

Public Hearings

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/covid-19#public_hearings

Local governments are required to hold public hearings prior to adopting certain land use bylaws, such as official community plans (OCPs) and some zoning bylaw amendments.

At a public hearing, persons who believe that their interest in a property is affected by a proposed land use bylaw must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions.

Local governments are now enabled to hold public hearings electronically so they can continue to make important land use decisions while complying with the public health order on mass gatherings and the recommendations on safe physical distancing. In-person public hearings are subject to both Order M192 and the PHO [Order on Gatherings and Events](#) that limits the number of people in attendance and requires collecting (and retaining for 30 days) the contact information of those present.

Find ways to keep people informed of any changes to public hearing processes – through the local government website and by using social media platforms.

- [Ministerial Order M192 - Local Government Meetings & Bylaw Process \(formerly M139\)](#)
- [Guidance for the Conduct of Public Hearings Under M192 - May 1, 2020 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Circular on Ministerial Order M192 - August 13, 2020 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Learn more about public hearings](#)