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Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation  
Regional and Rural Development Unit, Rural Policy & Program Branch  
Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: PENDER ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – GRANT APPLICATION**

As the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Area Director, I am writing to formally express my strong support for the Pender Island Chamber of Commerce's application for a grant under the Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Program. This initiative is designed to enhance capacity within the Chamber, enabling it to better serve the Pender Island business community and promote sustainable economic development.

The Chamber is instrumental in fostering the success of local businesses. This capacity-building project will significantly improve organizational effectiveness, enhance member engagement, and increase overall economic impact. By expanding staffing levels, streamlining operations, and updating governance structures, the Chamber will directly contribute to strengthening the island's economy. Its emphasis on retaining and attracting new members, particularly in non-tourism sectors, is essential for cultivating a diverse and resilient economic landscape.

The importance of this initiative for Pender Island is evident:

**Strengthened Local Support:** by enhancing its capacity, the Chamber will provide more tailored support, programs, and events, empowering businesses to thrive year-round rather than relying solely on peak tourist seasons.

**Economic Resilience:** diversifying the local economy through the attraction of skilled trades and non-tourism businesses will address service gaps and create new opportunities, ultimately leading to a more sustainable and adaptable economic environment.

**Community Impact:** a robust business sector enhances the overall quality of life on the island, creating employment opportunities, retaining young families, and contributing positively to the well-being of residents.

In summary, this grant represents an important investment in the future of Pender Island's economy. I fully endorse this initiative and anticipate the positive outcomes it will yield for the island community.

Best regards,

Paul Brent  
CRD Electoral Area Director