



Making a difference...together

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area

Service Delivery

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BC Housing Community Housing Fund:

**RE: COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND APPLICATION – GALIANO AFFORDABLE LIVING INITIATIVE SOCIETY**

In my capacity as the elected Director for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area within the Capital Regional District (CRD), I am aware of the urgent requirement for affordable rental housing in the island communities under my representation. The task of addressing this demand ranks among my most immediate priorities.

The scarcity of stable, reasonably priced housing has far-reaching implications on the entirety of community life. The educational institutions are impacted when families or educators, themselves, are unable to secure housing. Similarly, healthcare centres encounter challenges when the lack of suitable accommodation adversely affects vulnerable patients and prevents healthcare professionals from acquiring housing. The local commercial sector is also negatively affected when businesses struggle to recruit sufficient personnel due to a lack of stable housing. Furthermore, fire protection services are compromised when volunteers for the island fire departments are unable to find suitable housing.

Several distinct community groups within the islands have, over a period of time, mobilised, advocated, planned, consulted and raised funds with the objective of constructing affordable housing. Among these groups is the Galiano Affordable Living Initiative (GALI) Society based on Galiano Island. Their proposition of a 20-unit affordable rental housing project on Georgeson Bay Road, known as Galiano Green, is projected to start addressing the documented need on Galiano for a minimum of 70 affordable rental dwellings.

I am pleased to say that the CRD Board on which I sit, has allocated \$2.75 million from the BC Growing Community Fund Grant provided to the CRD to support GALI's Galiano Green project. I also want to add my personal support and recommendation that the GALI project application be funded from the BC Housing Community Housing Fund.

Sincerely,

Paul Brent  
Director, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area