

**From:** Jill Tarswell <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 4:29 PM

**To:** Peter Luckham <[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Peter Grove <[pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Laura Patrick <[lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** ssiinfo <[ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Housing Crisis on Salt Spring

The housing crisis on Salt Spring must be addressed pronto! Lots of talk; no action!  
The ability to purchase housing on Salt Spring is limited to the fortunate. With annual rent increases I was being rented off the island even though I had one of the better paying jobs on island. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. With a similar income from [REDACTED] I could not purchase anything on Salt Spring today. Everyday I see desperate inquiries on Salt Spring Exchange for housing from singles, couples, seniors and families, many of them long time residents and valued members of our island community, contributing in various ways to its health and charm. Housing issues are not a new problem. Copper Kettle which has supported unhoused people on island for decades will be able to give you fairly accurate numbers of how widespread the need for homes is as I'm sure could any island property managers. The early morning and late afternoon ferries are populated with many workers who were unable to secure housing on Salt Spring.

The stigma of being homeless is equated with destitution, poverty, mental health challenges, itinerancy, and substance abuse and I don't believe that is fair in most cases. Our community economy is heavily reliant on tourism/small business/retail operations and on service workers who are historically ill paid though often their work is considered essential as this current pandemic has starkly revealed. I have also noted several business advertising for employees, including our seniors' facilities, the hospital, dentists, construction companies, banks, our transit system and the school board. Surely our economy suffers and eventually our community is diminished for lack of a workforce, young families and others due to the lack of housing for them.

A year ago Salt Spring Solutions proposed a very comprehensive list of measures that can be taken to ensure "that every Salt Spring resident has a safe, long-term home they can afford and that is designed to minimize human impacts on the natural environment." I have considered these measures and request that you act on them, first by acknowledging that housing is a top priority issue, and second by immediately forming a formal Housing Working Group of the Trust as proposed by Laura Patrick so that Trust resources can be used to address the crisis for without viable action the problems related to housing and its ecological, climatic, and socioeconomic dimensions will become unsolvable and our vibrant community may no longer thrive. Please step up to your mandate to "preserve and protect"!

Respectfully,  
Jill Tarswell

[REDACTED]