

April 1, 2026

The Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

The Honourable Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing
PO BOX 9074, STN PROV GOVT. Victoria
BC V8W 9E2

Via Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: BC's Economy Cannot Wait: An Urgent Call for Action on Housing

Dear Premier Eby and Minister Boyle:

British Columbia is falling behind, and the cost of inaction is rising by the day.

Last week, the federal government and Ontario announced one of the most significant housing policy packages in recent memory: a GST rebate extended to most new home purchasers, an \$8.8 billion infrastructure program tied to development charge reductions of 30% to 50%, and a three-year commitment from Ontario to hold the line on new taxes that would impede housing supply. These are not marginal adjustments. They are structural interventions designed to make it cheaper and faster to build housing in Ontario, and to attract the investment needed to do it.

Our organizations represent the full breadth of BC's economy: developers, builders, major employers, and the businesses that depend on a competitive investment climate. We are writing together because what is at stake here goes well beyond housing. It goes to BC's ability to attract and retain capital, to house the workers our economy needs, and to remain competitive with other Canadian jurisdictions that are now moving decisively.

BC's February labour market report tells a story the Province cannot afford to ignore. BC lost 20,200 jobs last month, including 6,900 in construction and 5,400 in finance and real estate. These are not abstract statistics. They are workers, families, and businesses feeling the effects of a housing economy that has stalled. When it costs more to build than the market can bear, projects do not proceed, trades do not get called, and the broader economy pays the price.

We are calling on your government to act on two fronts immediately:

First, negotiate with the federal government a GST rebate on new housing equivalent to the model Ontario has secured, extended to all new homebuyers on homes priced under \$1.5 million. BC homebuyers and BC developers should not be disadvantaged relative to their Ontario counterparts simply because this province has not yet moved.

Second, enter into a federal-provincial agreement to reduce development charges in British Columbia. We recognize that the funding model may not be identical to Ontario's, but what matters is the result: meaningful development charge relief, delivered at scale, and without unnecessary delay. Ontario has set the benchmark: DC reductions of 30% to 50% for three years, paired with a provincial commitment to hold the line on new housing taxes for the same period. We are asking BC to match it.

BC has made meaningful progress on housing policy in recent years, and we acknowledge that. But progress measured against our own past is no longer sufficient. The benchmark has shifted.

Ontario is now offering buyers a better deal, offering developers a more viable cost structure, and signaling to capital markets that it is serious about housing supply. BC must respond in kind.

The federal government has demonstrated it is prepared to partner with provinces that step up. We are urging you to step up now, to enter into negotiations with Ottawa without delay, and to secure for British Columbians the same advantages Ontario residents and investors will soon enjoy.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Drummond".

Michael Drummond
Interim President & CEO, Urban Development Institute



GREATER VANCOUVER
BOARD OF TRADE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bridgitte Anderson".

Bridgitte Anderson
President and CEO, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gardner".

Chris Gardner
President and CEO, Independent Contractors and Businesses Association



Business Council of
British Columbia
Est. 1966

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laura Jones".

Laura Jones
President and CEO, BC Business Council



CANADIAN
HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darren Witt".

Darren Witt
Interim CEO, Canadian Home Builders Association of BC



BCrea
British Columbia
Real Estate Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Trevor Koot".

Trevor Koot
CEO, BC Real Estate Association

LANDLORDBC

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Hutniak".

David Hutniak
CEO, Landlord BC



Large Urban Centre
ALLIANCE

Dave Wilkes
BILD President and CEO, on behalf of the Large Urban Centre Alliance



British
Columbia
Construction
Association

Chris Atchison
President, BC Construction Association



HAVAN

Wendy McNeil
CEO, HAVAN

Copies:

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, P.C., M.P.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.