

From: Shannon Cowan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 12:16 AM
To: SSIIInfo
Subject: SSI OCP Community Engagement Input

TO: The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee,

I am writing to express support for the Official Community Plan review and want to point to two very important efforts that highlight many extremely useful strategies and actions that you would do well to follow in your upcoming OCP and LUB revisions.

First, 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 bylaw, and reviewed by a planner for legality, feasibility and relevance to your process. Second, the "[Homes for Islanders](#)" (2023) report published by Salt Spring Solutions. I am in support of the two above mentioned documents.

For this engagement, I wish to express that I hold these priorities here below.

I SUPPORT WORKFORCE HOUSING

In village nodes, with various alternative housing types not currently "permitted", and with incentives, funding supports, environmentally-sound building practices and alternatives to the status quo for water and energy. The solutions that make new construction environmentally-sound do exist, let's use our OCP to incentivize them.

I SUPPORT PLANNING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

I encourage the LTC in the OCP review to ensure t 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.

I SUPPORT DIVERSE CLUSTERED HOUSING

I value and support co-housing, the home-plate/eco-village model, tiny homes even on 1/4 acre lots, multi-storey dwellings and multi-unit developments that are affordable, environmentally friendly, and surrounded by protected ecosystems.

I SUPPORT COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR ACCESSIBLE, WALKABLE VILLAGES

I support planning and community design for housing and services to directly address the needs of seniors, families, those with physical disabilities and special needs, and where those who currently live in poverty and who suffer oppression are given extra supports and are invited by the design of the community to belong and heal.

I URGE YOU TO EXPLICITLY INCLUDE INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP in all planning, and not to advance planning without Indigenous participation, especially in sensitive cultural and ecological areas.

I SUPPORT PROTECTION and CENTERING OF LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

New development needs to support even more farmland protection and plan for the active protection of intact forest, intact hedgerows, old growth, estuaries, wetlands and all riparian waterways as part of the preservation of our local food system. New development planning needs to enable the creation of new viable, community-supported food production on ALR and all Non-ALR land, to incentivize more neighbourhood-scale, cooperative food farming and to prepare for the food system collapse that is inevitable.

Details of the Consensus proposal and the Common Ground process are available at <https://transitionsaltspring.com/ocp>. 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.

I also URGE the LTC to review the [Homes for Islanders report \(2023\)](#) and use the strategies from that report directly in the upcoming OCP and LUB revisions.

I am not in support of choosing between development and environmental protection. I think it is wise for the LTC to revise our OCP using as many effective concurrent tools in the planning toolbox as possible and as are currently lacking in the OCP for advancing an equitable, and environmentally-sustainable community addressing climate change with many proactive approaches.

Thank you for your time, for your ongoing commitment to local government process and to advancing priorities in the OCP and LUB revisions to enable planning and implementing change for an equitable, just, safe, environmentally-prepared and ecologically-integrated community of Salt Spring Island. Sincerely,
Shannon Cowan