

From: Tasha Rissling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 5:35 PM
To: ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Help! Our Staff need Housing!

Trust Committee,

The housing crisis on Salt Spring has been festering for decades but it is hitting a real breaking point today.

One year ago, housing advocates delivered a short report titled 8 tangible actions the Trust can take to address the housing crisis while protecting the environment. Each action was the result of consultations with many experts and community leaders, were deeply researched, and fell within existing regulations and the mandate of the Trust.

One year later, I am upset to hear that not one of these actions has been undertaken. In the last year I have lost four staff due to lack of housing on salt Spring. We've been forced to reduce our hours because of this.

The new Housing Working Group project proposed for the Trust is one way to move forward on this issue.

This working group proposal should be approved and housing thus made one of the top 5 priorities of the Island, with Trust staff time allocated.

The housing crisis here affects everyone, and is quickly hollowing out the working and middle class, harming our island culture and quality of life. Housing solutions can be found that protect the environment and people, but first housing has to be seen as a priority.

For me and many other business owners housing is our number one barrier to having a stable viable business. Housing is our number one concern. All my other concerns about this island stem from lack of housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tasha Rissling

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