# British Columbia bill enhances provincial control over Vancouver housing bylaws



On April 29, 2025, British Columbia’s Attorney General Niki Sharma, who also serves as the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Vancouver-Hastings, introduced the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (Bill 13) to the provincial legislative assembly. This legislation encompasses a range of issues affecting the province, including wildfire management, professional titles, local elections, sewerage and drainage systems, and wildlife regulation. Particular attention has been drawn to several items within the Act that amend the Vancouver Charter, thereby directly impacting the City of Vancouver.

The bill comes during the 2025 legislative session, which runs until May 29. If enacted, it will modify multiple provincial statutes, including the Housing Supply Act of 2023—a law that introduced housing supply quotas for municipalities such as Vancouver. According to a government press release issued on the day of the bill’s introduction, the amendments aim to ensure “consistency of provincial authority to undertake compliance measures with the City of Vancouver, conforming with all other prescribed municipalities subject to a housing target order.” This suggests an effort by the provincial government to align Vancouver’s housing policy compliance framework with that of other municipalities mandated to meet housing targets.

The Housing Supply Act itself has been a subject of significant controversy since it was introduced. Critics have voiced concerns about what they describe as provincial overreach, applying a uniform approach to diverse municipal contexts. CityHallWatch, in prior coverage, highlighted the provincial government's “naughty list” announced in May 2023 by Housing Minister Ravi Kahlon, which named ten cities, including Vancouver, as fallouts for insufficient housing development. This list was developed from an index based on input from “economists and experts in the field,” yet a Freedom of Information request later revealed that many of these advisers were housing activists and industry lobbyists rather than formally credentialed professionals.

The existing debate about provincial authority over municipal affairs has intensified with Bill 13’s provision that prohibits the City of Vancouver from approving or enacting bylaws inconsistent with provincial legislation. This represents a significant extension of provincial control over municipal governance. CityHallWatch has expressed concerns that such measures curtail local democratic autonomy, particularly affecting how Vancouver manages its housing policies and bylaw enactments.

It is notable that, despite various rumours and proposals circulating in local political discourse, Bill 13 does not address the contentious issue of the potential abolition of the elected Vancouver Park Board. This remains a highly debated local matter. Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim and the ABC Vancouver party have advocated for eliminating the Park Board, a move that has encountered public resistance, including evident in the results of the April 5 civic by-election where ABC Vancouver candidates finished last among civic parties. The provincial government’s current legislative agenda does not include this issue, indicating that if any change occurs, it is likely to result from municipal elections scheduled for October 2026 rather than provincial intervention.

Residents of Vancouver are encouraged to stay informed and engage with their elected representatives during this legislative session. The progress of Bill 13 and other legislative developments can be tracked on the official British Columbia legislative website.

The CityHallWatch is reporting on this developing legislative matter and continues to observe the implications for municipal governance and housing policy in Vancouver and the broader province.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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