

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

At the November 24th, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, the following resolution was adopted by Council:

**Resolution #2025-175**

*THAT the Village of Radium Hot Springs Council resolve to oppose the provincial draft Professional Reliance Act bill (M216).*

Certified a true copy of Resolution #2025-175 this 25th day of November, 2025.



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Jill Logan  
Corporate Officer  
Village of Radium Hot Springs

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Meeting Type and Date: Regular Council Meeting – November 24, 2025  
Written by: Adrian Bergles, CAO  
Reviewed and Approved by CAO: N/A  
Subject: Suggested Village of Radium Hot Springs opposition to draft *Professional Reliance Act* bill (M216) and consultation period response

Recommendation: That the Village of Radium Hot Springs Council resolve to oppose the provincial draft *Professional Reliance Act* bill (M216)

Request for Decision

Department Report

Information Report

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**Implications of Recommendation:**

Asset Management: Y

Financial: Y

OCP: Y

Policy: Y

Strategic Plan: Y

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**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

Recently the provincial NDP government has tabled a draft *Professional Reliance Act* bill (M216).

The draft legislation, which has received two readings and is open for public comment is intended to streamline development approvals in BC. Fundamentally it would end municipalities' – like the Village of Radium Hot Springs – ability to have planning documents prepared by licensed professionals undergo third party, peer review, which is fundamental to current processes.

This is seen as a method of speeding up development approvals, but it may have the opposite effect.

Groups like the Union of BC Municipalities, the Planning Institute of BC, and other professional organizations are either coming out in opposition to this proposed legislation, or are stating serious concerns with it.

Some of those concerns are:

- Deregulation of local government approvals via inability to provide peer review which routinely identifies deficiencies, leaving municipalities and taxpayers potentially on the hook to pay for reconstruction of something that could have been easily caught
- Slowing of development approvals, and introduction of uncertainties, as any deficiencies noted would have to be reported to the Office of the Superintendent for Professional Guidance
- Lack of innovation – local governments are currently empowered to employ professional reliance in instances that support community goals
- Creation of the draft bill in a vacuum – the bill lacks real-world ground truthing and nuance, unintended consequences are likely
- Part of a broader pattern of provincial overreach, building on provincial housing legislation that removes planning approval from municipalities
- Institutionalizing conflict of interest by which professionals hired by developers approve the projects by which they earn their income
- Erosion of municipal self-determination
- Centralization without affordability – removal of democratic checks does not guarantee affordability. On the contrary, it risks handing over unprecedented control to private actors and provincially appointed officials
- Inconsistency with professional programs already being implemented by local governments to streamline development processes
- The scope of bill (M216) is unnecessarily broad

At the very least, many of these groups request that the public comment period be extended beyond the beginning of December.

This is a significant piece of draft legislation, with far reaching and likely unintended consequences, some of which are likely to be negative.

Staff of the Village of Radium Hot Springs asks Council to consider the resolution to oppose this legislation. If this resolution is adopted, staff will forward this information and a corresponding letter to the provincial consultation portal which has been created to receive comments on the draft legislation.

**Options for Council:**

- 1) Adopt the resolution as presented (recommended)
- 2) Suggest changes to the resolution
- 3) Table and do not adopt the resolution

Respectfully submitted:

Adrian Bergles,

Chief Administrative Officer