

**From:** Executive Director <executivedirector@iwav.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 10:29 AM

**To:** ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Laura Patrick <lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Peter Grove <pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Letter of Support - Housing Challenges and Solutions as top priority

Good morning Trustees,

I am writing to you today to support and advocate for the LTC's Housing Working Group's recommendation:

*That the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee add "Housing challenges and solutions" to the Top Priority List and direct staff to develop a Project Charter for Phase 1 and a Housing Task Force terms of reference to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee for simultaneous endorsement.*

In my professional and volunteer work, I see the tremendous impact that the housing crisis has on the lives of people living in our community. Regularly, I see individuals and families living in sheds, travel trailers, tents, cars or sleeping on couches. I also see people spending ALL of their income on rent and have NOTHING left over for food, hygiene, medications, telephone or travel. With many tears, people speak about the real possibility of having to leave their community of 20 or 30 years to move away because they cannot find anywhere to live. It is important that we look to solutions that provide equity and fairness to vulnerable populations and low income folks. This will support the 'diverse community' that is a tenant of our Official Community Plan.

I urge the Trustees to support the recommendation and components of the Housing Working Groups report to the LTC on September 1. Please add *Housing challenges and solutions* to the Top Priority List. Under the leadership of the Islands Trust and with cooperation and collaboration across sectors, there can be the development of integrated solutions that recognize the interconnectedness of the social, economic and environmental factors as it intersects with housing.

Respectfully,  
Kisae Petersen

Kisae Petersen  
Executive Director  
Pronouns: She/Her

*IWAV respectfully recognizes that IWAV is located in the unceded traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples.*

