

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: Council **MEETING DATE:** July 16, 2025
FROM: Councillor Toth
SUBJECT: Notice of Motion – Supportive Housing Panel Representation
FILE NO: 0550

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS The District of Sechelt has had ongoing public safety challenges and community concerns related to the operation of provincially-funded supportive housing on Hightide Avenue, including incidents of theft, open drug use, and assault; and

WHEREAS The Province of British Columbia has announced a review of supportive housing programs and policies across the Province, with the goal of improving safety, services, and accountability for residents and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS The expert review panel includes police services, health authorities, Indigenous Partners, and non-profit housing providers, but does not include representation from any local governments that are directly impacted by the social and financial consequences of hosting supportive housing;

NOW THEREFORE Be it resolved that the District of Sechelt write the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to request an opportunity for the District of Sechelt to provide meaningful representation to participate in the review panel of supportive housing programs and policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

A copy of this motion and subsequent letter be forwarded to MLA Randene Neill for information.

RATIONALE:

On July 4, 2025, the Province of British Columbia announced a comprehensive review of its supportive housing Programs and policies , with a goal of improving safety, accountability, and wraparound services for residents and surrounding communities. This review will be led by a panel that will include representatives from BC Housing, police services, health authorities, Indigenous Partners, and non-profit

operators. However, the Province's announcement does not indicate any direct involvement or representation from local governments, despite the fact that municipalities are on the front lines of responding to the impacts of these programs.

The District of Sechelt has experienced numerous public safety and livability challenges stemming from the operation of provincially-funded supportive housing on Hightide Avenue. These include ongoing concerns about theft, drug use, and violent incidents that have placed a strain on local services and eroded public trust in housing initiatives. Municipalities like Sechelt face significant social and financial responsibilities when supportive housing is implemented without adequate resourcing, or consultation.

Given these realities, it is critical that the Province include local governments in the review process as essential partners with firsthand experience. Providing the District of Sechelt with the opportunity for meaningful representation will help ensure that the Province's reforms are informed by practical, on-the-ground knowledge of the gaps in current supportive housing operations, and help identify opportunities for improvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alton Toth