



July 28, 2026

Reference: 192692

His Worship Kevin Murdoch
and Members of Council
Corporation of the District of Oak Bay
2167 Oak Bay Avenue
Oak Bay BC V8R 1G2
Email: mayor@oakbay.ca

Dear Mayor Murdoch and Members of Council:

Thank you for submitting the District of Oak Bay's consolidated interim report on April 28, 2026. I appreciate the effort taken by your staff to prepare the report. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I am encouraged by the District's effort to increase housing supply through more efficient approval processes, and your staff's continued work to broaden the types of housing to be considered in some neighbourhoods. I look forward to seeing the results of these efforts in future reports.

I appreciate Council's desire to maintain the Uplands parklike setting, as well as managing environmental impacts and preserving the character of other District neighbourhoods. However, I am very concerned with the denial of three applications totaling 20 net new units. This represents 8 percent of the Year 3 target of 258 cumulative net new units. In particular, I am surprised by Council's refusal of applications that have the support of District staff, the Oak Bay Advisory Design Panel and Advisory Planning Commission. Proposed infill developments are prime examples of the type of housing Oak Bay I would expect to see advancing, considering the District's earlier correspondence that it will be difficult to meet targets because there is limited developable land available for housing.

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Although I am encouraged by some of the District's efforts during the reporting period, I remain concerned that Oak Bay is not addressing reputational concerns cited by the Advisor, such as continued uncertainty for the development community when applications are presented to Council with support from staff and committees of Council. Streamlining development approvals will prove to be ineffective if Council continues to deny viable projects that could support the District increasing housing supply to meet its targets.

I look forward to receiving the District's next interim report on or before August 14, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

cc: Teri Collins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Andre Boel, Director Community Building and Planning Services
Brian Green, Deputy Director Community Building and Planning Services
Housing Targets Branch