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Via E-Mail February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

File No. 3026-04

## To Whom It May Concern:

## Re: Galiano Health Care Centre - Community Health Centre/Urgent Primary Care Site

I am writing on behalf of the Galiano Local Trust Committee of the Islands Trust pursuant to a motion at our last meeting. The Islands Trust is a "Special Purpose" government of the Gulf Islands with a mandate 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 in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia."

The Local Trust Committee is in support of the application by the Galiano Health Care Centre for designation as a Community Health Centre/Urgent Primary Care Site. The Galiano Health Care Centre is critical part of this community, providing excellent long term primary care and urgent care for both permanent island residents and the many visitors who come to the island. The population of Galiano Island increased by 33% to 1,396 in the latest (2021) census over 2016. In addition, over 1,000 people from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and the U.S. visit the island most weekends.

The Galiano Health Centre has strong support from the community through donations, local fundraising activities, granting organisations and from Island Health. The demand for health services exceeds the capacity of this Clinic which includes one doctor, one nurse practitioner and one palliative care nurse. The demographics of Galiano Island are skewed to the senior age group. The median age in the 2016 Census was almost 60 with 40% aged 65 or older compared with 18% provincially.

We are prepared to work within our mandate to support the Galiano Health Care Society and Health Centre staff in their efforts to strengthen the Clinic's ability to provide safe and comprehensive care for all on the island.

Sincerely,

**Dan Rogers** 

Chair, Galiano Island Local Trustee Committee

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Cc: Galiano Island Local Trust Committee Galiano Health Care Centre Executive Committee Islands Trust Website