

From: Jessica T <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:24 AM
To: SSInfo
Subject: Support for Bylaw 530

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you regarding my support for Bylaw 530. I have been a resident of Salt Spring Island for the last [REDACTED] and have been working within the context of gender-based violence and sexual assault with [REDACTED].

As a community, it is important to address the intersection of gender-based violence and our current housing crisis. Including the greater impacts on our communities when people and families fleeing violence don't have anywhere safe to go. As well as the long-term impacts of children and young people being impacted by unstable housing and family violence.

Statistics Canada has documented that it has been the seventh consecutive year that there has been an increase in intimate partner violence and the fifth consecutive year that there has been an increase in family violence. Based on how busy IWAV's programs are, Salt Spring is not excluded from those statistics.

I have seen firsthand the incredible outcomes of affordable and safe housing for women and children but also elderly people, men, and gender-diverse people in our community. For people to thrive they need to move beyond just surviving. That includes living in shelters, vehicles, trailers, and unsafe or abusive living arrangements because there are no other options. It is reflective of us as a whole when we don't support the most vulnerable. It is also reflective of us as a whole when their voices and experiences are not included or considered in the decision-making processes.

Passing Bylaw 530 is certainly not a silver bullet in terms of addressing the housing crisis and gender-based violence in our community, but it is one of many small steps in the right direction that we need to take together.

Take care,

Jessica Terezakis
[REDACTED]