October 15, 2026

The Honourable Christine Boyle, MLA
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Sent via email: HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Boyle,

Re: UBCM Minister Meeting: Public Libraries, Supportive Housing, and Regional District Legislative Reform

On behalf of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), thank you for meeting with AVICC representatives on September 14, 2026 during the 2026 UBCM Convention to discuss public libraries, supportive housing, and regional district legislative reform. We appreciate the opportunity to share the perspectives of local governments and library leaders from across the AVICC region regarding these important issues.

We were encouraged by your engagement in the discussion regarding public libraries and your recognition of the increasingly important role libraries play in supporting British Columbians as outlined by Councillor Hemmens. Thank you for the October 8 follow-up letter from Deputy Minister Teri Collins identifying opportunities for continued dialogue around the concept of developing an advisory body under the *Library Act*, and we will, as suggested, follow up with Mari Martin regarding the advisory body concept and broader library funding and coordination issues.

AVICC values the discussion regarding supportive housing, and the challenges communities continue to experience in balancing housing stability, tenant rights, neighbourhood safety, and the effective operation of supportive housing facilities. This is an issue of concern to local governments across the AVICC region and around the province, and the challenges are clearly illustrated in Duncan, the specific community example discussed by Mayor Staples. Supportive housing is an important part of a community, helping some of our most vulnerable residents, but we must proactively address potential issues around community safety for the benefit of the entire community. As we outlined in our meeting, we strongly urge the Province to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to provide supportive housing operators with clear, proportionate, and transparent authority to enforce Good Neighbour Agreements while also maintaining tenant rights, procedural fairness, and human rights protections.

Although time did not allow discussion on the topic of regional district legislative reform, we appreciate the Province's continued commitment to this issue. We would like to emphasize

the importance of ensuring local government participation as this work progresses. We would welcome an update on the Province's perspective on the status of this work.

We recognize that the Province is currently operating under the caretaker convention and understand that decisions regarding future policy direction, funding, and legislative changes await the formation of the next government. AVICC looks forward to opportunities to continue advancing these priorities and to identifying opportunities for collaboration.

Thank you again for your time, your thoughtful engagement, and your willingness to discuss issues that are important to local governments and communities throughout British Columbia. We look forward to continuing the conversation. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Director, at 236-237-1202 or tdennison@avicc.ca.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Craig
AVICC President
Director, RD Nanaimo, Area B (Gabriola, Mudge, and DeCourcy Islands)

cc:
Lauren Reid, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs; Lauren.Reid@gov.bc.ca
Teri Collins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs; HOUS.DMO@gov.bc.ca
Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs; Mari.Martin@gov.bc.ca
Michelle Staples, Mayor, City of Duncan; mayorstaples@duncan.ca
Erin Hemmens, Councillor, City of Nanaimo; erin.hemmens@nanaimo.ca
Eileen Gilette, Executive Director, Vancouver Island Regional Library; EGillette@virl.bc.ca
Ben Hyman, Chief Librarian & CEO, Vancouver Public Library; ben.hyman@vpl.ca
Theresa Dennison, Executive Director, AVICC; tdennison@avicc.ca

Attachment: 2026-09-14_AVICC_HMA_Meeting_BRIEFING.pdf