: 54 of 90 units (60%)
- Chilliwack: 332 of 659 units (50%)
- White Rock: 24 of 189 (13%)

Third set of priority communities: total of 1,546 units

- New Westminster: 702 of 656 units (107%)
- City of Langley: 237 of 251 units (94%)
- Prince George: 210 of 273 units (77%)
- Mission: 133 of 211 units (63%)
- Colwood: 96 of 178 units (54%)
- North Cowichan: 83 of 191 units (43%)
- West Kelowna: 64 of 289 units (22%)
- North Saanich: 6 of 60 units (10%)
- View Royal: 4 of 99 units (4%)
- Port Coquitlam: 11 of 343 units (3%)

Notable actions taken toward meeting targets:

- Updating zoning bylaws and implementing provincial site standards to accommodate small-scale multi-unit housing and transit-oriented development.
- Updating official community plans to designate additional residential capacity.
- Updating housing needs reports using the Province’s standardized methodology.
- Identifying municipal lands for affordable housing projects and BC Builds opportunities.

- Creating housing strategies to address local housing needs.
- Delegating authority to staff for development permit and minor variance decisions.
- Updating development-approval processes and reducing processing time.
- Digitizing intake of complete building-permit applications.
- Upgrading database systems to collect and report on housing-targets data.
- Establishing partnerships with non-profit organizations, BC Housing, and First Nations.

Contact:

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Media Relations
236 478-0251

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect