



November 22, 2021

The Honorable Selina Robinson
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

Re: Speculation and Vacancy Tax

We appreciate the opportunity to comment annually on the Speculation and Vacancy Tax and the efforts made by the Ministry to provide data in advance of the virtual consultation meeting. Housing affordability remains a critical priority in the City of Delta.

In the City of Delta, most property owners are exempt from the tax and we continue to experience a very low vacancy rate for rentals and limited affordable housing options. We note that the number of properties claiming an "occupied by tenant" exemption has edged up slightly from the prior year and are hopeful that the Speculation and Vacancy Tax provides some level of incentive for property owners to rent their property instead of leaving it vacant.

We believe it's critical that any Speculation and Vacancy Tax that is collected go back into projects that have a direct benefit to housing supply and options at different levels of affordability. We would appreciate further details on the housing projects completed to date.

I would be pleased to meet to further discuss Delta's housing needs.

Yours truly,

George V. Harvie
Mayor

cc: Sean McGill, City Manager
Melanie Kerr, Director of Finance