

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2026 6:47 AM

**To:** Alex Allen <aallen@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Grant Scott <gscott@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Timothy Peterson <tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca>; northinfo <northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>; szupanec@islandstrust.bc.ca.

**Cc:** hornbyshortterm@gmail.com

**Subject:** Hornby Island - Vacation Rental Perspective

Dear Islands Trust Council,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the work the Islands Trust undertakes to preserve and protect the Gulf Islands. These values are deeply important to our family, who have been connected to the Hornby Island community for twenty years. I am writing to share our experience as you consider the future of short-term rental regulation on Hornby and other islands.

My connection to Hornby Island began in the late 1980s when I first visited through a friend who had once been a long-term resident. Like many others, I was immediately drawn to the island's natural beauty and its distinctive sense of community. Years later, when my German wife and I were looking for a place where our family could experience a strong connection to nature and community life, we chose Hornby and purchased a home.

Life eventually took us abroad. My engineering work brought our family to Hamburg, Germany, where we have lived since 2012. Despite this move, we made a conscious decision to keep our home on Hornby and remain connected to the island.

During the years when our children were young, we regularly spent extended periods of several months on the island. All three of our children attended Hornby Island Preschool, and our family life there allowed them to develop a deep appreciation for nature, creativity, and community. During these visits and until recently when it was no longer possible, my parents would stay with us so they could build close relationships with their grandchildren. My mother, who lived with post-polio syndrome, even received home care through the Hornby Island program. Today, our children—now teenagers and adults—continue to insist

on spending their summers with us on Hornby. The island continues to play an important role in shaping our family.

Maintaining a home on Hornby while living overseas, however, presents financial realities. In order to keep the property and continue returning to the island, we began renting our home periodically to visitors who wished to experience Hornby Island themselves.

Importantly, the majority of the income generated through these rentals flows directly back into the local community. We rely on local residents for cleaning, gardening, lawn care, and maintenance, and we regularly hire local tradespeople for property upkeep. In practice, approximately 80 percent of the rental income is reinvested locally. We also regularly provide off-season accommodation to island residents or workers; for example, a Hornby Island school teacher is currently renting our cabin.

For families like ours, responsible short-term rentals make it possible to maintain our homes and continue contributing to the island community, even when our work requires us to live elsewhere. If non-resident owners were required to cease rentals entirely, we would likely still visit Hornby. However, the local employment and economic activity generated through our property would decline, and the off-season housing we provide would disappear.

I fully appreciate that the Islands Trust is trying to address legitimate concerns about housing availability and community sustainability. These are important issues for any small island community. At the same time, I hope that policy solutions will consider the diversity of situations that exist among property owners and the many ways in which responsible rentals contribute to the local economy and community life.

Our experience suggests that there may be room for balanced approaches that address housing pressures while still allowing families like ours to maintain long-standing connections to Hornby Island and continue supporting the local community.

Thank you for considering our perspective as part of your deliberations. I would be happy to provide further information about our experience if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Martin Rempel

and family:

Kerstin Wulff, Amelie Rempel, Philip Rempel & Kiara Rempel

Martin Rempel

