

February 5th, 2025

Dear Trustees and Planner,

This letter is about Application PL-RZ-2024-0003 (Palmberg) for Lot A, Plan 22128 (Galiano Way).

The Staff report for the February 11.2025 LTC meeting mentions potential impacts of one of the proposed uses of the application: a cidery/winery.

I would like to add one more potential impact not mentioned in the report: the proposed cidery/winery would add one more source of alcohol beverage on Galiano.

I have attached several links to different newspaper articles and government reports.

Newspaper articles

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-its-time-to-rethink-our-relationship-with-alcohol-> Alcohol is a group-one carcinogen and is estimated to be one of the top three causes of cancer deaths worldwide. - Article writing by a cancer patient- Jan 3/2025

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/alcohol-cancer-warning-labels-1.7422379- U.S>> surgeon general urges cancer warning for alcoholic drinks. -Jan3/2025

<https://www.vicnews.com/news/tofino-has-drinking-problem-hospitalizations-double-island-normals-7540139-> Medical Health Officer, Dr. Charmaine Enns, says Tofino-Ucluelet region must denormalize drinking and decrease consumption. Sept.17/2024

Government reports

<https://cmho-report-2024.islandhealth.ca/#Data>- Alcohol Consumption is higher in Island Health than BC. Hospital admission caused by alcohol are higher for Island Health than on BC and Canada

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/southern-gulf-islands-local-health-area-profile.pdf> (2019)- Among LHA-level available data, substance use in Gulf Islands, particularly alcohol consumption per capita, is higher than Island Health and BC levels. (page 5)

I will now refer to the article about Dr. Charmaine Enns presentation to Tofino local council This is part of her comments:

“We now know in increasing evidence and body of knowledge that the more drinks that are consumed, the more likely there are to be individual harms. The new guidance in Canada is that seven or more standard drinks a week will result in harm”- “Consume less. There’s no magic number, but consume less because the less you drink the less harm there’s going to be to the individual, but also in terms of society,” she said.- She added that the negative impacts of alcohol outweigh the economic benefits, explaining that alcohol sales in B.C. generate about \$2 billion in

revenue, but cost \$2.81 billion in terms of harms in healthcare, lost productivity and criminal justice.- She suggested every time someone has an alcoholic beverage, it costs British Columbians more than 30 cents in impacts.

She reiterated that council has significant power to decrease alcohol sales and consumption through limiting the number of businesses where alcohol is sold and the hours those businesses are able to operate.

“I don’t mean just liquor stores. I mean hours of sales where there’s liquor distribution or liquor sales. You can control that through bylaw,” she said. “It is in your power.”

She suggested enforcement could include revoking business licences, increasing bylaw enforcement of business licences, establishing a new business licence category and surveillance.

“I’m here to give you my independent medical advice as a public health physician”.

I will encourage trustees and planner to read the whole article about Dr. Enn’s presentation to council.

Quote from the Precautionary Principle from the Galiano OCP (Section 2j):

“This Plan supports using the precautionary principle in land use decisions: “WHEN AN ACTIVITY RAISES THREATS OF HARM TO HUMAN HEALTH or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.”

and Section VIII Administration, Section 2 Islands Trust Authority of the OCP says:

“The legislated object defines the purpose of providing authority to the Islands Trust for land use regulation. Local trust committees employ the available planning powers of the Local Government Act to preserve, protect, and effectively maintain the rural nature, HEALTH, natural environment and vitality of the Trust Area.”

According to Galiano OCP and the Islands Trust Authority of the OCP, Trustees have responsibilities with respect to the health of the residents they represent. You should consider if adding more opportunities to obtain alcohol beverages could raises threats of harm to the health of island people. Galiano has already several place where to obtain liquor. Would it be wise to add one more? To change the OCP and LUB to provide more sources for alcohol drinking? You have the option to say: NO

Consider that the negative impact of liquor hit harder people of lower income than people with higher incomes. The reasons are simple: people with higher income can access to more support, to costly rehabilitation. If you add the factor of isolation and lack of helping resources on Galiano, you could see a pattern of social unfairness.

Galiano Health Clinic has in the first page of their website the following words,

“Promoting the health, the prevention of illness, and the well-being of the Galiano Island community in response to expressed community needs”

Trustees, planner, you could contact the Galiano Health Clinic to provide you with a professional opinion on the alcohol consumption and health effects on Galiano.

Until you have obtained more information/statistics from Island Health and the Galiano Health Clinic about alcohol consumption and negative consequences, do not proceed with the preparation of bylaw drafts as recommended by Staff, instead choose alternative 1- Request for further information. The Islands Trust have provided Trustees with a reasonable choice by presenting “Request for further information” in the application process.

I would like to add that the alcohol concern is not the only one about this application, there are other concerns stated in numerous previous letters.

Kind Regards,

Maria Carmita de Menyhart

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