

From: Karen and Dave [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 8:19 PM
To: SSInfo
Subject: OCP input

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the OCP. Our comments are based on our experience as professional forest ecologists with decades of experience in land-use planning across BC.

The living earth supports us all. Living sustainably and maintaining resilience in the face of climate heating means that we must put ecological integrity above profit motives.

The Gulf Island Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems are the rarest and most endangered in BC. Pressure to develop these ecosystems is immense. Watering down OCP policies that protect these ecosystems will degrade and destroy ecosystems and decrease the resilience to climate heating. Removing legal limits to growth, as suggested, will start a cascade to Nanaimo-ification, and will not solve the affordable housing issue.

We lived in Ucluelet in the 1990s when Tofino and then Ucluelet lost affordable housing and sustainable living opportunities due to development designed for profit. All it takes is one set of officials to vote to increase development—there's no going back. Whereas keeping limits always maintains the potential for future development.

Although proposed amendments to the OCP sound minor, they enable development with fewer checks and balances. Our experience is that environmental and social impacts take a back seat to economic interests in the absence of legally-binding rules. Creating affordable housing is worthy and needed; however, there seems to be no need to remove the current legal limits: the current OCP B.2.1.2.1. allows for exceptions for "affordable housing", and there are options for non-market housing that align with the existing OCP.

Thank you,
Karen Price and Dave Daust