

Delivered via email

The Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance

Dear Minister James,

I am writing to you to highlight a possible case of avoidance of the Vacant Homes and Speculation tax in my community. The University Endowment Lands Community Advisory Committee has sent you a list of 35 addresses that appear either vacant or under construction yet are listed as the owner's primary residence, according to information provided by our local MLA's office. **I ask you to investigate and take appropriate measures to address this problem.**

Our community has suffered as investors and speculators have acquired real estate in our neighbourhoods. By the UEL CAC's count, fully 15% of all single-family homes in the UEL are vacant, not regularly occupied or under delayed construction (64 out of 442 single-family homes). Vacant properties have contributed to higher crime, as squatters have moved in and criminals have become aware that they will not encounter residents if they break in. Empty homes have also eroded the general sense of community as some residents now have no neighbours on either side. **It is unacceptable that the owners of vacant homes are causing damage to my community and yet appear to be avoiding the Vacant Homes and Speculation Tax.**

In several letters to my community, your Ministry has highlighted that the School Tax that I pay goes to supporting the government's plan to tackle the housing crisis. **Vacant homes and the problems they bring to my community are clearly part of the housing crisis.**

I am joining the UEL CAC in calling on the Ministry of Finance to investigate the many cases of apparent illegal avoidance of the Vacant Homes and Speculation Tax in our community.

Regards,

UEL Resident

Cc: The Honourable David Eby, M.L.A. Vancouver Point Grey
The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Jonn Braman, Manager, University Endowment Lands

UEL Resident Name	Resident Address	Address of Vacant or Under Construction Home that may be avoiding the Vacant Home and Speculation Tax