



material deprivation index, would provide naturally cooler areas where people can find respite from extreme heat events.” (pg. 28)

The report further committed that:

“As the Local Government Act, Community Charter and the Vancouver Charter are reviewed... the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will ensure that updates and revisions are consistent with the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and require the protection and restoration of the urban tree canopy and permeable surface areas to absorb water.” (pg. 7)

However, four years later, this critical commitment remains unfulfilled. In fact, in many communities, we are worse off today than we were in 2021:

1. Provincial Housing Legislation Ignores Climate Resilience

We recognize that adding density near transit hubs is an essential way to reduce car dependence and GHG emissions. When it comes to the safety of residents from extreme heat, Bills 44 and 47 lack any incentives or provisions for tree protection, greenspace, permeable surfaces, or mitigation of the urban heat island effect. These bills prioritize volume and density over the foundational elements of livability, climate readiness, and public health. This could result in B.C. failing to build the climate-resilient communities it urgently needs.

2. The Union of BC Municipalities Has Called for Legislative Revisions

The 2024 UBCM-endorsed resolution calls on the Province to:

“Revise Bill 44 and Bill 47 to embed tree protection, tree canopy expansion, and climate resilience into the policy and ensure local governments retain clear authority to protect mature trees and tree canopy in residential neighbourhoods and implement locally developed Climate Action Plans.”

This resolution would not have been necessary if the Province had followed its own directives stemming from the 2022 Extreme Heat Death Review Panel Report.

3. Municipal Authority Undermined by Provincial Legislation

In 2024, the Ministry of Housing confirmed that municipalities cannot fully protect tree canopy on lands upzoned by the Province:

“A tree bylaw cannot prevent a landowner from using their land per the permitted