



May 17, 2021  
File: 01.0115.30/002.000

Brian Frenkel  
President  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
525 Government Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 0A8

Dear President Frenkel:

**Re: BC Government's Use of Provincial Paramourncy to Undermine Local Government Bylaws**

At its April 26, 2021 regular meeting, the District of North Vancouver Council voted to write a letter in support of the City of Penticton's request that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities advocate for Premier Horgan to reconsider his government's use of provincial paramourncy in the case of 352 Winnipeg Street in Penticton.

In March, Penticton city council voted unanimously to reject a request from B.C. Housing to allow for the continued operation of a 42-bed shelter. Housing Minister David Eby responded, saying he would override council's decision by using provincial paramourncy.

This is more than a jurisdictional dispute between the City of Penticton and the province over a homeless shelter, the matter is about the protection of our role as the third level of government and respecting the decisions that local government make on behalf of our citizens. Land use is the primary reason local government exists and to have those powers over-ruled, should be of the utmost concern to all BC local governments and UBCM.

On behalf of District of North Vancouver Council, I ask that you honour the request from the City of Penticton and write Premier Horgan to have him and Minister Eby reconsider, and ultimately to reject, use of provincial paramourncy in such matters of local jurisdiction and interest. Obviously social and affordable housing is a critically important issue to address but it must be done in partnership with the municipalities.

Sincerely,

Mike Little  
Mayor

Copy: City of Penticton  
UBCM Members