

AGENDA INFORMATION	
☒ Regular Meeting	Date: _____
☐ Other:	Date: _____



 Dept.
Manager



 GM/
Director



 CAO

The District of North Vancouver

REPORT TO COUNCIL

May 15, 2026
File: N/A

AUTHOR: Tamsin Guppy, Senior Planner
Daniel Broderick, Planner

SUBJECT: Bylaws 8787 and 8799 – New Detached Residential Zones (R1 and R2)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT “District of North Vancouver OCP Amendment Bylaw (Bylaw 8787)” is given FIRST reading;

AND THAT “District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw (Bylaw 8799)” is given FIRST reading;

AND THAT Bylaw 8787 and Bylaw 8799 are referred to a Public Hearing.

REASON FOR REPORT

This report presents two new detached residential zones, R1 and R2, which will replace the majority of the District’s existing Single-Family (RS) zones.

SUMMARY

In accordance with Council direction from May 4, 2026, staff are bringing forward two new detached residential zones, to be applied to approximately 19,000 existing RS-zoned properties in the District.

The introduction of these new detached residential zones (R1 and R2) that will replace the old RS zones, is the first roll-out of an entire new Zoning Bylaw, to be complete in 2027.

Bylaw 8799 brings forward the new zone regulations as an insert to the existing Zoning Bylaw 3210. These new regulations will be transposed into the full new bylaw, when it is presented to Council next year.

To implement the new zones, a consequential OCP amendment is required. In accordance with *Local Government Act*, for a zoning change that requires an OCP amendment, a Public Hearing is required. Staff recommend the zoning amendment bylaw (Bylaw 8799) and the consequential OCP amendment bylaw (Bylaw 8787) be referred to a Public Hearing.

PROJECT TIMELINE TO DATE**October 21, 2024**

- Council gave direction to launch Zoning Bylaw Rewrite to overhaul an outdated Zoning Bylaw ([October 21, 2024, Project scoping at launch Report to Council](#)).

2025

- Spring- Summer 2025 – Public Input on single-family zoning in conjunction with the OCP Update ([June 11, 2025, OCP Public Engagement Summary](#))
- June 23, 2025 – Council Discussion. ([June 23, 2025 Report to Council](#))
- Fall 2025 – Continued Public Input focused on the Ground Oriented Residential zoning (single family)
- December 2, 2025 – Council Workshop on new Ground-Oriented Residential ([December 2, 2025, Report to Council](#))
- End of 2025 – Completion of the first draft of the new Bylaw

January – April 2026

- January to present: Interest holder input on the new draft Bylaw
- Winter 2026 – Business Community Input on Commercial and Industrial Zoning
- February 9 & 10, 2026: SSMUH Workshop and overlapping discussion of the R1, R2 and R3 zones ([February 9, 2026, Report to Council](#))
- February 10 & 23, 2026: Discussion of Industrial, Commercial and Parking sections of the draft Bylaw. ([February 2026 Report to Council](#))
- April 7, 2026: Discussion of Commercial Zoning Options in the draft Bylaw ([April 7, 2026, Report to Council](#))

May 4, 2026

- At the Regular Council meeting, Council gave direction to bring forward replacement zones for existing single-family zones by July 2026 as phase 1 of the implementation of the new Zoning Bylaw. At the same time, Council extended the timeline of completion of the new Zoning Bylaw to 2027 to allow more time to discuss multi-unit residential, mixed-use, and non-residential zones. ([May 4, 2026, Report to Council: Revised Timing for the Zoning Bylaw Rewrite Project](#)).

It is worth noting that the timelines summarized above were significantly impacted by provincial legislation adopted over this same period that imposed new requirements on local governments related to land use policies and regulations (e.g. Bills 44, 46, 47, 16, and 25).

BACKGROUND - SINGLE-FAMILY ZONING DISCUSSION

The continued evolution of the District's traditional single-family neighbourhoods has been a topic of sustained interest with both Council and the public. In addition to the Council discussions as part of the Zoning Bylaw Rewrite project, a highlight of recent Council discussions on this topic include:

- February 2023: Housing Options for Single-Family Neighbourhoods public engagement (strong public support for larger suites, increases to building height to “lift” basements out of the ground, and exploration of infill housing typologies like coach houses, duplexes, and triplexes).¹
- December 2023: Secondary suite size restriction relaxed – up to 49% of the house and no minimum size,² and maximum coach house height also increased to two storeys.³
- June 2024: Zoning amendments were adopted that permit a principal dwelling, a secondary suite, and a coach house (for a total of three units) on all single-family zoned properties located within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB).⁴
- February 2025: Coach House Process Improvements adopted (streamlined regulations and delegation of more variances to staff).⁵
- October 2025 - April 2026: Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) work in response to Bill 25.
 - October 27, 2025: Council Workshop on Bill 25 ([October 27, 2025, Report to Council](#))
 - February 9, 2026: Council Workshop on Approaches to Bill 25 ([February 9, 2026, Report to Council](#))
 - April 13, 2026: Implementation of SSMUH ([April 13, 2026, Report to Council](#))

DISCUSSION

The introduction of the two new detached residential zones to replace the 19 existing single-family zones is the culmination of multiple years of staff work, community consultation and Council discussion and directions.

As proposed, the R1, Rural and Suburban Detached Residential Zone, will be applied to 219 properties outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) which are currently limited to two dwelling units in the form of a house and a secondary suite. The R1 Zone will replace the existing RS-1 and 2 zoning on these lots and similarly permits a house and a secondary suite.

R2, Urban Detached Residential Zone, will be applied to 19,693 properties inside the UCB which are currently zoned a mix of the existing 19 RS zones. Similar to existing RS zones within the UCB, R2 permits a house, a secondary suite and a coach house.

A map showing the entire District illustrating where both the R1 and R2 zones are applied is provided in **Attachment 1**.

¹ <http://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=5916357>

² <http://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=6170760>

³ <http://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=6170769>

⁴ <http://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=6312153>

⁵ <http://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=6476653>

Key Changes

The new zones aim to consolidate the existing 19 single-family zones to simplify and modernize regulations and introduce modest flexibility. The approach is intended to streamline approvals, reduce non-conformities and variance applications, maintain permissible building potential (gross floor area), enable a broader range of housing options, address climate responses, and maintain neighbourhood character in keeping with the project's stated objectives and principles.



Figure 1: The Zoning Bylaw Update project principles

Summary of Key Changes

The proposed regulations maintain many aspects of the existing RS zoning regulations to ensure fairness for property owners while introducing key changes to improve liveability, address climate resilience, foster housing diversity and multi-generational housing, and simplify regulations. An overview of the key changes is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Changes in the R1 and R2 Zones		
1a	Basements	Discourage unsustainable basement construction and below ground living space – Fully in-ground basements are not permitted. However, new partial basements will be permitted, and existing construction is permitted under the legal non-conforming rules of the <i>Local Government Act</i> .
1b	Basements	Remove the FSR exemption that incentivises deep basements and below ground secondary suites.
1c	Basements	Limit basement depth to 4 feet (1.2 m) into the ground on the low side of the slope.
2	Garages	No longer prioritise indoor parking over living space and include garage floor space in FSR calculations.
3a	Building Height	Encourage above ground living and modernize and standardize building heights.

3b	Building Height	Simplify height calculations and measure height to the roof peak.
3c	Building Height	Continue to incentivise pitched roofs by increasing heights by 5 feet (1.5m) when a pitched roof is designed.
3d	Building Height	Simplify overall height calculations: • no longer permit “localized depressions” • no longer bonus sloped lots • Increase the overall building height to 33 feet (10.1 m) (or 38 feet (11.6 m) with a pitched roof)
3e	Building Height	Introduce a new limit on the number of storeys which is 3 storeys inclusive of basements and attics.
3f	Building Height	Simplify building design by no longer requiring the top floor of the house be smaller in size than the floor below it and no longer regulating eave height.
4a	Front Yards	Reduce front yard setbacks from 25 ft (7.6m) to 20 ft (6.1 m) for standard house designs.
4b	Front Yards	Continue to allow buildings with protruding (“side entry”) garages into the front yard setback area and now permit this area to alternatively accommodate living space. Add the potential for a second storey over this area, with a minimum front yard setback for that protruding portion of 10 ft (3.1 m).
5a	Housing Diversity	Increase the maximum permitted coach house size from 968 ft ² (89.9m ²) to 1400 ft ² (130.1m ²)
5b	Housing Diversity	Provide an additional 500 ft ² (46.5 m ²) of gross floor area (GFA) on a lot for a coach house.
6	Landscape	Support community character and municipal sustainability goals by introducing a new requirement for landscaped area (garden space).
7	Development Rights	Generally, maintaining permissible gross floor area (GFA)

1. Changing the Approach to Basements

Basement suites are an important, long-term housing option for many District residents. Many fully below ground units lack access to daylight, have emergency egress issues and are more susceptible to flooding.

Further, the deeper the basement, the bigger the environmental footprint, as basements disrupt ground water flow and in turn impact tree preservation and have a higher carbon footprint due to the use of concrete.

To address these issues, the new R1 and R2 zones encourage above-ground living space and discourage deep basements in the following ways:

- Removing incentives to building below ground living space by removing floor space ratio (FSR) exemptions for basements;
- Prohibiting fully in-ground basements;
- Increasing building heights to allow basements to come out of the ground; and
- Permitting partial basements up to 4 feet (1.2 m) in the ground on the downhill side, which may, on a sloped lot, include areas of the basement that are fully below ground on the uphill side of the building (see Figure 2 below).

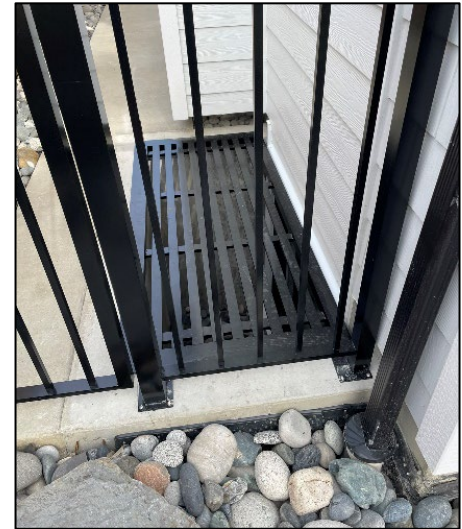


Photo 1: This window well is a standard design for secondary suite “windows.”

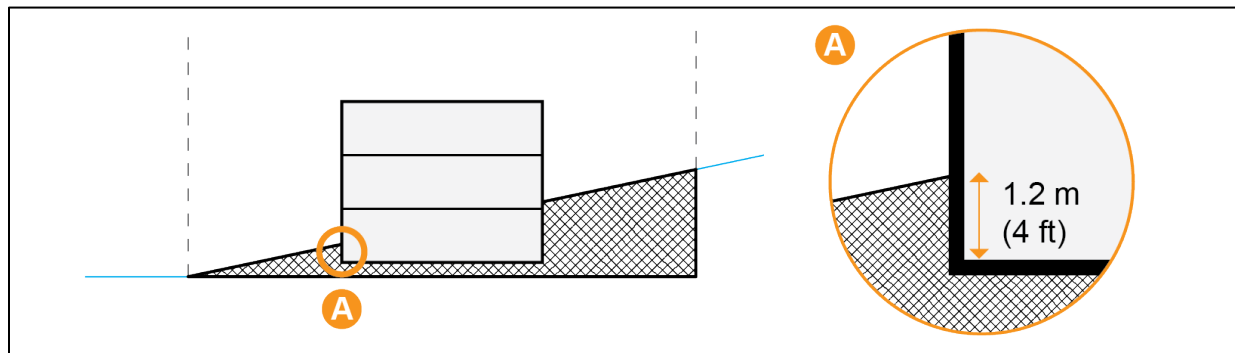


Figure 2 - Illustration showing how the lowest storey of a building, which is often a basement, can be up to 4 feet (1.2m) below grade on the downhill side of the building and fully buried on the uphill side.

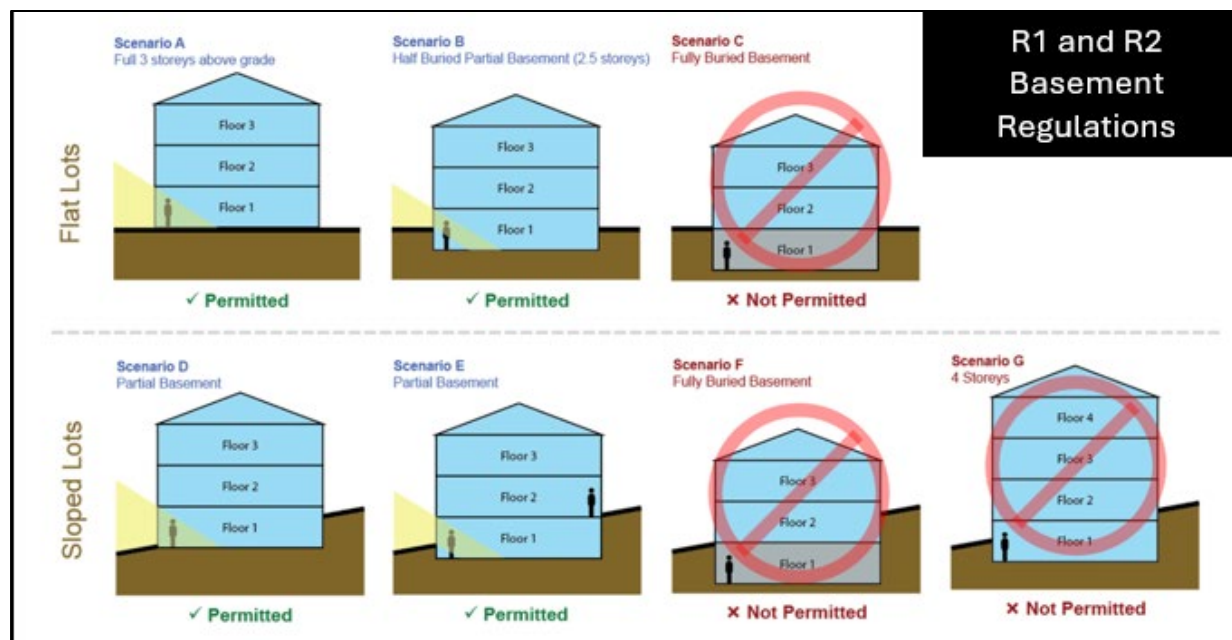


Figure 3 - Illustration from the December 2, 2025, Council Workshop showing how taller building heights support above ground living and how the proposed regulations permit partial basements but prohibit fully buried basements and prohibit 4-storey development.

The new zones provide additional permitted floor space to account for formerly exempted basement area.

Existing basements in the District will not be affected by the new regulations. Renovation and improvement to these existing spaces will be permitted under the legal non-conforming provisions of the *Local Government Act*. In exceptional cases where a significant expansion of an existing non-conforming basement is proposed, a variance process can be applied for, with a delegated decision made by staff, provided the density is not also impacted by the proposal.

2. Facilitating More Useable Living Spaces by Allowing Garage Conversions

Recognizing that more and more people use their garage as storage or living space, the original intent of the existing floor space exemption for parking is lost. By counting garage space as part of the overall permitted floor area, families can officially convert garage space to living space, provided they have sufficient outdoor onsite parking, typically located in the driveway. BC Building code standards will also be applicable to the construction.

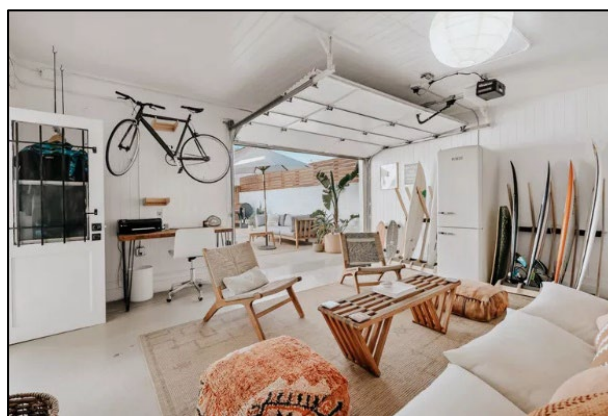


Figure 4 - Illustration published by *The Spruce*

3. Simplifying Housing Design and Providing Greater Flexibility in Building Height

To keep the same amount of living space while reducing deep basements, houses will need to be taller. The new zones increased the overall height of the building to allow up to 3-storeys for the main portion of the principal house.

To mitigate the potential impact on neighbours, the height within the first 20 feet (6.1 m) of the lot and the rear 25 feet (7.6m) of the lot will remain limited to 2 storeys. Additionally, coach houses will remain limited to 2 storeys, similar to what is currently permitted in the RS zones.

To simplify the design and review process, building heights will be measured to the roof peak and there will no longer be rules for “localized depressions.” An incentive for a pitched roof design is provided but no longer requires the complex and time-consuming assessment of varying roof pitches and is instead granted for any roof with a pitch of 3:12 and greater. This facilitates the use of dormers or other variations in roof pitch across a sloped rooftop.

Building heights are capped by both total height and by number of storeys. The 3-storey limit includes basements and attics that include living space. The total height is limited to 33 feet (10.1 m) for a flat or very low-pitched roof, and 38 feet (11.6 m) for a pitched roof. As localized depressions are no longer included, this measurement includes basement garage space.



Photo 2: This garage and basement permitted under the “localized depression” rules is now permitted as a “storey” for this three-storey house.



Figure 5 - Illustration from the December 2, 2025, Council Workshop showing new homes with 3-storey and 2-storey components.

4. Expanding Living Opportunities in the Front Yard

The new zones reduce the front yard setbacks to add flexibility to support more efficient use of the lot and improved housing design. The reduced setbacks have also been designed to soften the impact of increased above ground living space. The minimum front setback has been reduced from 25 ft (7.6 m) to 20 ft (6.1 m).

In addition, a portion of the building may extend or protrude into this setback area by 10 feet (3.1 m), similar to the traditional “side entry garage” but now as either garage or living space and with the opportunity for a two-storey element as depicted in the renderings below. These changes reflect community support for better use of front yard space and help offset reduced basement use by expanding above-ground living opportunities.



Figure 6 - A rendering of a house with a side entry garage and what it could look like with a second storey addition.

5. Facilitating More Housing Options

More families are looking to make better use of their existing single-family homes and are exploring a variety of renovations and additions to accommodate shared living arrangements or multi-generational housing. To this end, the new zones propose more flexibility in how the permitted floor space may be used. In both R1 and R2 zones, the secondary suite regulations have been simplified, and in keeping with recent change permit suites up to 49% of the principal dwelling size, allowing for greater flexibility in unit size and building form.

The new R2 zone maintains and improves the ability to build a coach house on a lot. Regulations have been simplified, and an additional 500 ft² (46.5 m²) of floor space is included for a coach house. The maximum coach house size has also increased from 968 ft² (46.5 m²) to 1400 ft² (130.1m²) to better accommodate a family. This new zone not only supports more functional and liveable coach house units but also allows for the easier addition of a coach house to lots that have existing homes. (Note: While we can reduce

barriers through improved zoning, construction costs, site access, required professionals, servicing requirements, and the like continue to make delivery of coach houses challenging.)

The proposed R1 zone does not permit coach house units (see page 16 for the discussion of the Council Motion - Coach Houses Outside UCB for details).



Figure 7 - A rendering of a house (on the right) with a coach house (on the left), new zoning regulations will reduce regulatory barriers to coach house design.

6. Landscape Area Requirements and Supporting Biodiversity

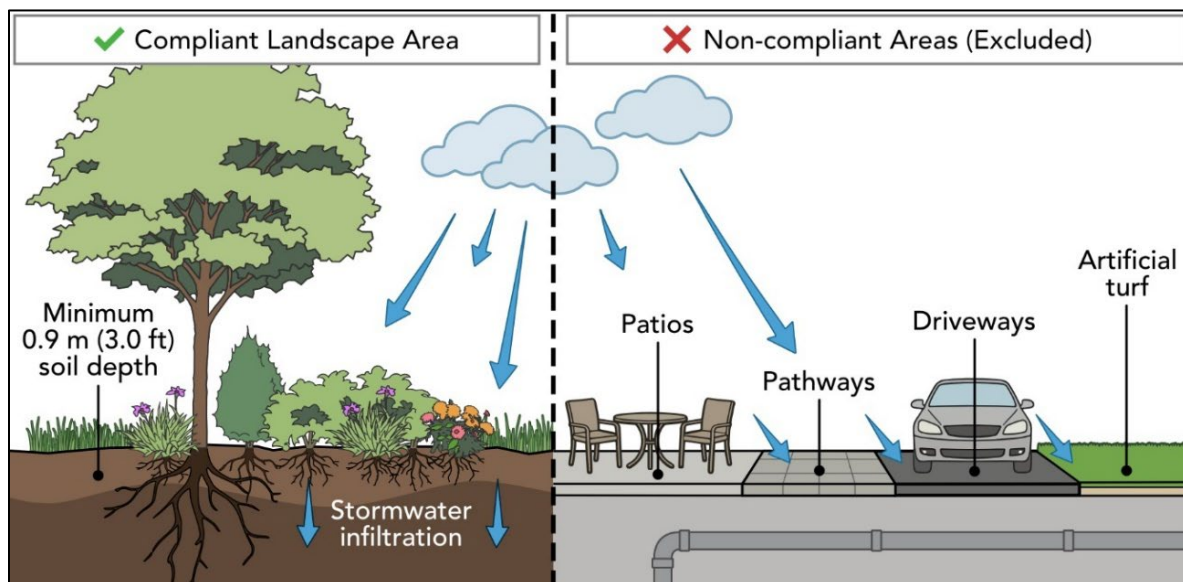


Figure 8 – An illustration of what is a “landscape area,” a term that will require green space to help address District goals for biodiversity and storm water management.

To ensure that portions of each lot include areas suitable for growing trees and plants the new zones, including those presented in this first phase, will include a “landscape area” requirement. For lots where there is a traditional house with a back yard, that rear garden is the landscape area and no calculations are required. However, as homes potentially add coach houses and potential expand driveways and parking areas, the landscape requirement ensures that portions of each lot are set aside for green space. This is in keeping with the District’s biodiversity and storm water management goals and will support families who wish to plant trees as part of the urban tree canopy program.

7. Maintaining Development Rights

The new R1 and R2 zones maintain the overall development potential for existing RS lots. As the total permissible gross floor area (GFA) will now be permitted above ground, new homes may appear larger but the permitted square footage is designed to closely match existing regulations.

Similar to existing provisions, large lots will continue to see their gross floor area regulated by both the FSR limit and a limit on the maximum house size.

The following graphic shows how the new zoning regulations accommodate buildable area previously captured by exemptions.

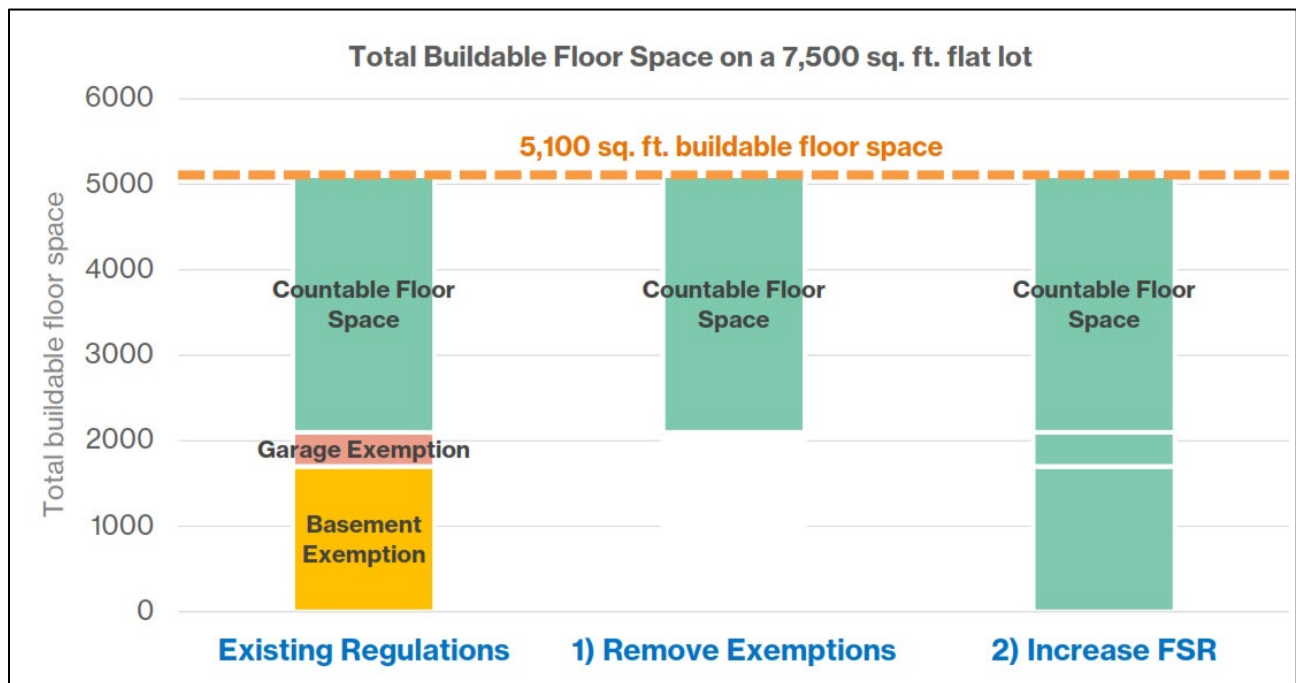


Figure 9 - This slide from the December 2, 2025, Council Workshop highlights how the building’s floor space will remain similar, but the floor space ratio calculation will change.

8. Maximum House Size

In maintaining the overall development potential for existing RS lots, the total floor area permitted on a lot has been increased to accommodate the additional countable floor space previously exempted.

The proposed R1 and R2 zones limit the total gross floor area for all buildings and structures on a lot without a coach house to 7,000 ft² (650.3 m²). In the R2 zone, this maximum is increased to 7,500 ft² (696.8 m²) for all buildings and structures on a lot with a coach house, which accommodates the additional 500 ft² (46.5 m²) for a coach house, as discussed.

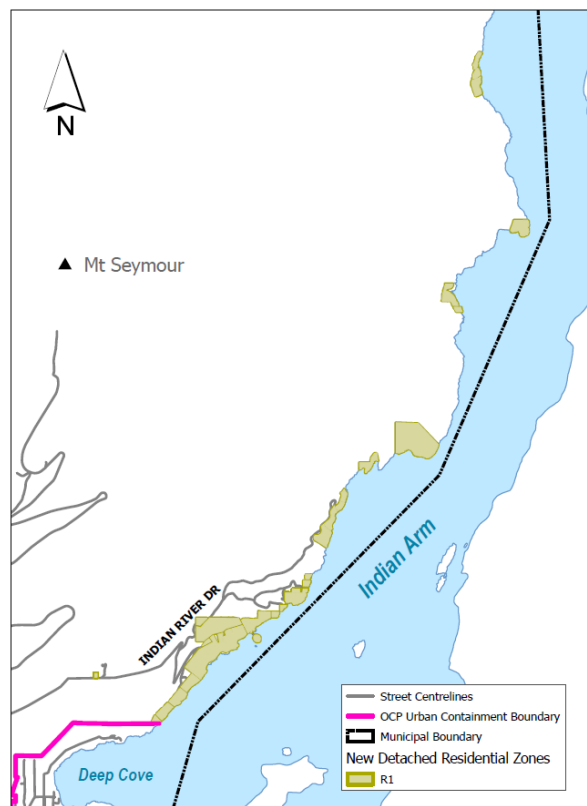
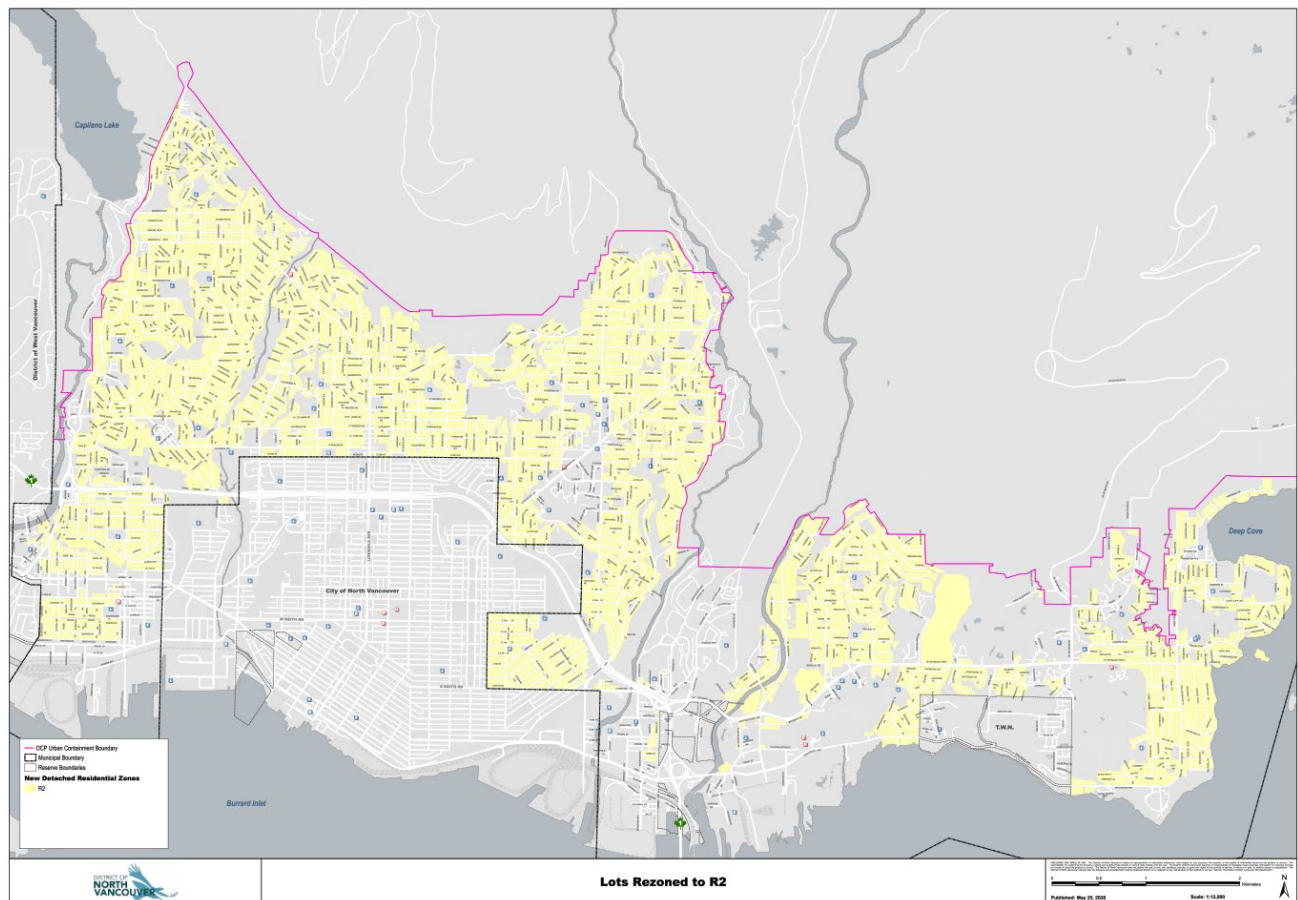
These maximums maintain the overall development potential for most lots across the District, including the District's most common lot sizes of approximately 7,000-8,000 ft² (650.3 m² - 743.2 m²) and would only be triggered on large lots in excess of 11,250 ft² (1045.16 m²). This is a reduction in maximum house size from previous discussions with Council, which contemplated 8,000 ft² (743.2 m²) maximum.

Applying the New Zones

The maps below illustrate the application of the R1 and R2 zones in the District. More detailed mapping is provided in the attachments including:

- **Attachment 1:** A map showing the entire District illustrating where both the R1 and R2 zones are applied; and
- Schedule B of **Attachment 4:** A set of grid maps at a scale where civic addresses are easy to read, details how the zone and the subdivision modifiers (discussed below) will be applied.

Lots shown in yellow in Figure 10 (next page) are inside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB), and are currently zoned one of the RS zones, and permitted to have a house, suite and coach house. These 19,693 properties will be rezoned to the R2, Urban Detached Residential Zone, which similarly permits a house, suite and coach house.



Figures 10 Above: illustrates properties being rezoned to R2 (house, suite, coach house) in yellow
Figure 11 Left: Illustrates properties being rezoned to R1 (house and suite outside the UCB) in olive-yellow.
 Larger scale maps are provided in **Attachment 1** and **Schedule B of Attachment 4**.

Outside the UCB, lots shown an olive-yellow colour in Figure 11 (left), are currently zoned RS for a house or a house and suite. These 219 lots will be rezoned to the R1, Rural and Suburban Detached Residential Zone, which similarly permits two units in the form of a principal house with secondary suite.

Of the approximately 20,000 existing RS lots in the District, most private properties will be rezoned to either the R1 or R2 zone at this time.

However, a number of existing RS zoned properties are not part of this first round of rezoning and will instead be part of a planned future rezoning, as shown in **Attachment 2**,

these exceptions include approximately 200 privately owned lots, and a number of District owned parcels including:

- Sites under application for rezoning;
- Sites where additional work is required to align with the OCP;
- District-owned, undeveloped properties.

Given that some properties will remain in the old RS zones, the old zones and their associated regulations cannot be completely retired at this time.

Subdivision Regulations

Updates to the bylaw include corresponding updates to the subdivision regulations to streamline and simplify the current set of subdivision regulations. This streamlining reduces the current regulations from 19 zones, and a variety of special lot size regulations and small lot infill areas into a total of 5 sets of regulations across the 2 new zones. These updates are meant to consolidate and transition existing regulations and will generally match current minimum lot size requirements for subdivision. (In order for a lot to subdivide each proposed new lot must meet the lot area requirements outlined in the subdivision requirements table, a 2-lot split therefore requires at least twice the lot area shown in the table.)

For lots outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) the Approving Officer will continue to be informed by existing Council policies that discourage subdivision, a single base rate of approximately 1 acre per lot (4,000m²) is established.

Inside the UCB, the new R2 zone will have a base rate for subdivision of 7,104 ft² (660m²) reflecting the existing pattern of development and equal to the standard in the RS3 zone which is the most widely applied zone today. Reflecting the variation that currently exists in the regulations, the zone then includes 3 alternate rates which are applied on the zoning maps through the use of a “modifier” which is shown by the letter “S” and the corresponding number as shown in the table below:

Table 2: Minimum Lot Size Requirements for Subdivision			
Zone	Area m ² (ft ²)	Width m (ft)	Depth m (ft)
R1 – Rural and Suburban Detached Residential			
R1 (base rate)	4,000 m ² (43,056 ft ²)	30 m (98.4 ft)	34 m (111.6 ft)
R2 – Urban Detached Residential			
R2 (base rate)	660 m ² (7,104 ft ²)	18 m (59.1 ft)	34 m (111.6 ft)
R2 (S1) (small lot standard)	335 m ² (3,605 ft ²)	10 m (32.8 ft)	34 m (111.6 ft)
R2 (S2) (large suburban lot)	1,100 m ² (11,840 ft ²)	24 m (78.7 ft)	34 m (111.6 ft)

Table 2: Minimum Lot Size Requirements for Subdivision			
R2 (S3) (“one acre” lot)	4,000 m ² (43,056 ft ²)	30 m (98.4 ft)	34 m (111.6 ft)

The modifiers will accommodate the following variations:

- R2 (S1) will accommodate small 33-foot (10.1 m) wide, urban lots, including Small Lot Infill Areas (SLIA) and lots in the existing RS5 zone.
- R2 (S2) will accommodate large suburban lots, primarily zoned under the existing zoning bylaw as RS2 and RSQ.
- R2 (S3) will accommodate those close to or greater than one-acre (4,047 m²) lots that have been in place in the RS1 zone for many years.

As stated, the process of simplifying subdivision regulations from more than 19 standards to 5 generally maintains existing patterns of subdivision. However, should any property owners wish to pursue a subdivision beyond what the new zones permit, a text amendment process to a new “modifier” could facilitate the subdivision where and when it is warranted.

As proposed, most Small Lot Infill areas (SLIA) will transition to the new S1 standard; however, two SLIA areas: (#1 Lower Capilano and #1a 1500 block MacGowen Avenue and Philip Avenue) will not transition to the new bylaw as they could be more suited to higher density housing where additional parcelization through subdivision would hinder this objective. This recommended approach is consistent with Council’s motion on March 2, 2026, ([Report to Council](#)) requesting the exemption of the Lions Gate area from Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) because these areas are better suited to development that supports rapid transit and are not suited for ground-oriented housing, either through SSMUH or through subdivision.

An overview map illustrating where subdivision modifiers are used is provided in **Attachment 3**. The Rezoning Bylaw 8799 includes a set of maps that shows both which zone a property is being rezoned to and where applicable the subdivision modifier.

Bylaw Amendments

Bylaw 8799 as provided in **Attachment 4** proposes to add the R1 and R2 zones to the existing Zoning Bylaw (3210). This is intended as an interim measure to bring forward the new R1 and R2 zones in advance of the complete replacement of the Zoning Bylaw. The new complete Zoning Bylaw which will include all remaining zones and regulations, will be presented to Council for consideration in 2027.

Bylaw 8799 includes:

- Schedule A – a text amendment to the existing Zoning Bylaw 3210 to add the new zones with their new associated definitions and regulations to facilitate a smooth transition to the new bylaw next year.

- Schedule B – a detailed map set that illustrates which properties will be rezoned to which new applicable zone.

OCP amendments are required to support implementation of the new R1 and R2 zones and the revised approach to floor space calculations. The existing OCP land use designations for ground-oriented housing – Residential Level 1: Rural Residential (RES1) and Residential Level 2: Detached Residential (RES2) – include an approximate maximum floor space ratio (FSR). However, as the proposed new zones now include previously exempted floor areas (basements and garages) in the FSR calculations, the resulting permitted FSR is higher than anticipated in the 2011 OCP. As a consequence of the zoning bylaw update, these OCP land use designations require amending. To support implementation of the new zones, Bylaw 8787 proposes removing FSR references from the RES1 and RES2 land use designations as provided in **Attachment 5**. Maximum density for detached residential houses will continue to be regulated through the Zoning Bylaw.

Monitoring the Changes and Bringing Additional Amendments

The Zoning Bylaw rewrite is the first comprehensive review in over 60 years and has involved sifting through the results of 1400 amendments to reduce, simplify and modernize the regulations. Going forward more regular updates are recommended to keep zoning current and help better coordinate with and implement District policy.

With the roll out of the complete, new bylaw next year, implementation will include updates to mapping, diagrams and a new digital zoning bylaw webpage that will improve searchability and will work seamlessly with modern digital tools.

While the zones being presented today have gone through several months of testing, staff will continue to monitor feedback after their adoption. Staff also anticipate residents will need time to adjust to the new homes being built in their neighbourhoods and will have valuable input to staff on how to further improve or adjust the zoning regulations.

With the implementation of the full bylaw next year, there will also be a series of updates to related bylaws to ensure a seamless transition from the old to the new regulations.

If Council approves the new zones, staff's implementation work will begin, and this work is at least as substantial, if not more, as the creation of the zones themselves.

Council Motion Response: Coach Houses Outside the UCB

Pursuant to the Council motion on May 4th, 2026, staff have prepared alternative language (**Option 2**) to allow coach houses as an alternative to secondary suites on single-family lots outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB), subject to a maximum of two units per parcel.

Analysis:

Staff do not recommend permitting coach houses outside the UCB.

While secondary suites are contained within a principal building, standalone coach houses increase the development footprint, lot coverage, and servicing demands.

The primary reasons for this recommendation include:

- **Infrastructure & Access Constraints:** Properties outside the UCB lack basic municipal infrastructure that protects homes and provides access to safe drinking water, sewage removal, and emergency access. In place of standard urban services, this area includes existing legacy lots that are primarily located in more remote or waterfront access areas along Indian Arm that lack any access to sanitary sewers, often relying on septic fields instead. Access to municipal water supply is limited and some properties are reliant on creeks for fresh water. Where road access exists, it is limited to Indian River Drive and a series of narrow and steep fire-access lanes that are not intended for intensification of use.
- **Hazards & Emergency Response:** The entire area sits within the Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area, and the risk from wildfires is intensifying due to climate change. Additionally, many lots are also in slope and debris flow hazard areas. Delivery of emergency services outside the UCB is severely challenged by the terrain and the limited road access.
- **Environmental Sensitivity:** The area outside the UCB is predominantly land that is heavily forested and inside sensitive streamside riparian areas and as such is within Development Permit areas for Protection of the Natural Environment and Streamside Protection. In environmentally sensitive areas like these, building intensification is not supported and building footprints should be minimized.
- **Rural Character:** Over time the character of this rural area has slowly shifted with older seasonal cabins being replaced by larger and more permanent homes. Allowing secondary suites was seen to increase house choice while not impacting overall character. However, allowing coach houses in addition to a principal home would essentially make the character of these rural homes the same as urban properties in the District.
- **Policy Realignment:** Permitting development intensification including coach houses outside the UCB directly conflicts with long-standing planning frameworks, including the 2009 *Indian Arm Development Review*, [*Development of Indian Arm Properties Policy*](#), and multiple Official Community Plan (OCP) directives aimed at containing development intensification inside the UCB including:
 - OCP Policy 1.1.1. Accommodate growth and development within the existing built area and maintain the District's Urban Containment Boundary as shown on the Land Use Map (see Map 2);
 - OCP Policy 1.1.2. Protect areas outside the Urban Containment Boundary by limiting to uses associated with outdoor recreation and tourism, watershed and resource management, conservation, rural residential living and research purposes; and

- OCP Policy 11.1.2. Limit infrastructure extension beyond the Urban Containment Boundary.

Should Council wish to proceed with amendments to permit coach houses outside the UCB, staff could redraft Bylaw 8799 ahead of second reading by eliminating the condition of use that secondary suites be located in the Principal Building, which would therefore allow the consideration of variances to the location of secondary suites, such that they could be located in a separate building and designed as a coach house, subject to Council's approval of a variance. Alternatively, Council could direct staff to draft the Zoning Bylaw to permit Coach Houses on all single-family zoned parcels outside the UCB, as described in Council's May 4th, 2026, motion noted previously in this report.

TIMING/APPROVAL PROCESS

Bylaw 8787 and Bylaw 8799 bring forward new regulations for ground oriented residential zones in advance of the complete Zoning Bylaw update next year. This first phase of work will facilitate housing options for residents. Should Council give first reading to the bylaws on June 1, the potential timeline for the implementation of the new R1 and R2 is as follows:

- June 2026: Public Hearing
- July 2026: 2nd and 3rd Reading
- July 2026: Bylaw Adoption

The full replacement of the Zoning Bylaw, which will include the remaining zones, new general and supporting regulations, along with an improved format, updated diagrams, easier-to-use structure, and corresponding digital interface, will be presented to Council in 2027.

Should Council wish to proceed with amendments to permit coach houses in the UCB, Bylaw 8799 will be amended, eliminating the condition of use that secondary suites be located in the Principal Building (**Option 2**) which would therefore allow the consideration of variances to the location of secondary suites, such that they could be located in a separate building and designed as a coach house.

CONCURRENCE

The content of this report was prepared in collaboration with representatives from Community Planning and with input from Engineering, Legal, Corporate Services, Climate and Biodiversity, and Building departments.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

All fees associated with the construction and/or renovation of principal dwellings, secondary suites, and coach houses are not impacted by the proposed zoning regulation changes.

The reduction of basements, which are costly to build, in new home designs will likely lead to modest drop in construction value.

In the short term, the adoption of new regulations will require both staff and financial resources to be dedicated towards public communication, staff training, and updates to informational materials, website resources, and application processing systems. However, in the long term, the set of simplified and standardized regulations is expected to lead to reduced informational enquiries and reduced permit review times consistent with the ongoing Development Application Process Review (DAPR).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

With the proposed regulations discouraging fully in-ground basements, it is expected that there will be a net benefit to the achievement of environment sustainability goals in the form of:

- reduced blockage, diversion, and removal of ground water flow;
- increased stormwater absorption;
- reduced excavations and soil disturbance which would facilitate the retention of existing trees; and
- reduced use of concrete, thereby reducing embodied carbon.

The applicability of Environmental Protection and Natural Hazard Development Permit Areas (DPA) are not impacted by the proposed zoning regulation changes. All developments on properties within such DPAs continue to require submissions from Qualified Professionals and permits issued by the District.

The applicability of the Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw is not impacted by the proposed zoning regulation changes. It will continue to be applied to protect, preserve and conserve the District's ecological systems of watercourses, trees, soils, lands and visual assets, especially during the construction phases of a development.

Regarding the potential for tree loss due to coach house construction and home renewal, staff will continue to explore strategies for tree retention, tree re-planting, and increasing overall canopy coverage within the District which in part will be facilitated by the new landscape area requirements.

PUBLIC INPUT

Public engagement has been a critical component of the Zoning Bylaw Rewrite project and builds on public open houses, surveys, interest holder input, and discussions with Council and the community. Public engagement on the proposed single-family zoning regulations changes was primarily focused in 2025 with extensive interest holder input in the early months of 2026. Public engagement was conducted at the Consult level on the District's public engagement spectrum.

Overall, there was general support from the public on the proposed changes. A summary of public engagement on the proposed single-family zoning changes (and OCP Update) was provided to Council in 2025 ([2025 Engagement Summary Report](#)), and an update will be provided as part of the Public Hearing materials.

Should staff's recommendation be supported a public hearing would be held for bylaws 8787 and 8799.

CONCLUSION

Under Council direction, this report presents Council with bylaws to implement the first phase of the Zoning Bylaw Rewrite, the R1 and R2 zones, to replace the existing RS zones. The proposed zones facilitate requests from homeowners who are interested in seeing the changes to existing regulations sooner and will address a variety of key concerns with the existing regulations.

Staff recommend the attached bylaws be given first reading and referred to a Public Hearing in accordance with LGA.

Options:

The following options are provided for Council's consideration:

1. THAT "District of North Vancouver OCP Amendment Bylaw (Bylaw 8787)" is given FIRST reading;

AND THAT "District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw (Bylaw 8799)" is given FIRST reading;

AND THAT Bylaw 8787 and Bylaw 8799 are referred to a Public Hearing.

(Staff Recommendation)

or

2. THAT "District of North Vancouver OCP Amendment Bylaw (Bylaw 8787)" is given FIRST reading;

AND THAT "District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw (Bylaw 8799)" is given FIRST reading;

AND THAT "District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw (Bylaw 8799)" is amended by striking out "Subsection 3 (1)(a) of the R1 – Rural and Suburban Detached Residential Zone" and renumbering accordingly.

AND THAT "District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw (Bylaw 8799)" is given SECOND reading, as amended;

AND THAT Bylaw 8787 and Bylaw 8799 are referred to a Public Hearing.

or

3. THAT Council refer Bylaw 8787 and Bylaw 8799 back to staff to make further amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



Tamsin Guppy
Senior Planner



Daniel Broderick
Planner

Attachments:

1. Map of the entire District showing the application of R1 and R2
2. Map of the entire District showing predominately privately owned RS lots not being rezoned at this time, this map does not include DNV owned RS lots remaining RS at this time
3. Map of the entire District showing the application of subdivision modifiers
4. Bylaw 8799 with Schedule A and Schedule B
5. Bylaw 8787

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

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY