

From: Laura Patrick
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Rhonan; Gary Holman; Peter Grove; Adam Olsen
Cc: Elizabeth FitzZaland; Jason Mogus; Darlene Gage; SSIInfo; Louisa Garbo
Subject: RE: Essential Services shortstaffed!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Thank you Rhonan for your dedication to housing our islanders. I will request that we add this conversation to our agenda for Tuesday and perhaps Gary can join. Recently, Peter G and I met with Adam Olsen to discuss a housing authority along with the vacancy and speculation tax. In the last LTC meeting we requested staff to review the standing resolution to not enforce on housing for ideas to improve.

I am willing to try writing an appeal to islanders to rent their cottages/suites to island workers.

Laura

From: Rhonan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Gary Holman; Laura Patrick; Peter Grove; Adam Olsen
Cc: Elizabeth FitzZaland; Jason Mogus; Darlene Gage
Subject: Essential Services shortstaffed!

[Housing for Nurses | Salt Spring Exchange](#)



Dear Local elected Representatives,

At what point does a housing crisis become an emergency for the viability of our community?

I saw the above ad today just after hearing recently that IWAV and Community Services are short staffed, Country Grocer is installing automatic check outs, and a 5th wheel trailer park for employees after already having more than 30 staff commuting. Lady Minto Hospital is apparently short staffed over 30 employees, hiring temp nurses from as far away as Ontario.....I could go on and on....RCMP, NSSWW, CRD Building Inspection, Islands Trust, Natureworks Health food store.

The housing crisis for working people is accelerating at an alarming rate...and there are things that can be done to address this right now that does not need years of process and millions of dollars.

#1- Making use of our existing buildings. There are probably hundreds of suites and cottages on Salt Spring that are either sitting empty or being used for vacation rentals because the property owners do not want to bother with a tenant or are afraid of getting saddled with a bad tenant and dealing with the difficult processes of the Landlord

Tenant Act....The loss of the ability to have a fixed term lease, and the lack of protections for landlords to deal with problem tenants has seriously hampered the availability of rental housing (among other issues of course)

By establishing an emergency land lord tenant matching service that could create a registry of businesses and individuals seeking housing, screen their credentials (not vet) and advertise the intense need of our community to the public seeking willing property owners to come forward to lease their existing spaces with some degree of protection guaranteed by the business owners and the service (as witness an mediator...understanding the rules involved)

This could be done relatively cheaply with only the cost of a single qualified staff person (part time?), some office space and equipment and advertising budget. The CRD should be able to host this service perhaps with help from the province through BC housing. If there was a will this could be established really quickly.

You are our leaders! If all 4 of you as our elected representatives were to sign a joint letter and/or take out an add for a series of weeks to promote this service and ask our community to open their doors to the working class people needed to serve our community now.

This would provide us some time while we go through the larger process of establishing more sustainable means to ensure sufficient housing for working class for the long term.

#2. The Islands Trust could temporarily suspend enforcement against **all** non conforming dwelling situations while the crisis is in effect an until sustainable solutions have been achieved through the "Housing Action Program". (unless there is a serious issue of public safety)

Our community does not have anyone in public service responsible for meeting the housing needs of our working class community. We desperately need some kind of a Housing Authority, but the above mentioned emergency service is an easy and cheap first step.

All of the volunteers working on housing issues are burnt out and overwhelmed. Our community pays millions of dollars in taxes. It is long past time for some of those public resources to be directed to this issue that is killing our community.

Please take this appeal seriously!

Sincerely,
Rhonan Heitzmann

Rhonan Heitzmann
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