



Making a difference...together

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area
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October 23, 2024

File: 0220-20

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation
Regional and Rural Development Unit
Rural Policy & Program Branch
Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program
(REDIP) Economic Diversification Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: SALISH SEA INTER ISLAND TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY – AQUALINK PROJECT

As the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Area Director, I am pleased to support the Salish Sea Inter Island Transportation Society's funding request for the implementation phase of the AquaLink Project. I truly value the significant impact AquaLink has had on the Southern Gulf Islands during its Pilot Project, and its ongoing success will be a tremendous asset to our region.

As a resident of Saturna, the smallest of the Gulf Islands, I can personally attest to AquaLink's positive effects. It has facilitated increased tourism to our winery and other local businesses, while enhancing connectivity for our residents.

AquaLink has greatly improved travel between our five islands, providing a convenient transportation option for both residents and visitors, and reducing our reliance on cars. I've witnessed the boost in tourism across the islands, as it encourages longer stays by allowing guests to easily explore multiple islands with the assurance of a reliable schedule. This initiative is poised to stimulate various aspects of our local economy, including job creation, enhanced tourism, and improved inter-island trade.

Before serving as the SGI Area Director, I was a founding member of the Salish Sea Inter Island Transportation Society and served on its Board of Directors for many years. I am committed to advancing the AquaLink Project and fully endorse their funding application to ensure its continued success.

Best regards,

Paul Brent
CRD Electoral Area Director
Southern Gulf Islands

