

From: Lindsay Burch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 8:22 PM
To: Alex Allen
Cc: northinfo; Dave Burch
Subject: In Support of Controlled and Managed Vacation Rentals on Hornby Island

Trustee Alex Allen

Hornby Island Local Trust Committee

Dear Mr. Allen,

Thank you for taking the time to read and fully understand the following letter.

I have always had a connection to Hornby Island, starting from the times staying at the Big Tribune Campground as a kid, to when my older sister spent her summers there, to when our family started renting weekly homes there every summer to now, when I am finally a Hornby Island homeowner! I absolutely love the island, the relaxed vibe of the locals and the incredibly unique environment it offers. We are so excited to be Hornby homeowners and tax payers and to raise our kids coming to this special place.

After losing my dad and receiving the proceeds of the sale of our family cabin, we finally had the funds to purchase a family cabin for ourselves, to grow our own memories, away from our busy home life with our kids. Covering the costs of ownership was never going to be easy, but with the option to rent our property during the busy summer months, we could get help covering some of the mortgage and operating costs. Plus we could provide summer vacation housing to our friends and family who already had connections to Hornby of their own. This was a win-win for us, our friends and family and to Hornby Island businesses and community. This respectful group of families also loves coming to Hornby, to support local businesses and artists and take

part in the amazing events, ride and hike the trails, swim in the clear gorgeous ocean and gain a deeper connection and respect for the environment.

While it is our ultimate goal to spend close to 6-months of the year on Hornby, this is not a reality for us right now. We are at a busy stage in our lives, working and raising our active and involved kids. A move to the island is not in the cards for us for at least another 10 years. We do, however, make the effort to spend long weekends, holidays and the occasional school week off throughout the year on Hornby. We cherish all this family time together, enjoying the nature and quiet that Hornby offers.

Since purchasing our house, we have installed a large water cistern. This pulls slowly from our well throughout the year, to ensure we are not stressing the system in the dryer months. We have had our septic inspected and ensured that we can handle guests, when they come. We are mountain bikers, hikers and runners. We love coming to Hornby and parking our cars for the duration of the stay. We absolutely love supporting local Hornby artists, restaurants, stores, produce stands, the farmers' market, etc. We ask the same of our renters. We do not advertise our property on any rental platform. It is done all through word of mouth.

It is our understanding that Hornby Local Trustees are considering a change to the way Short Term Property rentals happen on the island. We are in support of regulating Short Term rentals. We do not want the tourism to grow exponentially and affect the Hornby way of life. We are members of HISTRA and follow all the Rental Bylaws. We are totally in support of the Island Trust gaining a clearer picture of the rental market, understanding who is complying with bylaws, understanding total amount of rentals, etc. We agree that the growth should be controlled in order to maintain the magic of Hornby. The overall benefits to Hornby Island full-time residents, businesses and the community of allowing controlled, managed and legal short-term rentals far outweigh the drawbacks. We are NOT in support of the removal of Vacation Rentals as a legal property use from our Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaws.

We also understand there is a serious affordable housing concern on the island. Unfortunately, if we are no longer allowed to rent our property out during the 10 weeks of summer, we will still not be in a position to rent our property out to local residents. We purchased the property to use it as a family. Our extended family gathers here. We love to use it as much as we can. We were very pleased to learn that, in part, the MRDT that we collect and remit will help support local affordable housing on the island and we welcome further exploration into how this group of homeowners offering

legal vacation rentals to like-minded Hornby enthusiasts can help with affordable housing for local full-time Hornby residents.

Thank you for taking the time to understand our story and our longterm commitment to the vitality of Hornby Island. We look forward to sitting in on the Land Trust meeting on November 13th.

Kind regards,

Lindsay, Dave, Stella and Sebastian

Lindsay Burch

A solid grey rectangular bar used to redact a signature.