

# Gabriola CO-OP Network

a non-profit, community service co-operative

April 5, 2019

Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee  
sent by email

## Re: Housing Options and Impacts Review Project

Dear Local Trust Committee members:

We applaud that our new LTC has made housing their first priority, and is in the final stages of establishing a new Housing Advisory Planning Commission to assist with that work. We are requesting that the LPC and its new HAPC include co-op housing as a component of the housing options and impacts review project.

We believe the inclusion of the co-operative approach is important for the following reasons:

- There are currently two emerging co-op housing initiatives that we are aware of on Gabriola Island whose voices are important,
- Co-operative housing is a healthy, self-sustaining form of affordable housing that tends to provide a range of subsidies to members in need while others pay slightly above market rates.
- Through collective ownership and self-management, members create community and find creative solutions to shared needs as they arise. Members make their own rules and decisions.
- As member-owners, co-op residents develop a wide range of useful skills through managing their co-op and their relationships. Research has shown this is empowering for members, especially those who are experiencing financial and other life challenges.
- Co-operatives are part of an international movement through which people meet common needs and realize shared wishes. Co-ops are, by design, ethical organizations built on a set of time-tested values and principles. They include caring for the environment and for community.
- Co-operative housing in British Columbia becomes part of the Co-op Housing Federation of British Columbia, an organization that provides education and support to member co-ops across the province.
- Co-op housing becomes part of a land trust in perpetuity which means the land and building cannot be sold and therefore the units become more affordable over time.

We hope you will include your important voice in the committee looking at zoning



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Jan Pullinger



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Sibyl Frei