

Funding Awarded to Modernize Permit Processes

Plans to improve development and building permit processes will now move forward, thanks to a recent grant funding award of \$200,000 to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). The 2026 Local Government Development Approvals Program grant, funded by the Province of BC and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), will cover the full cost of the Development Approvals Process Modernization and Building Inspection Service Optimization Project.

The optimization project will implement efficiencies to improve the speed and ease of development approvals and building permit processes. The changes will better serve the public, reduce delays for new housing projects and streamline staff workflows as they're implemented over a 24-month period.

Improvements to be introduced include:

- Enhanced building inspection web page and online systems
- New guides and streamlined processes related to the anticipated Secondary Suites Policy
- Clearer processes, criteria and checklists for consistent application review
- Creation of a temporary coordinator position focused on implementing improved practices

These improvements are key to the Board's strategic goal of planning and managing for growth into the future. To learn about the Local Government Development Approvals program, visit ubcm.ca.

Key Points

- The RDN is making plans to improve development and building permit processes.
- The optimization project was awarded \$200,000 from the 2026 Local Government Development Approvals Program funded by the Province of BC and administered by UBCM.
- The improvements will be implemented over 24 months, and will better serve the public, reduce delays and streamline staff workflows.

Quick Facts

- Once the updates are complete, tangible improvements in processing times are expected, including a reduction in approval timelines for simple residential building permits.
- New processes will aim to significantly improve the number of applications considered complete at first intake – from the current 20 per cent, up to 80 per cent success.
- Streamlined approvals also aim to increase the number of legal secondary suite permits by 30 per cent.

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