

From: Larisa L [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2025 4:26 PM
To: Gabriola2050
Subject: Gabriola OCP

Hi there,

I just completed the survey and appreciate the environmental aspect that is being considered as we figure out how to restructure our planning. I am coming forward to raise awareness over the struggle of finding stable and non-invasive housing. Our family has lived here for 15 years and have lived in several unauthorized housing locations due to the shortage of rentals available. We've over the last 5 years been in housing where landlords are not respectful of our rights as tenants and this has been incredibly challenging. Paired with heightened costs of groceries, expensive ferries, growing market values and limited work opportunities - or ones which are stable, offer benefits or well paying - it feels quite intangible to ever own a home here in our community. To leave a community because of housing is something very sad we are needing to constantly revisit.

With a growing trend of people similar to us, who perhaps are not able to break into the real estate market even though we are working individuals, I would love to see a plan which focuses on Co-buying, permitting secondary dwellings to be built, renovated and lived in while living sustainably and responsibly re septic, water and our environment. Our community deserves to have legal aspects on this and zoning revisited so that we can find sustainable ways to support our low-income and elderly residents. Looking at a model from Coho-BC on co ownership, I think this structure would provide insightful information on some changes we could consider.

Thank you for your time,

Larisa S. Bothma
Gabriola, BC

