



Key Request:

The City of Delta is seeking provincial support to expedite the approval process for archaeology permits, which are causing significant delays in critical infrastructure projects, such as the water and sewer main upgrades on 56 Street in Tsawwassen. These delays are hindering the City's ability to meet housing growth targets and align with provincial housing development goals. A more efficient permitting process is essential to balance heritage preservation with the timely delivery of infrastructure.

Background:

The City of Delta has recently encountered significant delays due to extended timelines for archaeology permit approvals, which have impacted critical infrastructure projects. A prime example is the water main and sewer main upgrade project along 56 Street in Tsawwassen. This project, essential for supporting housing growth in the area, has been on hold since November 2023, delayed by over 10 months, and only recently receiving an archaeology permit in August 2024. The prolonged waiting period for these permits is not only delaying infrastructure construction but also hindering the City's ability to meet its housing growth targets.

Municipalities like Delta are increasingly under pressure to deliver infrastructure that supports community expansion and housing supply, aligning with provincial goals for housing development. However, the current approval

process for archaeology permits is creating bottlenecks, particularly for projects that intersect with areas of archaeological significance. While the protection of heritage sites is crucial, there is a pressing need for a more efficient permitting process that balances preservation with the timely delivery of essential infrastructure.

To this end, Delta is seeking support from the provincial government to explore ways to shorten the lead times for archaeology permits, especially for infrastructure projects directly tied to housing growth. Streamlining the permit process will not only help Delta stay on schedule with its infrastructure projects but will also contribute to the broader provincial objectives of increasing housing supply and supporting community development. A more predictable and expedited approval process is essential for municipalities to plan and execute projects effectively, ensuring that growth can proceed without unnecessary delays.