

From: Darlene Gage [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:19 AM
To: SSInfo
Subject: OCP Input

TO: The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Council

As a Salt Spring resident, I'm aware of how divisive the housing conversation on Salt Spring has been, particularly because of a perception that we have to choose between the affordable housing our community needs and the natural environment we all love and want to protect. But the truth is that, as a community, we agree on certain principles:

WE SUPPORT WORKFORCE HOUSING

We want to prioritize affordable housing for local workers, farmworkers, low-income, and young residents to keep our community thriving.

WE WANT TO PLAN FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

We want to change our patterns of community so that current and future affordable housing development is protected from, and does not worsen, climate impacts like floods, wildfires, and extreme weather by planning with science and future risks in mind.

WE WANT DIVERSE CLUSTERED HOUSING

We support co-housing, eco-villages, tiny homes, and multi-unit developments that are affordable, environmentally friendly, and surrounded by protected eco-systems.

WE WANT WALKABLE, CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT SERVE ALL OF US

We want to design our communities with homes, workspaces, shops, and services that are close together, affordable, and serve the needs of all Salt Springers, including seniors, families and the disabled and marginalized.

WE WANT TO RESPECT INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

We want our local government to work with local First Nations and Tribes in all planning, especially in sensitive cultural and ecological areas.

WE WANT TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

We want to ensure new development supports farmland protection and strengthens access to local food.

Because I support these principles, I'm writing in support of the report submitted to the LTC titled "Common Ground Consensus for the Future," a package of proposals generated by a diverse group of community representatives, aligned with the LTC's 3 lenses for housing input on revision of our Official Community Plan and land use bylaws, and reviewed by a planner for legality, feasibility and relevance to your process.

Details of the Consensus proposal and the Common Ground process are available at <https://transitionsaltspring.com/consensus-for-the-future> . Given the short timeframe for the LTC's public engagement, I feel the Common Ground work should be foundational to our future OCP-LUB revisions. Thank you for your time and on-going effort on behalf of all Salt Springers.

Sincerely,

Darlene Gage

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I am very grateful to live on the unceded territories of Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOTEN speaking Coast Salish people.