

From: Zwanette Zwanette <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 8:17 PM
To: ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: We all need a place to live.

Trust Committee,

Dear Trustees,

Yes, there is a housing shortage on Salt Spring Island.

There are homeless people in our community, some transient, but also long term residents. We all need a place to live.

There is little housing affordable to the local work force and to working families.

Without affordable housing we begin to loose our work force and our consumers. We need workers at our health care facilities and hospital, at parks, recreation, pool, library, schools and other public facilities, in retail and in the service industry.

Many local businesses have signs up trying to hire staff. One concern we hear from employers and prospective employees is that there is no affordable accommodation for people who might fill the advertised position.

Salt Spring Island has a large seniors population. There are a relatively small number of various levels of care/ assisted living facilities. But there is nothing for the independent senior with a moderate income who would like to down size from a three or more bedroom home with multiple bathrooms to a one or two bedroom home, to move to. These seniors would prefer to stay on Salt Spring. Some arrived after retirement and have been here for a decade or two. Others have been coming over from the city for a life time and have chosen to retire here. Many are life long residents. But because there is no affordable housing to downsize into theses seniors are eventually forced to moving off island. When they move we loose their spending power, their diversity, history and life experience and the value these elders add to our community.

We all need a place to live.

It is the population mix, with different income levels and with a wide range of ages, races and family make-up that makes our community viable. Without adequate affordable housing our community will become less dynamic and eventually not sustainable.

Please take immediate steps to create and support the creation of affordable housing for the homeless, working individuals and families, and seniors.

Your attention to this urgent concern is appreciated

Zwanette Pereboom

Zwanette Zwanette

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]