

From: Christin Boyd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2020 10:44 AM
To: ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Housing Must Be a Top 5 Priority of the Trust

Trust Committee,

The housing crisis on Salt Spring has been a problem for a long time, but we have now reached the point where it is paramount for the continuation of our community.

I have been affected personally by this issue. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. It was 10 days before I had to vacate when I found somewhere to live. This was after looking for at least a year when my landlord told me that the house may sell - seriously looking for around 6 months when the house actually went on the market. My backup plan was to store our belongings and find somewhere to camp. Even that was not simple since there was not even anywhere available on the island to store things. It was only through the kindness of my landlord's heart that we got it. I now live in fear that if her situation ever changes, we are completely out of luck. We currently have an amazing rent and cannot even afford the going rate for a 1 bdrm place on SSI.

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.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christin Boyd

