



Making a difference...together

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area  
Service Delivery  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC, V8W 2S6

T: 250.216-5618  
www.crd.bc.ca

December 3, 2024

File: 0220-20

Community Gaming Grant Committee  
PO Box 9892 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T6

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE SOCIETY – GRANT APPLICATION**

As the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director, I am writing to express my support for the Southern Gulf Islands Neighbourhood House (SGINH) and their application for funding through the Community Gaming Grant program. The programs offered by SGINH are a lifeline to many individuals and families across the Southern Gulf Islands, particularly those in need of food security, support for seniors, and opportunities for youth development. SGINH is focused on nurturing connections within island communities while championing diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging.

The Food Security Programs spearheaded by SGINH are particularly urgent given the high proportion of seniors living on Pender Island who are vulnerable to food insecurity. With over 60% of the population aged 55 or older, many of these individuals face significant barriers to accessing affordable, nutritious food. The expansion of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to serve additional families will help ensure that those most in need can access fresh, local food while preserving their dignity.

SGINH's work with seniors is also incredibly impactful. Programs like "Computer Savvy Seniors" and the "Fifty Five Plus Connections" adult day care service play a key role in reducing isolation, improving quality of life, and providing critical respite for caregivers. These programs are a direct response to the unique challenges faced by seniors, helping them remain independent and engaged in their communities.

In addition to these important services, SGINH's youth programs are empowering the next generation by teaching essential life and leadership skills. These programs are especially valuable in rural areas like the Southern Gulf Islands, where access to mentorship and career-building opportunities can be limited. By investing in youth, SGINH is helping to create a brighter future for the islands as a whole.

I strongly encourage the Committee to approve funding for SGINH's programs, which continue to make a profound difference in the lives of many residents on the Southern Gulf Islands.

Best regards,

Paul Brent  
CRD Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands