



May 12, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE: GUIDANCE FOR THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS UNDER MINISTERIAL ORDER M139

UDI is pleased with the provincial government's recent decision to repeal and replace Ministerial Order M083 with Ministerial Order M139 (guidance for the conduct of public hearings), as it enables our industry to continue to play an integral role in B.C.'s economic recovery.

As stated in the [provincial government's news release](#): "The Province is continuing to support local governments by allowing them to hold public hearings electronically during the current provincial state of emergency.

On May 1, 2020 Ministerial Order M083 under the Emergency Program Act was repealed and replaced by Ministerial Order M139 to enable local governments to address the challenges of holding public hearings while complying with prohibitions on mass gatherings and recommendations on physical distancing.

Each local government will need to determine what electronic method works best for it. At the time of public notice, the local government will be expected to provide information on how people can participate in the hearing. Options local governments may consider include calling in and video conferencing. Local governments will also continue to be required to accept written submissions for public hearings, whether in-person or electronic."

For more information, please see the full guidance document [here](#).

To date, the municipalities of [Vancouver](#), [Surrey](#), [New Westminister](#) and [Burnaby](#) either have begun implementing virtual public hearings or are in the midst of bringing forward reports to councils to consider moving to virtual public hearings. [Chilliwack](#), [Delta](#) and [Township of Langley](#) have also recently approved staff reports to waive the public hearing requirement for Official Community Plan compliant projects.

For more COVID-19 government resources, please visit our web page: <https://udi.bc.ca/external-covid-19-resources/>

For more COVID-19 real estate industry and business resources, please visit our web page: <https://udi.bc.ca/real-estate-industry-and-business-coronavirus-resources/>

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns by contacting me at AMcMullin@udi.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AMcMullin', written in a cursive style.

Anne McMullin, President & CEO, UDI