

**From:** Laura Patrick <[lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 26, 2020 7:36 PM  
**To:** Helen Mears <[REDACTED]>; Peter Luckham <[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Peter Grove <[pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** ssiinfo <[ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rooming houses

Helen,

I hear your frustration and concerns. We are doing all we can to advocate to the Province to provide further assistance for the homeless and at risk of homelessness. We have kicked off the Ganges Village Planning project, to help make Ganges a better environment for business now and in the future. Happy to talk with you about this project or any issue.

Laura Patrick  
250-537-6822

**From:** Helen Mears [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 26, 2020 6:50 PM  
**To:** Laura Patrick; Peter Luckham; Peter Grove  
**Subject:** Rooming houses

I am writing concerning the increasing infrastructure for homelessness and transients on SSI. Do we even know what homelessness is on Salt Spring? Or is it just a way to get funding? Renovated Shelters, Drake Rd, numerous residential houses?

There are houses being purchased or considered for rooming houses for who? People living and working here? Or those coming from other places to access free services and enabled by Community Services:

People with addiction or mental health issues aren't just needing accommodation they need meaningful services that SSI and Community Services can't offer them.

Problems are then unleashed into the community at large.

Small business, residents bear the brunt of the increasing anti-social behavior.

Just look at Centennial Park as an example. The CRD-who is responsible for managing it- can't or won't. Many islanders are too scared to go to this central park.

Not one of the 20-30 loiterers are physically distancing and nor have they been since March of this year. No by-law enforcement for them.

You tried to stop the Saturday Market-and by-law and RCMP-were there in full force- for the law-abiding locals and visitors-who have been heeding the directives from Dr. Bonnie Henry.

You ham-string or deny Pitchfork Social-10 night a year-and the Vortex-both innovative, creative projects.

But you will consider Rooming Houses that impact neighborhoods?

Helen Mears

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Helen Mears  
Curator  
Pod contemporary gallery