

355 West Queens Road  
North Vancouver BC  
V7N 4N5

[www.dnv.org](http://www.dnv.org)



**Mayor Mike Little**  
Phone: 604 990 2208  
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[mayor@dnv.org](mailto:mayor@dnv.org)

March 4, 2021

File:

Dear UBCM Members:

**Re: Help Cities Lead (HCL) Campaign**

The District of North Vancouver is sending this letter to you requesting support of the Help Cities Lead (HCL) campaign.

At its regular meeting of February 22, 2021, the District of North Vancouver Council passed the following resolution:

*THAT Council support the Help Cities Lead initiative by writing letters to Ministers Heyman (Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy), Osborne (Minister of Municipal Affairs), Ralston (Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation), Eby (Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing), and Robinson (Minister of Finance) requesting five policy actions which would empower the District of North Vancouver to help align building policy with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) science to achieve our climate targets;*

*AND THAT Council send a letter Metro Vancouver Regional District asking Metro Vancouver to also support the initiative;*

*AND THAT Council send a letter to all BC Local Governments asking them to support the initiative.*

Please find a copy of the letter sent to the ministers attached for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Little  
Mayor

Enclosure

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March 3, 2021  
File:

The Honourable Minister George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Honourable Josie Osborne  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

The Honourable Bruce Ralston  
Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation

The Honourable David Eby  
Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing

The Honourable Selina Robinson  
Minister of Finance

Dear Ministers:

**Re: Help Cities Lead (HCL) Campaign**

The District of North Vancouver is sending this letter to you as an endorsement of the Help Cities Lead (HCL) campaign.

As you are aware, municipalities are on the front lines of climate change dealing with the impacts of floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves, etc. We directly influence about half of Canada's energy use and emissions. The success of the province in achieving deep emissions reductions from the building sector is directly connected to the success of local governments in achieving their own targets. While municipalities have shown strong climate leadership, expanded regulatory authority is needed for taking bolder steps to achieving our climate targets.

HCL is an education and awareness campaign focused on accelerating building decarbonization through collaboration between the Province of British Columbia and local governments. The group is led by Climate Caucus and supported by local governments and environmental NGO's.

Why buildings? Emissions from buildings account for about 11% of the province's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and for municipalities, GHG emissions from existing buildings account for 40-60% of community emissions. A number of BC local governments have made climate emergency declarations and set ambitious targets to significantly reduce GHG emissions from buildings over the next 10 years. However, local governments are largely limited to information

campaigns and incentives for pursuing these ambitious reduction targets. Recent climate policy modelling shows that on their own, these policy tools are insufficient to achieve broad and deep energy and GHG reductions given limited budgets.

HCL campaign recommends a suite of expanded authorities for local governments that will enable communities to take bolder action on reducing GHG emissions from new and existing buildings:

- Property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing
- Mandatory home energy labelling
- Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings
- Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings
- Mandatory building energy benchmarking and reporting

We are pleased to see that the November 2020 mandate letters to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Infrastructure support the implementation of PACE financing. We also note that the mandate letter for the Minister of Finance supports home energy labelling. Finally we pleased to see that the mandate letter to the Attorney-General and Minister Responsible for Housing includes support for regulation of GHG emission of new buildings.

We support the directions set out in these new mandate letters regarding PACE financing, home energy labelling, and GHG requirements for new buildings and request that the province empower local governments to opt to take action, if they so choose, on the two remaining items of the Help Cities Lead's campaign, namely GHG requirements for existing buildings and building energy benchmarking. Additional information about each of the initiatives can be found at <https://www.helpcitieslead.ca/>

It is our hope that you would consider meeting with a delegation from Help Cities Lead for further discussion on these initiatives.

Sincerely,



Mike Little  
Mayor