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From: Homes For Living <hello@homesforliving.ca>
Sent: Sunday, June 8, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Council; Mayor Dean Murdock; Susan Brice; Councillor Judy Brownoff; Nathalie Chambers; Zac De Vries; Karen Harper; Mena Westhaver; Colin Plant; Teale Phelps Bondaroff
Subject: (External Email) Support for draft UCBM Motion on Elevators
Attachments: Saanich - Letter in support of Elevator Motion.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

We are pleased to submit the attached letter in support of the proposed UBCM motion regarding adopting European elevator standards that is on Monday's council agenda. We support the motion's goal of making multi-family buildings more affordable and accessible, and we hope that Saanich will support the motion.

Kind regards,
The Homes for Living Team



Dear Mayor and Council,

Homes for Living is pleased to support the proposed UBCM motion on adopting European elevator standards. We support the motion's goal of improving the accessibility and affordability of multi-family buildings, particularly as Saanich continues to densify and the population continues to age.

Canada and the US have some of the most expensive elevators in the world. The recent report from the Centre for Building, which forms the basis for the draft motion, documents the downsides of expensive elevators on residents - from buildings having too few elevators (or none at all), to broken elevators taking forever to repair. The report thoroughly researched technical standards around the world, and came to two key conclusions:

- Canada and the US are some of the only countries that have refused to join the international market for elevators, prohibiting developers from purchasing smaller, more affordable elevators produced by manufacturers in Asia or Europe. Developers are instead confined to the small North American market, which has fewer options and higher costs.
- Building codes, such as the BC Building Code, mandate larger elevators than most other jurisdictions, increasing costs and encouraging developers to install as few elevators as possible in new buildings.

The Province has the authority to break BC's reliance on the small North American market for elevators by amending the BC Building Code as well as the Technical Standards Act. Elevator reform has been a hot topic of discussion in housing reform circles, especially since the state of Washington came close to [adopting these reforms](#) last year, and we believe that this idea has particular salience now that there is a stronger focus for BC and Canada to form stronger economic partnerships outside of the United States.

We believe that this merits consideration at UBCM and a response from the Province, and would highly encourage Saanich to support the draft motion.

Kind regards,

The Homes for Living Team

