



Making a difference...together

Salt Spring Island Administration  
#108-121 McPhillips Avenue  
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T6

T: 250.538.4448  
www.crd.bc.ca

February 20, 2024

File No. 0220-20

PacifiCan  
Attn: Tourism Growth Program  
1300-300 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B4

To Whom it May Concern:

**RE: SUPPORT FOR “FINISHING SALT SPRING’S “MISSING LINK” IN THE 200-KM SALISH SEA TRAIL LOOP”**

Pursuant to a unanimous resolution of the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission passed at our February 15 meeting, I am writing to urge your support for the Island Pathways application to the Tourism Growth Program. Their proposed project to advance the design of a pathway connecting the Swartz Bay/Fulford Harbour Ferry Terminals to the Vesuvius/Crofton Ferry Terminals, across Salt Spring Island, will greatly facilitate work necessary to complete the 200-km Salish Sea Trail Network on our island.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is a member of the Salish Sea Trail Working Group, an inter-agency partnership chaired by Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen, and comprised of Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May, other locally elected officials, staff of various agencies, and non-government groups such as Island Pathways.

The Salish Sea Trail is also coincident with the CRD Gulf Islands Regional Trail proposal for Salt Spring, and the Ganges Village portion of the Trail has is a particular priority for the CRD Local Community Commission.

Economic impacts of such a trail system are explored in “Bikenomics; A Primer on the Economic Impact of Cycling in the Capital Region,” commissioned by the CRD in 2015. This report and others provide a strong financial rationale to make strong, targeted investments in protected bike lanes and other strategies that will welcome locals and visitors to get on a bike and ride.

The very modest funding requested from PacifiCan for this pivotal Island Pathways project will lead to further investments by partner agencies, and yield benefits many times over in the form of health, safety, climate action and sustainable tourism.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Holman  
Director, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area

Earl Rook  
Chair, Local Community Commission