



December 30, 2025

Reference: 189480

His Worship George Harvie  
Mayor of Delta  
Email: [mayorharvie@delta.ca](mailto:mayorharvie@delta.ca)

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 24, 2025, addressed to the Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, regarding the protection of mature tree canopy in the City of Delta. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the Land Use, Planning and Regional Impacts Branch, and I am responding on behalf of Minister Boyle.

The Ministry appreciates the concerns raised by your Council and community about preserving trees in established neighbourhoods, and your challenges in light of recent legislative changes. Regrettably, due to scheduling constraints, staff are unable to meet with City of Delta representatives at this time. We will retain the contact information provided and may reach out in the future should an opportunity arise to discuss this matter further.

We appreciate your comments on the perceived limitations that exist within the *Community Charter* with respect to tree protection and will allow this to inform future policy discussions. The Ministry encourages municipalities to explore complementary strategies for tree canopy protection. These may include enhancing local tree bylaws, considering Development Permit Areas for environmental protection, engaging the community through education and stewardship programs, and building on existing urban forest strategies.

Design approaches encouraged under the Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing legislation emphasize building up rather than out, which can help maintain space for tree retention, new planting, pervious surfaces, and outdoor amenity areas. The [Provincial Policy Manual for Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing](#) Manual notes that municipalities may use Development Permit Areas to incorporate environmental protection objectives, provided they do not unreasonably restrict the ability to achieve the use and density required under the legislation. This allows local governments to direct development away from ecologically significant areas, require mitigation to avoid harmful impacts, and apply compensatory measures where impacts cannot be avoided. Municipalities can also encourage alternative

building forms that support the retention of significant trees and consolidated planting areas and consider measures such as pervious surfacing or engineered soil solutions to promote healthy canopy growth over time.

Thank you again for writing to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Caitlin Freer

Senior Planner  
Land Use, Planning, and Regional Impacts  
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