Making a difference...together

SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Notice of Meeting on **Monday, May 13, 2019 at 3:00 PM**
SSI Public Library, 129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

Gary Holman	Francine Carlin	Holly MacDonald	Jason Griffin
Randy Cunningham	Janice Harkley	Darryl Martin	

(r) regrets

AGENDA

1. Approval of Agenda 1-2

2. Adoption of Minutes of March 11, 2019 3-7

3. Delegation/Presentation

4. CRD Director Report

5. Chair and Commissioner and Advisory Member Reports

5.1 Chair 8

5.2 Commissioner Reports

- **Business Emergency Planning (R. Cunningham)** 9
- **Ganges Security (D. Martin/J. Hartley)** 10
- **Park & Ride Project & On-Demand Transportation App (J. Griffin)**
- **Green Business Feasibility Project (H. MacDonald)** 11
- **Entrepreneurial Immigration Project (J. Hartley)**
- **Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society(R.Cunningham)** 13
- **Rural Islands Economic Summit (F. Carlin)** 14
- **Communication & Digital Media Report (F. Carlin)** 15-19

5.3 Islands Trust Update - Laura Patrick

5.4 Chamber of Commerce Update - Li Read

6. Outstanding Business

6.1 Red Tape Reduction Project (SSI Regulatory Roadmap) – Verbal Report Commissioner Carlin

That the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission Approves allocating an additional $2,500 towards the original $5,000 budget for the Red Tape Reduction Project to create the digital regulatory roadmap.

To ensure quorum, advise Tracey Shaver 250 537 4448 if you cannot attend.

6.2 Update on Rural Definition and Western Diversification **20-38**

That the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission recommends that the CRD Board lobby the Federal Government to include Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands in the Vancouver Island Coastal Network service boundaries.

7. New Business

7.1 Shared Business Services Program Award

7.2 Informal Dialogue-CEDC-SSI Chamber shared interests, June 5, 2019, 4:30 – 5:30 PM

That the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission agree to attend a meeting with the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce on June 5, 2019, from 4:30-5:30 pm to have a dialogue on shared interests.

7.3 Joint Commission Meeting CEDC-CESC

That the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission hold a joint meeting with the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission on June 18, 2019.

7.4 Connect Communities Initiatives

8. Closing Comments

9. Next Meeting September 9, 2019 at 4 pm SSI Public Library

10. Adjournment

Making a difference...together

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission
Held Monday March 11, 2019, in the Public Library 129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

DRAFT

Present: **CRD Director**: Gary Holman
Commission Members: Francine Carlin, Holly MacDonald (attended via telephone), Janice Harkley, Darryl Martin, Randy Cunningham, Jason Griffin
Staff: Karla Campbell, Senior Manager; Michelle Goss Baxter, Recording Secretary.
Absent:
Participants: Li Read, President, SSI Chamber, Laura Patrick, Islands Trust

Chair Carlin called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Cunningham, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Harkley,
That the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission Agenda of March 11, 2019 be approved with the addition of item 5.4 Rural Dividend Grant Application and 5.5 CRD Budget.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes of January 14, 2019

MOVED by Commissioner Martin, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Griffin,
That the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission Minutes of January 14, 2019 be amended as follows:

- Item 4.5 point 3 change "DMMO" to MRDT
- Item 4.6 point 1 change "has tag" to "hash tag"
- Item 5.3 clarify comments
- Item 6.5 point 5 change "tool kit" to "small business emergency kit"

3. Delegation/Presentation – None Registered

4. Director, Chair and Commissioner and Advisory Member Reports

4.1 Director Holman reported:

- Provided a summary of the Town Hall meeting to debrief the community on the December Storm Event
  - The meeting was well attended
  - The POD system was helpful for those PODs that were activated

    - Communications issues came up frequently as a concern
- Provided a summary of the Climate Action Workshop
- Provided a summary of the Harbour Walk Steering Committee meeting with the Marina owner
- Updated the Commission about a proposal for a new CREST tower at the Legion

MOVED by Commissioner Cunningham, **SECONDED** by Commissioner MacDonald that the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission contact the Emergency Services Coordinator to seek advice on how the Commission might engage Salt Spring Island businesses in Emergency Preparedness.

CARRIED

4.2 Chair Carlin reported:

- Provided an update on the BC Rural Islands Economic Summit
    - Will be held November 7 & 8 2019 at the Harbour House Hotel
    - Bowen Island, Denman Island, and the Southern Gulf Islands are attending
    - Seeking additional funding partners
- Attended the Transportation Commission meeting on February 25, 2019
- Awarded the Green Projects to EPI

4.3 Commissioner Cunningham reported:

- Attended a presentation by the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance
    - Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands have been designated by the Federal Government as a Foreign Trade Zone
    - Addresses taxation and duties for companies that produce goods in our Island region utilizing materials/goods imported and the finished product is exported
- Visited Destination BC to discuss the status of our MRDT application
    - The application has moved forward to the Ministry of Finance
    - We are expecting a green light in April
    - Cabinet approval in June/July
    - A letter in place in August
    - Funds by November
    - We will be held to our 5 year plan
- Updated the Commission regarding work he is doing for the SGITP
    - Researching insurance for meetings
    - Developing a work plan

Commissioner MacDonald reported:

- The creation of a Green Learning Lab will focus on the creation of products or services that seek to Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle

4.4 Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society - Update

- Commissioner Cunningham reported in item 4.3

4.5 Communication and Digital Media Report

- Report attached

4.6 Islands Trust Update - Laura Patrick

- Islands Trust provided a letter of support for the BC Rural Islands Economic Summit
- Islands Trust Council meets this week
- Islands Trust conducted a survey. Results determined that island residents are concerned with three issues; climate change, water, and housing
- There will be a public meeting on Friday, March 15 at the Harbour House Hotel from 2:30 – 5:45 PM
- There will be a meeting with Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance on April 2, 2019 to identify projects that meet the mandate of SSIWPA
- The regular Islands Trust meeting is March 26, 2019 at Harbour House Hotel

4.7 Chamber of Commerce Update – Li Read

- Li Read will be replacing Jeremy Milsom as the Chamber of Commerce representative to the Community Economic Development Commission meetings
- The Chamber of Commerce has a new Executive Director as of February 4, 2019
- Provided a summary of concerns the Chamber has regarding Ganges Village including vandalism, broken glass, and dog issues
    - The Chamber will report back to the Community Economic Development Commission as they investigate and come up with next steps
- Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Harkley will work with the Chamber to find solutions to security issues in and around the Ganges core. Part of this work will be to research what other communities do for crime prevention

5. Outstanding Business

5.1 Red Tape Reduction – Civic Portal Project - Update

- The project is on hold due to the complexity of the design

5.2 CRD-EA – Community Futures

- No status update at this time

5.3 Awarded Green Business Projects to EcoPlan International

- Establishing deliverables

- Several meetings will be planned
- Commissioner MacDonald will be going to the #BCTech Summit

5.4 Rural Dividend Grant Application

- An application has been submitted. No decisions have been made yet

5.5 CRD Budget

- Scheduled to be approved on March 20, 2019

Additional Item 5.6 added to Agenda

5.6 Saturday Market Shuttle Service

- Commissioner Carlin attended the Transportation Commission meeting as a delegate
- A Work BC grant may be available for Shuttle Service
- Li Read will bring herself up to speed and email Commissioner Carlin with suggestions
- Commissioner Carlin will organize a meeting between the CEDC, Chamber of Commerce, and other relevant groups regarding a Saturday Market Shuttle Service
- Commissioner Griffin offered to be a part of the group that works on the Saturday Market Shuttle Service project

6. New Business

6.1 Discussion: Climate Change Lense – A holistic vision for social and economic transformation.

- We need to look at climate change through an economic and a social lens
- A Climate Action Plan needs to involve all aspects of Salt Spring Island
- All projects need to be looked at through “People, Profit, Planet”
- We need to help people understand that working with climate change does not reduce the economy
- Director Holman suggested that the Community Economic Development Commission have a liaison to the Climate Action Group
    - Commissioner Griffin volunteered to be a liaison to the Climate Action Group

7. Next Meeting May 13, 2019 at 4 pm SSI Public Library

8. Adjournment

MOVED By Commissioner Cunningham, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Martin,
That the meeting adjourn at 6:00 pm

CHAIR

SENIOR MANAGER

CEDC PUBLIC MEETING – May 13, 2019—CHAIR REPORT

Since the March 11, 2019 CEDC Public Meeting:

1. **Served As Lead In The Following Projects**

   a. BC Rural Islands Economic Summit (*separate report*)

2. **Served As Co-Lead On The Following Projects**

   a. Green Business Feasibility Study
   b. Red Tape Reduction
   c. Shared Business Services Program
   d. CEDC Communication & Digital Media Activities

3. **Served In An Ad-Hoc Capacity**

   a. Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society – Transition Committee
      - Chambers Transition Planning
      - SSI-SGI- Community Engagement Sessions
      - Tourism Sector Research and Branding

   b. Park n' Ride Project
   c. BC Entrepreneur Immigration Program Application

4. **Communication & Information Sharing & Relationship Building**

   a. Jessica Harkema new SSI Chamber Manager
   b. Director Holman
   c. CRD Manager, Karla Campbell
   d. Li Read, SSI Chamber President
   e. SSI – Connected Communities representatives

5. **SSI-SGI Collaboration**

   a. Ongoing advocacy – collaborating with CRD-EA Director Howe; Justine Starke, staff re: ICET and Community Futures access
   b. Liaison with Melody Pender, assistant to D. Howe
   c. Mamie Hutt Tamona – SGI Consultant re: independent governance models

6. **Additional**

   a. Attended Export Navigator presentation and followed-up with participants
   b. CEDC + document management

Business Interruption

After our last CEDC meeting a follow up on the discussion we had regarding plans for businesses to get back up and running quickly after a serious 'event' was undertaken. Events such as the Big Blow we had late last year and then again, the Big Snow we experienced in February highlighted the need. As we know it is critical that many of our businesses get up and running again as soon as possible as they keep our community supplied with many essentials.

If critical supplies such as groceries, medical supplies/medications, fuel etc. is interrupted then we have a problem, so this is not only important to many of our businesses but to the community at large.

Elizabeth Zook (SSI Electoral Area Emergency Coordinator and Emergency Support Services Director) is our 'go to' resource on this topic. Elizabeth shared that there had been some presentations/workshops for the broad business community in order to discuss 'business interruption' strategies. The participation and outcomes varied, and Elizabeth had some ideas on alternate approaches that might help reach more businesses. She welcomed assistance from the CEDC.

I would recommend that we invite Ms Zook to one of our CEDC meetings to briefly inform our commission about Emergency Services Efforts and obtain some suggestions as to what we and others could do to reach our business community on this important topic.

At any rate I have not done anything further on this file, but it would be a natural for the Chamber and CEDC to jointly try to rally our businesses to an info session (format and content to be developed with our Emergency Support Services director). The goal is to help business understand our community's resources in a way that will allow effective risk management and minimize impacts to both business community and the community at large.

Randy Cunningham – Commissioner SSI CEDC

May 8, 2019

Commissioner Martin Report:

Ganges Security Represented CEDC at 2 meetings organized by Ian Clement of Chamber to address Ganges Security. Major Ganges concerns appear to be:

- Significant increase this year in vandalism events, primarily broken windows.
- Gradual increase in disruptive behaviour in public areas.

An additional factor, shared with most coastal communities, is an increased number of people without adequate housing. The issues are difficult to improve in the short term, particularly so on SSI with its fragmented local governance framework. If unchecked, trends identified could have a dampening effect on tourism, and on citizens' enjoyment of Ganges. Have provided information and suggestions, will continue to assist Chamber where possible.

A proposal to retain a consultant is being considered.

VICEDA (Vancouver Island Coast Economic Developers Association Meeting Attended quarterly meeting in Nanaimo as it included a tour of the Nanaimo Makerspace and a presentation on how it was created. Appears successful.
Heard presentation on CleanBC program.

Commissioner Report – May 2019

Submitted by Holly MacDonald

Rural Business Accelerator Update

- **Received funding** from the Rural Dividend fund to run our pilot **Shared Business Services.** The intent is to provide support for micro-businesses as they scale and to do so in a sustainable way. Services we'll be exploring:
    - Marketing
    - Branding/co-branding
    - Sales
    - Distribution and shipping
    - IT/Admin
    - Labour
- **School District 64 is developing an Entrepreneurship 12 course to be dual credit with Camosun College.** High school students will participate in the GISS course, which blends together the Camosun curriculum with the RBA topics to give it the uniquely rural twist. Community members will take the Camosun course and access a large portion of the course online with Friday in-person days. This will allow existing Camosun students to take the course and any community member to take the course. This will run Jan – June 2020. We hope to find some synergies with the Shared Business Services. We also hope this will enable us to run another cohort of the RBA in partnership with SD64/Camosun.
- Continue to use the services of the Export Navigator. We'll link in with him as we develop the Shared Business Services.

Green Learning Lab

- We are focused on **demonstrating that investing in green solutions is good for the economy and good for the planet.**
- EcoPlan International has been working with us to determine the kind of Green Learning Lab that would be viable on Salt Spring Island.
- We envision a "learning lab" where organizations could test hardware and software solutions on issues that we need help with solving: water (quality and quantity, energy, food security, transportation, and waste management), and that are challenges other rural communities (in Canada and abroad) need solving. We hope that our learning lab would help them test things in a more economical way.
- We also see the value in providing user adoption approaches to solve the problems as well. We want to both support the green sector here, but also establish Salt Spring as an innovator in uptake of green solutions (learn from the EV group, document in a playbook and replicate).
- We'd also like to engage in discussion around provincial code that could be modernized, be tested here:
    - Rainwater harvesting
    - Building code – specifically as it relates to "green" construction
- We welcome a meeting with the Climate Action group to share and support each other.

Red Tape Reduction

- The intent of this project is to develop education that outlines the entire process involved in land-use and development for commercial applications in a visual way. We want to help applicants understand the process and link to the various organizations that own the specifics.
- We've engaged a researcher who can help create the structure, working with the various entities, and we're in the process of locating an illustrator and/or a motion graphic expert to package it.
- Need a new name – commercial development navigator?

Salt Spring Digital

- Continue to co-host a monthly get together for techies and creatives. In recent meetings (to give you a flavour):
    - Two new residents who work for a large Canadian tech firm moved here and work remotely.
    - A couple who are "digital nomads" spent a month living/working on Salt Spring before heading off on another adventure.
    - Someone who owns a digital business with several offices in North America is interested in starting a local office which would be a low-impact business.
    - Discussed the Salt Spring Digital model with someone who sees the need for similar service for Campbell River. Shared the group "Rural on Purpose" someone I met at a BC Tech Summit. This person lives part time here, part time in Vancouver and runs an Artificial Intelligence company. She is supported through Spring – a Social Enterprise Accelerator.
    - Discussed doing profiles of digital folks with the Community Radio

Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society

This nascent entity continues to develop on many fronts:

- A list of strategic priorities has been developed and is now being pursued as resources allow
- The core funding has now been received which is allowing initiation of some projects requiring the dollars. Grants have been applied for as well to help supplement the core funds and get some critical projects on the go. However, the funding from the Destination BC MRDT program is still in process as we await Cabinet approval of our application. The MRDT program allows our Island accommodators to collect the MRD Tax from the visitors staying with them. These funds are returned to SGITP. Funds from this program are expected to begin in the Fall.
- Engagement with current Island DMO's is in process to discuss the new relationship between SGITP which will focus on our SGI/SSI region and how we can work with each Island's existing knowledge and expertise. Additionally, discussion about the transition for several functions of existing DMO's to SGITP is being explored.
- Research is beginning to develop data about visitors to all our Islands which has been lacking. Information such as who is visiting, where they come from, why do they visit the Gulf Islands.
- A full communications plan is being developed initially to get SGITP's operating name and identity established and from there begin to create a 'presence' including an online identity.
- Engagement with each Island community is in process. After a good meeting on the Penders organized by the Pender community SGITP is initiating similar outreach for the other Islands. Salt Spring's Meeting is scheduled for May 14th at 5 pm.
- Research is beginning on labour requirements and related topics such as housing
- Research is ongoing on connectivity between the islands and various levels.

Randy Cunningham – Commissioner SSI CEDC

BC RURAL ISLANDS ECONOMIC SUMMIT – REPORT TO CEDC MEETING – May 13, 2019

The 2019 British Columbia Rural Islands Economic Summit will focus on economic capacity building for BC's rural island communities – Bowen, Cormorant, Cortes, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Malcom, Mayne, Pender, Quadra, Saturna, Texada, Thetis, and Salt Spring Island. Location: November 7-8, Poets Cove Retreat Centre, Pender Island, BC.

The Summit will be educational, informational and action-oriented. It will gather together local rural island – economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, local businesses, community organizations, First Nations, local governments. A 'rural island lens' will be applied to understand and address common challenges, knowledge, and experiences, related to cultivating and sustaining rural island sustainable economic health.

Interim Working Group

- Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre – *Project Holder*
- Salt Spring Island Community Economic Commission
- Gabriola Island Economic Development Office

Initial Funding Partners:

- Western Economic Diversification Community Economic Dev. and Diversification Division
  - $12, 000.
- Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)
  - $8000.
- Southern Gulf Islands Community Sustainability Commission (CESC)
  - $2000.
- Bowen Island Economic Development Committee
  - $1500.00
- Island Savings Credit Union
  - $2500.00
- Gabriola Island
  - $1000.
- WorkBC – Labour Market Partnership Grant (application pending)
  - $30,000.

Letters of Support

- Islands Trust Council • Islands Savings Credit Union • BC Rural Centre • SGI-CESC • SSI-CEDC • San Juan Economic Dev. • Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society • Discovery Islands Chamber

Launch of Steering Committee

Currently there are representatives from 13 of the rural islands residing in the Northern and Southern Gulf Islands and Howe Sound who have been invited to participate in the launch of the Steering Committee, May 16th, via zoom. A pre-meeting survey to confirm Summit themes high-level logistics will shape the agenda. Sub-Committees for Program, Administration, Sponsorship, Registration are being formed.

Summit Outcomes & Next Steps

The conference will produce a report that outlines the labour market strategies and an operational roadmap for key objectives as determined by the Summit. Primary goal is to establish a rural islands communication network – online communication forums to facilitate on-going dialogue, information sharing, partnership development, and leverage for collaborative action towards achieving common economic goals across BC's rural islands.

CEDC Opportunity Salt Spring – Media/ Digital Communications Report: April 1 to April 30, 2019

Opportunity Salt Spring Website Stats:
April 1 to April 30, 2019:

- Page views: 460 – down slightly
- New Users: 157 – down slightly
- Pages view/ session: 2.40 down slightly

Insights: Returning visitors 11.8% down slightly
New visitors: 88.2% up slightly

Twitter Stats April:

- Current followers: 122 – up by 4 followers
- Following: 91
- Posts: 391

Holding steady with our twitter followers

We also generated 2,589 views on these five tweets:

- Spotlighted the return of the Saturday Market, April 5
- Noted Opportunity alert for a job at TJ Beans, April 8
- Previewed the Forum Talk on Space Junk, April 10
- Promoted the Easter Art Tour, and Venter Gallery, April 19
- Highlighted BC Destinations naming Seven Seasons cookbook, April 30

Tweet Activity:
We drew attention to the biggest tourism draw on Salt Spring with our most popular tweet, the return of the Saturday Market. With Easter in the mix we also featured the Easter Art Tour and a forum event that brought Ted Talk speaker Dr. Moriba Jah to the island. Travel news included 8 things to do for nature lovers on SSI and Destination BC's write-up of Seven Seasons cookbook. We noted the good news about the new owners of Black Sheep Books and job alerts for TJ Beans, Salt Spring Ales, and the Salt Spring Summer Library Program Coordinator position. We also noted the Agricultural Alliances AGM and brought attention to the Salt Spring Digital meet-up as well as EV tips for Earth Day.

Sample Profiled Tweets:

OppSaltSpring @OpportunitySSI · Apr 5

The famed SSI Saturday Market opens tomorrow! Meet over 140 artisans & food producers contributing to the island's reputation as a hotbed of world-class artists & organic farmers #saltspringisland saltspringmarket.com/salt-spring-is...

4 6

Tweet Activity

OppSaltSpring @OpportunitySSI
Dr. Moriba Jah on space junk **@moribajah** visits **#SaltSpring** Thursday, April 11th at **@GISecondary** for the Forum **@saltspringforum** Not just landing rovers on Mars, Dr. Jah has more experience w/ Space than most astronauts! https://mailchi.mp/908b27228f89/spacejunk ... pic.twitter.com/dw45nTruQD

Impressions	325
Total engagements	3
Replies	1
Retweets	1
Likes	1

The CEDC **Facebook page** now has 320 likes on Facebook as a platform. Sample Facebook Posts from April 1 to April 30 generated the following:

04/30/2019 12:55 PM	According to the Salt Spring Fire Department, "There are no current burning restrictions, but please use caution when burning as the fire danger is increasing each day." #StayInformed			61
04/23/2019 2:14 PM	Own a piece of Salt Spring history! The Howe Sound Queen or Vesuvius ferry goes on the auction block in late June. The only caveat, the asset may not be fit for use and may require			175
04/22/2019 12:31 PM	Great tips from our local EV Group on charging on island. Leading the way on sustainable transportation on this Earth Day. #RurallyInspired https://saltspringexchange.com/2019/04			71
04/19/2019 5:00 PM	Get your art on! The 13th annual Easter Art Tour is now underway at Mahon Hall. It's also the 1st anniversary of the Venter Gallery in Grace Point Square, pop by and celebrate with			33
04/17/2019 12:35 PM	Just two of the new board members joining the Farmland Trust. Julie Kaija and Amber Billard are involved in the many new endeavours going on. Be sure to watch out for news			73
04/16/2019 5:51 PM	If you are curious about Salt Spring Digital - put this in your calendar!			62
04/15/2019 7:09 PM	Great news folks! #BuyLocal #LocalBizAnnouncement			131
04/12/2019 12:17 PM	#OpportunityAlert A summer position at the Salt Spring Library! Ideal for a post-secondary student who wants to gain valuable and rewarding work experience working with the public			111
04/10/2019 12:55 PM	At the Salt Spring Forum this week! From landing rovers on Mars to representing the US in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Dr. Moriba Jah has more			59
04/08/2019 5:39 PM	#OpportunityAlert TJ Beans Coffee Shop is looking for some good people. You can drop off a resume at the shop. Great people, great coffee in Ganges. https://saltspringexchange.com			182
04/05/2019 3:26 PM	April 6 marks the start of the famed Saturday Market! Meet over 140 artisans and food producers who all contribute to Salt Spring's international reputation as a hotbed of world-			206
04/03/2019 12:52 PM	The SSI Agricultural Alliance AGM gets underway this afternoon Wednesday, April 3 from 4:00 to 6:00pm in the Farmers' Institute upstairs meeting room. All members of member			48
04/02/2019 12:15 PM	Congratulations to The Fishbowl Magazine! For ten fabulous years you've enriched our experience as islanders covering arts, entertainment and culture. Here's to many more			72
04/01/2019 5:30 PM	Opportunity Alert! Seeking employment and have a passion for beer? Salt Spring Island Ales is hiring both tasting room & brewery production staff. https://saltspringexchange.com			54

Facebook Activity:
The famed Saturday Market was also the most popular post on Facebook in April followed by the news that the Howe Sound Queen was on the auction block. Events that gained traction included the Easter Art Tour and the Forum's Junk in Space Talk. The news of the purchase of Black Sheep Books was very popular and garnered the most engagements, as was the job alert at TJ Beans. We also helped promote job postings at the library and at Salt Spring Ales. The news that the Farmland Trust has two new board members was also posted with a pic.

Users reached in April: 1338

Sample Facebook Posts:

What we did:

- In April, we highlighted activities on island including the opening of the Saturday Market, and the Easter Art Tour both popular attractions
- We spotlighted things making news like the sale of the Howe Sound Queen and the local purchase of Black Sheep Books
- We ensured islanders were in the loop about job opportunities on three fronts, Salt Spring Ales, TJ Beans and at the Library
- We brought forward the news the Farmland Trust has two new board members and that the Fishbowl turned ten. We also kept folks up to date on Salt Spring Digital, the Salt Spring Forum and tips from the EV Group for Earth Day

What we will be doing:

- In May, we'll finally introduce our first Opportunity Profile with a Q&A on the new page on the Opportunity Salt Spring website
- We'll launch our new blog "A Green Lab" for a fresh week as part of the BC Economic Development Week, from May 6th to 12th
- We'll update images that bring a "spring theme" to the forefront
- We'll continue to build conversations on twitter to build followers as we did in April
- Highlight local business activities that build on the "live & work" theme

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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MAY 8, 2019

SUBJECT **UPDATE ON RURAL DEFINITION AND WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION**

ISSUE

The unincorporated electoral areas of the Southern Gulf Islands, Juan de Fuca, and Salt Spring Island are within the Capital Regional District but contain communities that are rural by character, geography, population size, and capacity to sustain services. These small communities struggle with economic sustainability and the ability to improve community infrastructure. The electoral areas are excluded from some rural economic development and infrastructure funding programs as a result of being a part of the Capital Regional District (CRD), which is otherwise characterized by mostly urban municipalities.

BACKGROUND

In recognition that rural areas lack the service capacity or base to sustain services, the Federal and Provincial governments have established grant programs, criteria, and policy specifically targeting rural communities. Within British Columbia, the distribution of federal and provincial funding through grant program offers critical support to rural areas and smaller communities. The inclusion of the three electoral areas within the CRD does not provide for regional subsidies or the redistribution of funds to support local services. Further, the *Islands Trust Act*, applicable to the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Areas, establishes an obligation to preserve and protect the islands and their rural character on behalf of all the people of British Columbia.

The Capital Regional District has requested the BC government classify the electoral areas as rural so that they may qualify and receive the benefits from Provincial and Federal Government rural funding programs.

In 2016, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities passed a resolution asking the Provincial Government to officially recognize and classify the three CRD electoral areas as rural communities.

On July 11, 2018, the Electoral Areas Committee passed the following relevant resolutions:

> *That the subject of CRD Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Broadband Internet Connectivity be deferred until the issue of rural definition can be clarified.*
>
> *That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board: That the attached late resolution be submitted to UBCM for consideration at this fall's AGM.*
>
> *That the Capital Regional District Board write a letter to the Federal Government requesting that the three Electoral Areas be declared as rural for the purposes of economic development funding.*

On February 13, 2019, the Electoral Areas Committee passed the following resolution:

> *That staff explore options to do business with Western Economic Diversification Canada to pursue funding in the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island Electoral Areas.*

On March 13, 2019, the Electoral Areas Committee passed the following resolution:

> *That the Capital Regional District Board Chair send a letter to MLA Olson to request clarification of the current position of the Province regarding the rural definition and confirm inclusion in the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) program.*

A letter dated March 14, 2019 was sent from Chair Plant to MLA Olsen (attached). The MLA's staff confirmed he has received the letter and is committed to working towards resolving the issue.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1:

That the Electoral Areas Committee receive this report for information.

Alternative 2:

That this item be refered back to staff for more information.

DISCUSSION

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) sponsors Community Futures, a community and economic development program focused on creating jobs outside of major urban centres. Community Futures programs are run by non-profit corporations with volunteer boards of directors, and supported by salaried staff. There is not a Community Futures centre serving the Southern Gulf Islands or Salt Spring Island. The closest WD service centre is the Cowichan Community Futures Office, but the office does not include the Electoral Areas in their stated service area.

On August 2, 2018, the CRD Office of the Board Chair sent a letter to the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development in the House of Commons requesting that, "the three Electoral Areas be declared as "rural" for eligibility for economic development funding."

On August 30, 2018, the office of Minister Bains responded with confirmation that, "the WDP welcomes project proposals from organizations that promote economic growth in response to changing and challenging economic circumstances in their communities. Eligibility is not based on a community's rural or urban classification; rather, proposals are evaluated on the potential for the project to contribute to the community's economic development."

The Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission Chair has also been advocating for inclusion of the SSI and SGI Electoral Areas in Provincial and Federal funding programs. She requested to present a delegation to the Cowichan Futures board but has so far not been successful.

CRD staff have consulted with staff from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD). The following information has been clarified:

- Community Futures is open to applicants from the Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Areas, despite the mapped service boundaries on the Cowichan Community Futures website.

- Community Futures provides loans to entrepreneurs, it is not a granting agency.
- WD's Regional Innovation Ecosystem (RIE) program is geared to assisting small businesses focussed on innovation, clustered business development, and inclusiveness (programs that target underrepresented groups such as women and indigenous youth). WD staff can help applicants understand how to gear their projects towards the WD priorities.
- The WD staff would be pleased to assist entrepeneurs and businesses from the island communities to make applications for funding from the programs they run, including the RIE program.

Province of British Columbia Rural Dividend and Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Province of British Columbia has been requested to make the CRD Electoral Areas permanently eligible for the Rural Dividend Program and to advance an Order in Council recommending cabinet approval to include them in the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET). The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) provides funding for economic diversification, planning and regional revitalization in the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast region. To date, over $50 million in funding has been approved to support more than 200 projects resulting in total regional investments of more than $280 million. The Capital Regional District is not included in the Vancouver Island ICET program. A change in legislation is required to enable inclusion.

At the January 9, 2019 Electoral Areas Committee meeting, the EAC received a verbal update from Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lapham which clarified the rural definition issue is a result of restrictive eligibility criteria for individual funding programs and not the result of any general Provincial or Federal legislation classifying the Electoral Areas as urban or rural. In late 2018, the CAO and the Director of the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area attended a meeting with the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, where the Minister committed to advancing the Order in Council to amend provincial legislation and include the CRD Electoral Areas in the ICET program. It is felt that such commitments from the Minister reduce the need for any further request for consideration of this issue by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, if such a resolution would even be accepted for consideration, given UBCM's existing resolution on the same issue. Please see the correspondence attached to this report.

CONCLUSION

Funding for economic development in the CRD Electoral Areas is available on a project by project basis. While the CRD Electoral Areas are currently excluded from the ICET program, the Province of BC has committed to amending legislation to remedy this. The Province has been continuing to include the CRD Electoral Areas in the Rural Dividend program as evidenced in the attached letter from Minister Robinson.

While the SSI and SGI Electoral areas are not included in the mapped catchment area of the Cowichan Community Futures Office, entrepreneurs from these communities are eligible and able to make application for Community Future loans. There are also other programs run by Western Economic Diversification Canada that community businesses and projects from within the Electoral Areas may take advantage of.

It is understood that the economic struggles of the EAs differ and are distinct from those of the CRD's member municipalities, but there is not a general legislative amendment required at the Provincial or Federal levels to change the classification of the CRD Electoral Areas to be "rural." CRD staff can continue to assist the SSI and SGI communities by facilitating Federal and Provincial infrastructure and economic development funding as opportunities arise.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Areas Committee receive this report for information.

Submitted by:	Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, JD, General Manager, Corporate Service and Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

WRITERS INITIALS:js

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Relevant correspondence

From: Carolyn Jenkinson
To: adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca
Cc: bruce.ralston.mla@leg.bc.ca; CRDBoard; Robert Lapham
Subject: Letter from CRD Board Chair Re: CRD Electoral Areas Rural Status
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 4:26:34 PM
Attachments: 2019-03-19OutgoingLettertoMLAAdamOlsenElectoralAreaRuralStatus.pdf
CorrespondenceRelatingToCRDElectoralAreasRuralStatus.pdf

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Please find enclosed a letter from CRD Board Chair Colin Plant regarding the CRD Electoral Areas Rural Status.

Many thanks,

Carolyn Jenkinson | Manager, Executive Administration
Office of the CAO and Board Chair
(250) 360-3125 | Capital Regional District
www.crd.bc.ca | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube

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March 19, 2019

File: 0400-20

Mr. Adam Olsen
MLA Saanich North and the Islands
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Via email: adam.olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Olsen:

RE: CRD ELECTORAL AREAS RURAL STATUS

I am writing on behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board to convey the CRD's request for clarification of the current position of the Provincial government regarding the rural definition for the three CRD Electoral Areas (Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island) as well as confirmation of their inclusion in the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

Please see correspondence related to the request attached.

Sincerely,

Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

Attachment: Correspondence

cc: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade & Technology
CRD Board
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD

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January 4, 2018

File: 0400-50 Premier

Premier John Horgan
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan:

RE: DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL FUNDING THROUGH GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT RURAL AREAS AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES

Within British Columbia the distribution of Federal and Provincial funding through grant programs is critical to support rural areas and smaller communities. The Federal and Provincial governments have recognized that rural areas lack the service capacity or base to sustain services and have established specific grant programs or grant criteria and policy to enable rural areas to access these funds.

The Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas of the Capital Regional District (CRD) have been wrongfully classified as urban centers due to their inclusion with the CRD. As you know, the decision to exclude these rural districts from rural programs and funding does not reflect their geography, land use or capacity to sustain services. The inclusion of the electoral areas with the CRD does not provide for subsidies or the redistribution of funds to support local services. Further, the Islands Trust Act applicable to the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas establishes an obligation to preserve and protect the islands and their rural character on behalf of all the people of British Columbia.

The CRD Board has considered this issue and has resolved to request that your government correctly classify the CRD's three electoral areas as rural, so that they may qualify and receive the benefits from Provincial and Federal Government programs that are directed at rural communities.

Currently the CRD's three electoral areas are excluded from the provincially funded Island Coastal Economic Trust (I.C.E.T) and the federally funded Community Futures program. I.C.E.T. alone has contributed over 50 million dollars to coastal communities from Lake Cowichan to Port Hardy and from Gabriola Island to Lund. Every Gulf Island and rural community outside the CRD has been included. Although Nanaimo is considered a rural center, Salt Spring Island, Mayne Island, Pender Island, Port Renfrew, Shirley and Otter Point are considered urban.

In addition to I.C.E.T., programs such as the HST exclusion on rural cottages, BC Rural Dividend grant program and specific grant programs directed at Provincial rural communities have specifically excluded the three electoral areas of the CRD. Community Futures, sponsored by the Federal Government has excluded the three electoral areas because they follow the Provincial classification.

In 2016, UBCM passed a resolution asking the Provincial Government to officially recognize and classify the three CRD electoral areas as rural communities. I would respectfully ask that your government include the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas in I.C.E.T., include them in all rural programs and grant opportunities and inform the Federal Government of your re-classification so that they may receive the benefits of the Community Futures program.

I understand that you have arranged for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to meet with the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director, Mike Hicks, to discuss this request and that he has invited the other two electoral area Directors and our CAO to attend. On behalf of the CRD Board we appreciate your quick action to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

Steve Price
Board Chair, Capital Regional District

cc: The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mike Hicks, Director, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, CRD
David Howe, Director, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area, CRD
Wayne McIntyre, Director, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, CRD
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD

BRITISH COLUMBIA

RECEIVED
FEB 26 2018
JdF Electoral Area Planning

February 21, 2018

Ref: 231875

Adam Olsen, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands
215 – 2506 Beacon Ave
Sidney BC V8L 4T9

Mike Hicks, Director
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
Capital Regional District
3-7450 Butler Rd
Sooke BC V9Z 1N1

Dear Mr. Olsen and Director Hicks:

I appreciate your concerns regarding your communities' access to the Rural Dividend, the Island Coastal Communities Economic Trust and Community Futures programs. I also appreciated the opportunity to hear your perspectives respecting how senior government grant programs may exclude your rural communities.

The Rural Dividend Program (RDP) is under the responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development. I am pleased that the RDP's goal is to assist small rural communities across British Columbia. Rural is defined as a community with a population of 25,000 or less, located outside the geographic boundaries of Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District (CRD). However, I understand that, following an initial request to the program, the RDP has consistently provided exceptions for the communities within the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area and Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

Over the three intakes to date, the RDP has funded multiple projects in these areas. I have enclosed a list of approved projects for rural areas of the CRD. I also understand that Minister Donaldson is currently reviewing the Program, and to ensure that he is aware of your views, I will share with him your correspondence and I also encourage you to connect with him directly.

The Island Coastal Communities Trust (ICET) is the responsibility of the Honorable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology. The boundaries of the ICET are defined in legislation and regulation. Any changes would need to consider the views of the Trust Board and other stakeholders. I am pleased to bring your concerns to the attention of Minister Ralston.

.../2

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Phone: 250 387-2283
Fax: 250 387-4312

Location:
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

http://www.gov.bc.ca/mah

Community Futures is a federal program which promotes socio-economic development across Canada and provides funds to community societies. Please note that societies created to access federal resources under this program umbrella are eligible for provincial Rural Dividend grants as well. I will discuss this issue with Minister Ralston, and suggest that he consider your concerns as he engages with his federal counterpart. I will also send a copy of this letter to the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, to ensure an appreciation for including small rural communities in any future programs.

Provincially, we will also ensure the consideration of small rural communities' eligibility in future grant programs. I look forward to working with both of you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister

Enclosure

Honourable John Horgan, MLA
Langford - Juan De Fuca

The Honourable Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Honourable Bruce Ralston
Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

List of Grants Provided to CRD Rural Communities

1. Port Renfrew Tourism Trail
   - Organization: Capital Regional District: Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation
   - Funding Provided: $10,000
   - Project Description: This project will include a feasibility study for Port Renfrew Tourism Trail. This trail will link the San Juan River Bridge to the Community Pier at Snuggery Cove, connecting tourists to local businesses.

2. Rural Accelerator
   - Organization: Capital Regional District: Salt Spring Island
   - Funding Provided: $72,080
   - Project Description: This project will launch a structured program to support local businesses by offering training, mentoring, and access to capital.

3. Pacheedaht Campground Improvement & Expansion
   - Organization: Pacheedaht First Nation
   - Funding Provided: $100,000
   - Project Description: The project is for improvement and additions to the Pacheedaht "North End" Campground to increase the service and experience offerings for customers.

4. Experience the Gulf Islands – Concept Plan Implementation
   - Organization: Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce & Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Consortium
   - Funding Provided: $10,000
   - Project Description: This project will support a previously developed tourism strategy by: (1) completing outreach/engagement; (2) developing an inter-island committee and committee coordination for the tourism initiative; (3) secure a formal endorsement of the tourism initiative; and (4) develop an application for a larger project for the Rural Dividend to implement the tourism initiative.

5. Building Pender Islands Economy Through Edu-Tourism
   - Organization: Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society
   - Funding Provided: $77,760
   - Project Description: Project will develop and implement an Edu-Tourism project on the Pender Islands. The project will include Youth and Seniors Advisory Councils.

6. Port Renfrew Tourism Trail – Phase 1
   - Organization: Capital Regional District: Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation
   - Funding Provided: $89,194
   - Project Description: This project will fund Phase 1 construction of the Port Renfrew Tourism Trail project. The project will achieve an off-street trail route through the town of Port Renfrew, linking the Community Centre to Beach Camp, the waterfront and a range of tourism attractions and small businesses, with a clear focus on highlighting the recreation and scenic values of the community.

7. Salt Spring Island Farm Centre Program Development
   - Organization: Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society
   - Funding Provided: $100,000
   - Project Description: This project will support the development of the Salt Spring Island Farm Centre, which will provide future program and services to increase local food production, value-added processing, food education, and consumption of locally grown foods. Project activities include the refinement of business and financial plans, marketing and training.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development

CLIFF 236033

February 28, 2018

Steve Price
Board Chair, Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria B.C. V8W 2S6

Dear Mr. Price:

Thank you for your letter dated January 4, 2018, regarding the issue of rural classification for the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas. I always appreciate the chance to hear from leaders working to improve their communities.

For the purposes of the Rural Dividend program, the B.C. government defines rural communities as those with populations of 25,000 or less outside of the Capital Regional District and Greater Vancouver Regional District.

However, given the unique circumstances of some communities within the geographic boundaries of urban areas, the program has made exceptions to these criteria where appropriate. This is true for the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas, as all are considered eligible for Rural Dividend funding.

In the coming months we will be examining opportunities to improve the Rural Dividend as part of a larger initiative to create a new Rural Development Strategy. I would welcome your input into this process, and encourage you to provide your advice on this and other rural development issues by visiting our website www.engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraldevelopment before February 28 at 4 p.m.

In regards to funding opportunities from the Island Coastal Economic Trust and Community Futures, I would encourage you to follow up with those organizations directly, as these entities determine the eligibility requirements of their programs.

Once again thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Claudia Trudeau
Director

pc: Premier Office
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

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Office of the Board Chair
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC, V8W2S6

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June 19, 2018

File: 0400-20

Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Honourable Robinson:

RE: Reclassification of the three CRD Electoral Areas as Rural Communities

Thank you for meeting with Wayne McIntyre, Mike Hicks and Robert Lapham on January 23, 2018 to discuss the reclassification of the three CRD electoral areas as rural communities so that they may qualify and receive the benefits from Provincial and Federal Government programs that are directed at rural communities.

I was advised that the take away from that meeting was that your office would be taking steps to make this change so that the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring and Gulf Islands electoral areas could be included in the Island Coastal Economic Trust (I.C.E.T.) and any other Provincial or Federal Programs available to rural communities in British Columbia.

It would be appreciated if you could provide an update on any additional measures being taken to include the three CRD electoral areas in I.C.E.T. as well as including them in all rural programs and grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

Steve Price
Board Chair, Capital Regional District

cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier, MLA Langford-Juan de Fuca
Wayne McIntyre, Director, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area
Mike Hicks, Director, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
David Howe, Director, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Regional District

Islands Trust

200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8
Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 660-2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**
Email information@islandstrust.bc.ca
Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

July 11, 2018

File Number: 0400-30; 4700-20

via e-mail: premier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of BC
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan:

Re: Designate Islands Trust Area for Rural Dividend Program Funding

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council I am writing to request that the Province designate all islands in the Islands Trust Area as permanently eligible for Rural Dividend Program funding and other granting programs for rural communities, including the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

It has been a long-standing concern that the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas and Bowen Island have been ineligible for economic development and infrastructure programs intended for rural communities due to their inclusion within the Capital Regional District (CRD) and Metro Vancouver Regional District. The decision to exclude these rural areas from rural programs and funding does not reflect the islands' rural character, geography, land use or capacity to sustain services. Without access to these funding sources, rural island communities find it difficult to sustain community resiliency in the face of social and economic changes and to execute projects that improve community infrastructure.

In 2016, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities passed a resolution asking the Province to officially recognize and classify the three CRD electoral areas as rural communities. The three CRD electoral areas are now eligible for the Rural Dividend Program and I understand Bowen Island has been granted temporary eligibility. However, they remain ineligible for grants from the Island Coastal Economic Trust. We are requesting that the Province of BC make all islands in the Islands Trust Area permanently eligible for the Rural Dividend Program and the Island Coastal Economic Trust, and any other existing or future granting programs intended for rural communities.

The object of the Islands Trust as set out in the *Islands Trust Act* is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.

.../2

We appreciate your consideration of this request. There are many First Nations who have asserted Aboriginal interests in the Trust Area and many who have established harvesting rights. Although we copy First Nations on all correspondence such as this, we have not directly heard their positions on rural funding programs. Given our commitment to establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship with First Nations, we offer the Islands Trust position while being ready to respectfully consider their positions.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Morrison
Acting Chair, Islands Trust Council
smorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc: The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Islands Trust Area MLAs
Island Coastal Economic Trust Board of Directors
Union of British Columbia Municipalities Executive
Capital Regional District Board
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Cowichan Tribes
Esquimalt First Nation
Halalt First Nation
Homalco First Nation
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
K'omoks First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lyackson First Nation
Malahat Nation
Musqueam First Nation
Nanwakolas Council
Pauquachin First Nation
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
Semiahmoo First Nation
Shíshálh (Sechelt) First Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nation
Songhees First Nation
Squamish First Nation
Stz'uminus (Chemainus) First Nation
Te'mexw Treaty Association
Tla'amin (Sliammon) First Nation
T'Sou-ke (Sooke) First Nation
Tsartlip First Nation
Tsawout First Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tseil-Waututh (Burrard Inlet) First Nation
Tseycum First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge First Nation)
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River First Nation
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website

BRITISH COLUMBIA

July 30, 2018

Ref: 238236

His Worship Mayor Steve Price, Chair
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard St
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Dear Chair Price:

Thank you for your letter of June 19, 2018, regarding the reclassification of the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring and Gulf Islands Electoral areas as rural communities. I appreciate that the Capital Regional District (CRD) is looking for an update on any additional measures being taken.

The Province of British Columbia is committed to meeting the unique needs of small, rural and remote communities. As such, my meeting with Wayne McIntyre, Mike Hicks and Robert Lapham was a valuable opportunity to hear their perspectives on how senior government grant programs may exclude certain communities. During our meeting, concerns were brought forward regarding their access to the Rural Dividend Program (RDP), the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) and the Community Futures program.

It is important to note that these programs are not under the responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The RDP is under the responsibility of the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development. The ICET is under the responsibility of the Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology and is governed by an independent board. And lastly, Community Futures is a federal program which promotes socio-economic development across Canada and provides funds to community societies.

Nevertheless, our discussions remained productive and the Ministry determined that the three rural areas within the CRD, which have been previously considered urban for purposes of eligibility, in fact have all the characteristics of rural areas. I brought this assessment forward to both of my provincial colleagues as well as Minister Ralston's federal counterpart, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. My Deputy Minister, Jacqueline Dawes, also encouraged her colleagues across government that in the design of any future funding programs, to recognize that these electoral areas have rural development challenges in providing services and developing their economies.

.../2

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Phone: 250 387-2283
Fax: 250 387-4312

Location:
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Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

http://www.gov.bc.ca/mah

You may be pleased to know that the RDP was amended and communities within the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral areas are eligible to apply for funding. On the other hand, the boundaries of the ICET are defined in legislation and regulation. Any changes would need to consider the views of the Trust Board and other stakeholders. I encourage you to contact Minister Ralston if you have not already done so.

As you are likely aware, the Province signed an integrated bilateral agreement with the federal government for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The ICIP will provide opportunities for communities to apply for new project funding, a valuable tool which will support long-term economic growth, the advancement of sustainable communities, and continued movement to a low carbon, green economy.

The ICIP includes the Rural and Northern Communities Stream which is dedicated to supporting British Columbia's rural communities and their wide-range of infrastructure priorities. Information regarding this program will be made available later this year. If you have any questions, I encourage you to contact the Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch by telephone at: 250 387-4060, or by email at: infra@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development
Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Mike Hicks, Director, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
Wayne McIntyre, Director, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area
David Howe, Director, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Regional District

From:	Minister of ISED - Ministre de ISDE (IC)
To:	Tianna Wong
Cc:	Schooley, Susan (WD/DEO)
Subject:	Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Date:	Thursday, August 30, 2018 1:07:58 PM

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 2, 2018, sharing the Electoral Area Services Committee resolution requesting that Salt Spring Island, the Southern Gulf Islands, and Juan de Fuca be designated as eligible for Community Futures (CF) funding.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that all Canadians can benefit from a growing economy, including those in rural and remote communities. I recognize that economic activity in these regions is important and that access to CF programming has been a longstanding concern. I understand that officials from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) are exploring solutions to this complex issue with Islands Trust officials. I am encouraging my officials to continue this work to help determine what course of action may be feasible.

WD offers a range of economic development programs and services that are inclusive of all communities in the West—including Salt Spring Island, the Southern Gulf Islands, and Juan de Fuca—many of which have recently benefitted from community infrastructure initiatives such as the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. Furthermore, these communities are eligible for the Western Diversification Program (WDP), WD's core funding program. The WDP welcomes project proposals from organizations that promote economic growth in response to changing and challenging economic circumstances in their communities. Eligibility is not based on a community's rural or urban classification; rather, proposals are evaluated on the potential for the project to contribute to the community's economic development.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms. Susan Schooley, Manager of Business Development and Trade in WD's British Columbia regional office, by telephone at 604-366-4182 or by email at susan.schooley@canada.ca.

I appreciate your bringing this important issue to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

N Bains

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Ms. Susan Schooley