

Keith Erickson R.P.Bio.

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Galiano Island, BC ██████████

September 21, 2021

Crystal Mountain Society  
c/o Helen Foster, President  
300B - 2555 Cook Rd  
Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0

Galiano Island Local Trust Committee  
c/o Brad Smith  
Island Planner, Southern Team  
200 – 1627 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8

To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my attention that a member of the public has suggested that I may be in Conflict of Interest in my role as contractor to the Crystal Mountain Society to produce both an ecological report and to manage the technical requirements associated with the rezoning application for Parcel A of DL88 and DL89, Plan 27287 & Lot 9, Plan 31200 DL90, Galiano Island (letter from Brad Lockett to Galiano Island Local Trust Committee dated May 22, 2021).

I am writing to ensure that any potential conflict of interest, real or perceived is disclosed to clients and others who may be affected by the conflict.

The terms of reference for my contracts with Crystal Mountain Society are as follows:

*Ecological Assessment Contract (October 13, 2020)*

1. *Conduct a site visit to confirm if site conditions remain the same or have changed (e.g. increased beaver activity may have shifted hydrology in low lying areas)*
2. *Compare proposed location of CMS structures on site plan with ecological data to identify any areas of significant concern or potential impact*
3. *Provide a summary of habitat features/types on the 25% portion retained by CMS versus the 75% proposed for transfer to ITC (e.g. % wetland habitat).*

*Rezoning Technical Project Management Contract (December 14, 2020)*

*Work with Islands Trust Conservancy and CM to:*

1. *Fulfill existing requirements for transfer of the land.*

2. *Negotiate a transfer agreement.*
3. *Be the point person for CM during the Subdivision and transfer of the land.*

*Support CM in the Rezoning:*

1. *Facilitate and provide guidance for final layout of buildings and lot configuration.*
2. *Take the lead on fulfilling all technical requirements including communicating with other professionals as required (eg. surveyor, hydrogeologist, water systems specialist etc).*
3. *Support communications through production of maps and gathering or presenting information.*
4. *Attend CIM's as a resource person to help convey ecological and related information.*

Conflict of interest is commonly defined as a situation in which a person has a private or personal interest sufficient to appear to influence the objective exercise of their official duties.

The following is an excerpt from the College of Applied Biology's (CAB) Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility regarding conflict of interest:

*Avoid situations and circumstances where there is a conflict of interest;*

- i. there is a real or perceived conflict of interest where a registrant's interests conflict or appear to conflict with the registrant's professional responsibilities;*
- ii. in determining whether a conflict exists or appears to exist, registrants should consider whether a reasonably well-informed individual in possession of the facts would believe a conflict exists;*
- iii. registrants must take measures necessary to ensure a conflicting interest does not bias decisions or recommendations that the registrant may be called upon to make; in extreme situations this might require the registrant to withdraw from a project.*

To my knowledge I have provided a professional standard of service to the Crystal Mountain Society by conducting business practices fairly, avoiding conflict of interest and respecting client/employer confidentiality.

I am not a member of, nor do I have any private or personal interest in Crystal Mountain Society or with any of its Board, members, and teachers. I do not have any personal or private interest with the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee or Islands Trust Planning Staff.

I am married to Kate Emmings, Manager of the Islands Trust Conservancy. The Islands Trust Conservancy is directly involved with the Crystal Mountain Society rezoning proposal as the potential recipient of lands for conservation purposes. Kate Emmings declared a conflict of interest and was removed from having any interaction with the Crystal Mountain Society file.

I do not believe that my interests conflict or appear to conflict with my professional responsibilities.

I have sought an informed opinion on this situation from several registered professionals and a staff member of the College of Applied Biology. None were of the opinion that a conflict exists.

If Crystal Mountain Society, the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee, or any other objective party believes that I may be in conflict, please inform me of the rationale as soon as possible so that I can reassess my understanding accordingly and make any necessary adjustments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KEITH ERICKSON', written in a cursive style.

Keith Erickson R.P.Bio.