

AGENDA INFORMATION☐ Regular Meeting

Date: _____

☐ Other:

Date: _____

Dept.
Manager_____
GM/
Director_____
CAO

The District of North Vancouver

REPORT TO COUNCIL

March 3, 2026

AUTHOR: Councillor Herman Mah

SUBJECT: BC Rent Bank – Letter of Support

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, sends a letter to Premier Eby and Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs, advocating for continued support of funding for BC Rent Bank.

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report provides an update to Council on the BC Rent Bank and seeks authorization to send the Premier and Housing Minister a letter advocating for continued funding.

SUMMARY:

The BC Rent Bank was established in 2019 to provide a range of services to support renters in British Columbia. The BC Rent Bank provides no-interest loans to low-to-moderate income renters who are at risk of eviction or utility disconnection due to temporary shortage of funds. People who borrow from the BC Rent Bank are expected to repay the loans. The BC Rent Bank can also provide first month's rent and security deposits if current housing is deemed unsafe or if it becomes necessary to move to different housing for other reasons. It is a program that has been generously funded for over six years by the Provincial Government, Vancity Community Foundation and private donors; however, an extension in funding was not directly mentioned in the recent provincial budget so, without a renewed commitment by the Province, current funding could expire at the end of March 2026¹. The BC Rent Bank services are delivered on the North Shore by the Harvest Project, one of 19 community rent banks across the province.

BACKGROUND:

Since its inception in 2019², the BC Rent Bank provided a total of over \$11 million in financial assistance directly to renters, including:

- 7,200 households supported to avoid eviction or essential utility disconnection;
- 15,345 people kept housed
- 23,800 additional supports offered to individuals

¹ [Funding Update Following B.C. Budget 2026 - BC Rent Bank](#)

² [BC Rent Bank](#)

Supports provided by the BC Rent Bank include the following:

- Financial assistance: no-interest loans (which are expected to be repaid) for rent arrears, move-in costs and essential utilities like gas and hydro;
- Eviction prevention: services to help renters maintain their housing when times get tough;
- Housing stability: support to help renters through unexpected challenges that put their housing at risk;
- Community support: Connections to other services such as financial literacy, debt relief, government benefits and housing supports; and
- Referrals: support for physical, mental and emotional well-being.

These services provided by the BC Rent Bank aim to alleviate stress and ensure people have a plan to “*get back on their feet*” and maintain their housing.

DNV does not directly provide funding to the BC Rent Bank. DNV does provide funding to Harvest Project for its Client Care Program, which supports individuals facing challenging life circumstances. BC Rent Bank has been generously funded by the Provincial Government, Vancity Community Foundation and private donors. Approximately 50% of the BC Rent Bank’s funding has historically been provided from the Province. The current funding is set to expire at the end of March 2026 and community groups have been advocating with the Provincial Government to continue funding this critical program that helps to keep people housed.

North Shore-specific information provided by Harvest Project³:

- 960 North Shore residents have been kept from homelessness since Harvest Project started the North Shore Rent Bank operations in 2019;
- Total of \$737,797 has been issued in loans or grants since 2019;
- In year ending April 30, 2026, Harvest Project is on track to issue \$107,000 in 58 loans, with an average of \$1,845 for each loan;
- If funding from the Province, Vancity Community Foundation and private donors is available for the next fiscal year, Harvest Project is forecasting to issue \$172,800 in 72 loans, with an average of \$2,400 for each loan; and
- Harvest Project’s loan pay-back ration is 85%, which is the highest among the 19 BC Rent Banks.

North Shore Rent Bank clients live in houses, basement suites or apartments from Deep Cove to Horseshoe Bay. The largest client cohort consists of families with one or two parents and dependents (children and/or adult family members). They may be long-time residents or more recent arrivals on the North Shore who are now struggling to sustain a rental accommodation through financial strains, job-losses, illnesses and other family trauma, sometimes occurring concurrently. No-interest Rent Bank loans are a vital alternative to “payday loans” and other secondary-market, high interest loans, especially for people with limited financial resources or experience unexpected financial challenges.

³ [Rent Bank - Harvest Project](#)

The maximum loan amount through the program is \$2,500 for an individual and \$3,500 for a family. Applicants must meet minimal loan-qualifications and repayment requirements. Eligibility criteria include:

- 19 years of age or older
- North Shore resident
- Canadian citizen, landed immigrant, permanent resident, refugee claimant or a temporary foreign worker
- Income level does not exceed BC Housing's housing affordability limits
- Must have income sufficient to pay back the loan as well cover other living expenses
- Does not have excessive outstanding debts or undischarged bankruptcies
- Demonstrate a *temporary* financial need or crisis.

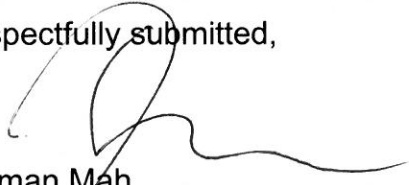
Conclusion:

DNV has collaborated with the Provincial Government and non-profit housing societies to provide supportive and affordable housing in the District. The services offered by the BC Rent Bank, especially the one operated by Harvest Project, are very much consistent with District policies to provide housing and to keep individuals housed in our community. Ensuring that the BC Rent Bank continues, especially during the current challenging financial times, will assist those who are precariously housed from becoming homeless in the District.

Options:

- 1.) THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, sends a letter to Premier Eby and Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs advocating for continued support of funding for BC Rent Bank.
- 2.) THAT no further action is taken.

Respectfully submitted,


Herman Mah
Councillor

REVIEWED WITH:					
☐ Business and Economic	_____	☐ Finance	_____	External Agencies:	
☐ Bylaw Services	_____	☐ Fire Services	_____	☐ Library Board	_____
☐ Clerk's Office	_____	☐ GIS	_____	☐ Museum and Archives	_____
☐ Climate and Biodiversity	_____	☐ Human Resources	_____	☐ NSEM	_____
☐ Communications	_____	☐ Integrated Planning	_____	☐ NS Health	_____
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ ITS	_____	☐ NVRC	_____
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☐ Parks	_____	☐ RCMP	_____
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Real Estate	_____	☐ Other:	_____
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ Review and Compliance	_____		
☐ Environment	_____	☐ Solicitor	_____		
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Utilities	_____		