

Snark Attack

Big Fat Deal, **Fiona Morrow's** online send-up of B.C.'s high-end residential property listings, is one of the most popular items on the *BCBusiness* website, although not everyone appreciates it. "I'm shocked that a magazine would post an article like this based on one person's biased opinion. Maybe the writer should consider working for a tabloid instead," was a typical comment on an instalment that touched a nerve for some readers.

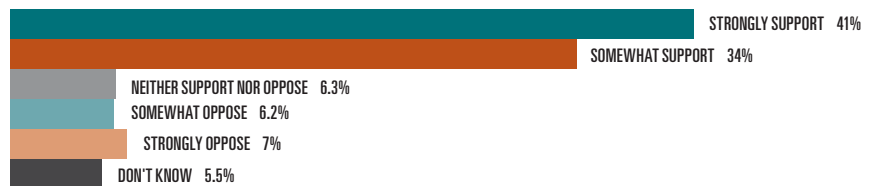
On the other hand, **Tracey Church**, principal of Tracey Church & Associates in London, Ontario, wrote to say that she looks forward to the column every week and always has a good laugh, "at the real estate prices in B.C., of course, and at the beautiful writing." As a realtor's daughter, she calls it her "weekly fix of 'real estate porn,'" adding, "And who knows, if we ever win the lottery..."

Poll of the Month

Proposed measures to stabilize B.C.'s property market may not be popular throughout the province, but Lower Mainland residents largely support them, according to a poll from Mustel Group for *BCBusiness*. In March, when Mustel asked 501 residents of Metro Vancouver their opinion on the subject, 75 percent were in favour. "There may be some tweaking needed on some of the measures such as the speculation tax, but I think overall you can see quite strong support," says principal Evi Mustel.

The preamble: The B.C. NDP government's 2018 budget includes several measures intended to curb speculation in the real estate market and make housing more affordable for residents. Among them is an expanded foreign buyer's tax (from 15 to 20 percent and covering more areas), a new speculation tax, a crackdown on property transaction loopholes, a commitment to build 114,000 affordable homes and greater renter protections.

Based on this and anything you have read, seen or heard, in general do you support or oppose the measures being taken by the current provincial government to address the housing crisis in B.C.?



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