

May 21, 2026

The Honourable Christine Boyle  
Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs  
PO BOX 9074, STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
Via Email: [HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Re: GST Rebate and Development Charge Relief — BC Cannot Continue to Wait

Dear Minister Boyle:

On April 1, 2026, a coalition of BC's leading housing, construction, and business organizations wrote jointly to you and Premier Eby calling for immediate action on two fronts: a GST rebate on new homes equivalent to the federal-provincial deal secured by Ontario, and a federal-provincial agreement to deliver meaningful development cost charge (DCC) relief. Seven weeks later, we are still awaiting a public statement of intent. Minister, that silence has a cost, and it is showing up in the market every day.

Yesterday, at the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade breakfast, Prime Minister Carney was asked directly about housing affordability. He pointed to the Ontario federal agreement on the HST rebate and development charge relief and confirmed that discussions with British Columbia are in the preliminary stages. That is significant. It tells the market, and it tells us, that the federal government is a willing and ready partner. The constraint is not in Ottawa. The pace of progress now rests with the Province.

Ontario's deal is not a proposal. It is in effect now. Since April 1, buyers of newly built homes in Ontario (not just first-time purchasers) can recover up to \$130,000 in combined federal and provincial tax relief on homes priced up to \$1.5 million. Every week that passes without a BC equivalent is another week that buyers in this province face a structural tax disadvantage relative to buyers in Ontario. In an already weak market, that gap – and the uncertainty over whether it will persist – is suppressing pre-sales, stalling project financing, and freezing sales of homes that are ready for occupancy.

We are aware that federal-provincial discussions have taken place and that questions have arisen about how a rebate would be structured. We accept that the administrative design may have some complexity, but no more than an electric vehicle rebate that the government administered effectively for years. What is missing is not a mechanism. What is missing is a clear commitment from this government that it is actively pursuing one, and a timeline for delivery. Ontario's deal required political will at both the provincial and federal level. With Ottawa now publicly confirming its readiness to engage, the remaining political will required is BC's. We are asking you to provide it.

On DCC relief, the federal government has demonstrated it is prepared to partner with provinces that step up. Ontario secured DCC reductions of 30% to 50% for three years, backed by \$8.8 billion in federal infrastructure funding. We recognize BC's fiscal and administrative context differs and that the funding model may not be identical. We are not asking that BC copy Ontario's mechanism. We are asking that BC produce an equivalent result: meaningful, durable DCC relief that reduces the cost of building new homes and restores project viability at a time when residential construction activity is contracting sharply.

We are not asking for a completed deal today. We are asking for three things: first, a clear public statement that BC is actively pursuing a GST rebate equivalent to Ontario's and a

federal-provincial DCC relief agreement; second, a disclosed timeline for when BC expects to conclude those negotiations; and third, a meeting with your office in the coming weeks. With the Prime Minister now on record that the federal government is at the table, the path forward depends on BC stepping up to meet it. These commitments would end the uncertainty that is freezing buyer and builder activity in an already weak market, and signal to the market that BC is an attractive place for new housing construction.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Drummond'.

Michael Drummond  
CEO, Urban Development Institute



A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Gardner'.

Chris Gardner  
President and CEO, Independent Contractors and Businesses Association



A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura Jones'.

Laura Jones  
President and CEO, BC Business Council



Darren Witt  
Interim CEO, Canadian Home Builders Association of BC



Trevor Koot  
CEO, BC Real Estate Association

**LANDLORD**BC

David Hutniak  
CEO, Landlord BC



Chris Atchison  
President, BC Construction Association



# HAVAN

Wendy McNeil  
CEO, HAVAN

Copies:

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Housing and Infrastructure

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P., Minister of Finance