



Making a difference...together

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area

Service Delivery

625 Fisgard Street

Victoria, BC, V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3125

F: 250.360.3130

www.crd.bc.ca

November 9, 2023

File: 0220-20

To whom it may concern:

**RE: SUPPORT FOR THE SALISH GROVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT BY MAYNE ISLAND HOUSING SOCIETY (MIHS)**

As the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director and Chair of the Community Economic Sustainability Commission, I am writing to express our strong support for the MIHS's proposed Salish Grove affordable housing project on Mayne Island and for their application to BC Housing through the Community Housing Fund. Housing is a fundamental human need, and in our community, there is a pressing need for accessible and affordable housing options, especially for seniors, families, persons with disabilities, and workforce members.

As community partners, we recognize the significant positive impact this project could have, as it aims to enhance the quality of life for community members who are struggling to find housing within our community. Affordable housing is not just a structure; it represents stability, dignity, and an opportunity for a better future. For seniors, it offers a space to live affordably and independently, and to stay in the community they call home. Families benefit from a safe and nurturing environment for their children to grow, and persons with disabilities can find a suitable and accessible living space, enabling them to live with the same affordances given to most other members of our society. As Mayne Island businesses struggle to find staff, the Salish Grove affordable housing project also provides potential workforce members an opportunity to find suitable, affordable, and stable housing on the Island, removing a potential barrier to accepting employment here. These benefits are critical to the viability of our isolated rural island community.

We are particularly heartened by the project's advancements thus far, including securing rezoning approval and an Official Community Plan (OCP) amendment from Islands Trust. This not only demonstrates the viability and credibility of the project but also signifies the collective recognition of the importance of affordable housing in our community.

The modular construction of the proposed 10 housing units is a sustainable and efficient approach to address this challenge. With a thoughtful mix of 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units, the project promises to cater to a diverse group of residents, ensuring a vibrant and integrated community. Such initiatives not only address immediate housing needs but also foster community bonding and promote inclusivity.

We commend the project planners and stakeholders for their foresight and dedication to making this vision a reality. We believe in the transformative power of affordable housing and are excited to see the positive impact this project will have on the Mayne Island community.

We encourage other community partners, local businesses, and stakeholders to join us in supporting this essential project. Together, we can ensure that Mayne Island remains an inclusive, vibrant, and supportive community for all its residents.

Sincerely,

Paul Brent

Director, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area

