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## British Columbians Demand More Housing Options: New Poll

VANCOUVER, BC — A new public opinion poll finds the majority of British Columbians believe home prices and rents remain high because there are too few housing options, with 75 per cent wanting municipalities to approve more housing options within single-family neighbourhoods.

The Ipsos poll, conducted for UDI, finds a healthy majority of British Columbians – 71 per cent – believe municipal housing approval processes are too long and need to be fixed.

“Municipalities can take as long as five years to approve a new rental proposal; and, it can take another two to three years to get permits and build. Just think of that: We have a rental crisis today but in some communities new homes for people won’t be move-in ready until 2027. The approval process is broken,” says UDI President and CEO Anne McMullin.

The [Ipsos poll](#), conducted May 7-15, surveyed 1,001 BC residents across the province, with a margin of error of 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

When it comes to affordability, 71 per cent of British Columbians say they haven’t seen an increase in affordable housing options over the past two years. Seventy per cent believe the actions of governments have not improved housing affordability.

### **Key Poll Findings:**

- 75 per cent want municipalities to approve more housing options within single-family neighbourhoods
- 74 per cent of British Columbians believe home prices and rents remain high because there are too few housing options
- 71 per cent believe municipal housing approval processes are too long and need to be fixed
- 74 per cent believe all additional taxes, fees and regulatory red tape have made housing less affordable
- 71 per cent saw no increase in affordable housing choices (to rent or buy) over the past two years
- 72 per cent don’t believe there has been an increase in affordable housing options over the past two years
- 70 per cent believe the actions of governments (provincial & municipal) have not improved housing affordability
- 68 per cent said governments aren’t doing enough to encourage new rental home construction
- 80 per cent want more housing options close to transit hubs
- 58 per cent don’t believe municipalities are doing enough to encourage more diverse housing options

“British Columbians are demanding more home choices such as duplexes, triplexes, townhomes and apartments. We want to build them but all too often homebuilders are met with delays, relentless bureaucracy and a piling on of municipal and provincial taxes and fees.”

While all levels of government say they are working to address British Columbia’s housing challenges, the Ipsos poll shows citizens remain dissatisfied. “Families, workers, seniors and students need housing options now,” said McMullin. “More studies, lengthy planning reports and task forces won’t solve the problem. Communities, governments and our industry must work together to build more homes for a growing province.”

British Columbia need to build differently. Moving forward, UDI will focus its advocacy on five core strategies to address British Columbia's housing crisis:

1. Build for a modern B.C.
2. Build for transit
3. Ensure fair taxation on new homes
4. Get building faster
5. Make rentals a reality

For interviews with Anne McMullin, please contact Cheryl Ziola (604) 719-2909.

*[UDI](#) is a non-profit and non-partisan industry association of the residential, commercial and industrial builders, which supports more than 233,000 BC jobs plus \$23 billion in economic activity. Through municipal fees and contributions, the industry builds homes, offices, daycares, social housing, parks, public art, museums, schools and community centers throughout BC.*



2. Compared to two years ago, do you think the number of affordable housing options in British Columbia has increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION				
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	City of Vancouver	Rest of Metro Vancouver	Total Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	North/Interior
		A	B	C	D	E	B	C	D	E	F
Base: All Respondents (unwtd)	1001	421	580	283	309	409	301	260	561	162	278
Base: All Respondents (wtd)	1001	485	516	266	333	402	145	387	531	176	294
Top 2 Box (Net)	25%	27%	23%	24%	24%	26%	32%	24%	26%	22%	25%
Increased a lot	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%	3%
Increased a little	22%	24%	20%	20%	22%	24%	28%	20%	22%	21%	22%
Stayed the same	26%	26%	26%	20%	29%	27%	32%	23%	25%	30%	23%
Bottom 2 Box (Net)	45%	44%	47%	49%	44%	44%	32%	48%	44%	43%	49%
Decreased a little	20%	20%	19%	18%	19%	21%	16%	17%	17%	20%	24%
Decreased a lot	26%	24%	27%	31%	25%	23%	16%	31%	27%	23%	25%
No opinion	4%	4%	4%	7%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	4%	3%

3. In some municipalities it can take up to five years for a housing proposal to be approved. Which of the following is closer to your point of view?

I trust municipalities to go through a proper approval process, and if it takes five years then it takes five years.

I think the municipal process is too long and needs to be fixed so that there are more housing options more quickly.

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION				
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Top 2 Box (Net)	20%	23%	17%	23%	20%	18%	25%	22%	23%	21%	14%
Strongly trust approval process	5%	6%	4%	6%	5%	5%	4%	7%	6%	3%	4%
Somewhat trust approval process	15%	17%	13%	17%	16%	13%	21%	15%	17%	17%	10%
Bottom 2 Box (Net)	71%	69%	73%	64%	70%	77%	65%	68%	67%	70%	79%
Somewhat process needs to be fixed	33%	34%	31%	32%	29%	36%	30%	32%	31%	34%	35%
Strongly process needs to be fixed	39%	35%	42%	32%	41%	41%	35%	36%	36%	37%	45%
No opinion	9%	8%	10%	13%	10%	5%	10%	11%	10%	9%	6%

4. How well do you think municipalities in BC are doing at encouraging more diverse housing options such as duplexes, triplexes, mid-rise apartments or senior living residences?

	Gender		AGE			REGION					
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They are doing more than enough	5%	8%	3%	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%	6%	2%	6%
They are doing about the right amount	25%	25%	25%	31%	25%	22%	23%	27%	26%	25%	23%
They are not doing enough	58%	57%	59%	51%	58%	63%	59%	54%	56%	63%	60%
No opinion	11%	10%	12%	14%	11%	10%	12%	12%	12%	10%	11%

5. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? - Home prices and rents remain high because there are too few housing options.

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION				
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Top 2 Box (Net)	74%	72%	77%	67%	72%	82%	69%	71%	71%	72%	82%
Agree strongly	34%	31%	36%	30%	37%	34%	30%	33%	32%	35%	36%
Agree somewhat	41%	41%	41%	37%	35%	48%	39%	39%	39%	37%	46%
Bottom 2 Box (Net)	21%	24%	18%	23%	24%	16%	26%	24%	24%	22%	13%
Disagree somewhat	14%	15%	12%	16%	15%	11%	18%	16%	17%	11%	10%
Disagree strongly	7%	8%	6%	8%	9%	5%	8%	8%	8%	11%	3%
No opinion	5%	5%	5%	10%	4%	2%	4%	5%	5%	6%	5%

5. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? - New taxes, fees and red tape on homebuilders are making housing even less affordable for renters and home owners.

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION				
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	City of Vancouver	Rest of Metro Vancouver	Total Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	North/Interior
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Top 2 Box (Net)	74%	71%	76%	70%	67%	81%	62%	74%	71%	74%	79%
Agree strongly	35%	33%	37%	29%	32%	41%	27%	33%	31%	35%	41%
Agree somewhat	39%	38%	39%	41%	36%	40%	36%	41%	40%	39%	38%
Bottom 2 Box (Net)	16%	19%	13%	16%	21%	10%	24%	15%	18%	15%	12%
Disagree somewhat	13%	15%	10%	12%	18%	8%	18%	13%	14%	11%	11%
Disagree strongly	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%	2%	6%	2%	3%	4%	2%
No opinion	11%	10%	12%	14%	11%	9%	14%	11%	12%	11%	9%



5. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? - Governments aren't doing enough to encourage the construction of new rental housing.

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Top 2 Box (Net)	68%	68%	67%	60%	64%	75%	70%	69%	69%	70%	63%
Agree strongly	30%	31%	28%	28%	30%	30%	30%	31%	31%	30%	27%
Agree somewhat	38%	37%	39%	32%	34%	45%	39%	38%	38%	39%	37%
Bottom 2 Box (Net)	22%	23%	22%	27%	25%	18%	21%	22%	22%	23%	23%
Disagree somewhat	19%	18%	19%	21%	21%	16%	15%	20%	18%	16%	21%
Disagree strongly	4%	5%	2%	5%	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	7%	2%
No opinion	10%	9%	11%	13%	11%	7%	10%	9%	9%	7%	14%

5. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? - Municipalities should allow a greater diversity of housing options within single family neighbourhoods.

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Base: All Respondents (wtd)	1001	485	516	266	333	402	145	387	531	176	294
Top 2 Box (Net)	75%	71%	79%	77%	76%	74%	75%	72%	73%	80%	77%
Agree strongly	30%	28%	32%	37%	31%	24%	29%	31%	31%	34%	26%
Agree somewhat	45%	44%	47%	39%	45%	50%	46%	41%	42%	45%	51%
Bottom 2 Box (Net)	18%	21%	15%	15%	16%	22%	17%	20%	19%	13%	18%
Disagree somewhat	13%	16%	11%	12%	12%	16%	11%	15%	14%	9%	15%
Disagree strongly	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%	4%	3%
No opinion	7%	7%	6%	8%	8%	5%	9%	8%	8%	7%	5%

5. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? - We need to approve more diverse housing options close to both existing and new transit stations/hubs.

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Base: All Respondents (wtd)	1001	485	516	266	333	402	145	387	531	176	294
Top 2 Box (Net)	80%	77%	84%	75%	78%	86%	83%	75%	77%	88%	81%
Agree strongly	34%	32%	35%	40%	32%	31%	37%	32%	34%	34%	34%
Agree somewhat	47%	44%	49%	35%	46%	55%	46%	43%	44%	54%	47%
Bottom 2 Box (Net)	11%	15%	7%	16%	11%	7%	11%	14%	13%	6%	9%
Disagree somewhat	9%	12%	6%	12%	10%	6%	7%	13%	11%	5%	7%
Disagree strongly	2%	3%	1%	4%	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%	*	2%
No opinion	9%	8%	9%	8%	11%	8%	6%	10%	9%	6%	10%