



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

December 2, 2025

File No. 3070-30 MIN MA

Via email: HMA.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
PO BOX 9074
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Boyle:

Re: Salt Spring Island Housing

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council, I am writing to express appreciation for your recent visit to Salt Spring Island and for taking the time to meet with me in my capacity as a local trustee, as well as with governance partners and community members working toward improved housing solutions on the island.

We also wish to express appreciation for the opportunity to meet with representatives from your ministry at the recent Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention, where we discussed the acute housing pressures facing the islands - particularly for year-round workers, seniors, and younger residents. As you witnessed during your visit to Salt Spring Island, high land values, limited rental availability, and a lack of diverse housing options are creating significant barriers to affordability and community well-being.

During your visit, you raised thoughtful questions about the data supporting Salt Spring Island's housing needs. This topic was also discussed with your ministry staff at the UBCM convention. As mentioned in my June 10, 2025 [letter](#), we have found that the housing needs assessments methodology does not always capture the unique circumstances of rural and island communities. While we acknowledge that local trust committees could have taken additional steps to address these gaps, we appreciated you [advising](#) that Ministry staff are monitoring local implementation of the 2023-24 housing-related legislation and were pleased that our Chief Administrative Officer has been [introduced](#) to relevant Ministry staff. We will be taking advantage of the opportunity to provide feedback that will help identify how rural and island-specific housing needs can be more accurately reflected in future assessments.

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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

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Once again, thank you for your time, interest, and engagement with the Salt Spring Island community. We look forward to continued collaboration with your ministry on addressing housing challenges and improving the data that informs local and provincial policy.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Patrick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Patrick
Islands Trust Council Chair
lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca

Cc: Rob Botterall, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands
Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee
Islands Trust Council
Bowen Island Municipality
Islands Trust website