



June 26, 2024

Reference: 68853

His Worship Dean Murdock and Members of Council  
Mayor of the District of Saanich  
770 Vernon Avenue  
Saanich BC V8X 2W7  
Email: [mayor@saanich.ca](mailto:mayor@saanich.ca)

Dear Mayor Murdock and Members of Council:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 10, 2024, and submission of the District of Saanich's six-month housing targets progress report. I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your report.

I commend you and your staff for the 195 net new units created since the issuance of the housing target order. I recognize that this figure is below the first annual target of 440 net new units, but your reported approved development application figures show good progress in the first year. I also note that the District's development pipeline indicates good diversity of housing units by tenure and size.

I note that the District has taken several actions that will contribute toward meeting housing targets including updating the Official Community Plan to enable 18-storey buildings on primary corridors, increased building height in Royal Oak and Broadmead Village, and identification of three additional Transit Oriented Development areas (University Centre, Quadra-McKenzie, and Tillicum-Burnside). Measures such as hiring staff dedicated to the housing portfolio, participating in the building permit digitization pilot, and establishing new policies aimed at easing the development of non-market, supportive, and affordable housing are all worthy initiatives, and I encourage the efforts toward these developments.

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I would also like to highlight the District's partnership with the Capital Regional Housing Corporation related to the 119-unit non-market rental project is an important step toward achieving your housing target, and a standout example of the kind of measures I hope to see in other municipalities.

I encourage the District of Saanich to continue to implement a full suite of actions and initiatives to increase diverse housing supply. I look forward to receiving your first annual progress report in mid-November 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ravi Kahlon', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Housing

pc: Amanda Blick-McStravick  
Pam Hartling  
Lindsay Chase  
Housing Targets Branch