



May 7, 2026

Reference: 191711

Timothy Peterson  
Chair  
Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee  
4 - 121 McPhillips Avenue  
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2T6  
Email: [tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Dear Timothy Peterson:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 31, 2026, addressed to the Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, regarding the request to appoint an independent housing advisor for Salt Spring Island. As Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, I am pleased to respond.

I appreciate your detailed explanation of the housing challenges on Salt Spring Island and consideration of the opportunities and constraints to address housing need in the community.

Under the *Housing Supply Act* (Act), only municipalities specified in the Housing Supply Regulation (Regulation) can be issued Housing Target Orders (HTO). Because Salt Spring Island is governed by the Islands Trust, and is not an incorporated municipality, it is not listed in the Regulation and cannot be issued an HTO.

The Act permits the appointment of an advisor when a specified municipality has not met and not made satisfactory progress toward its housing target. Consequently, it is not possible to appoint an advisor for Salt Spring Island under the Act. For more information about the legislation and Housing Targets Program, please visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/local-governments-and-housing/housing-targets>

I note the Local Trust Committee's (LTC) particular concern regarding water servicing. As you may know, any new water connections fall under the authority of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. I recognize that the partial lifting of the North Salt Spring Island Water District moratorium presents a time-sensitive opportunity, and I commend your efforts to establish a framework that aligns available water capacity with the highest-priority housing needs.

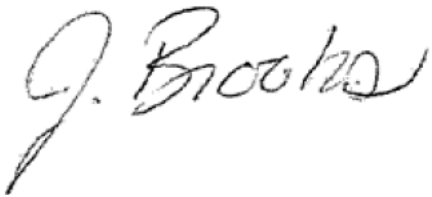
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Although the *Housing Supply Act* does not provide the mechanism you are seeking, I encourage you to continue working with Islands Trust staff to identify clear, practical actions and to explore a range of locally supported strategies. This could include engaging independent advisors with expertise in aligning housing objectives with environmental stewardship and water service capacity.

I also encourage the LTC to explore funding opportunities through BC Housing including BC Builds to address housing needs on Salt Spring Island. For more information, please visit: <https://www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/funding-programs>. The LTC can also contact CRD Housing through their Housing Initiatives and Programs Branch at [crdhousing@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdhousing@crd.bc.ca) to identify any programs or projects that may support your housing initiatives.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "J" being particularly large and stylized.

Jessica Brooks  
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister  
Housing and Land Use Policy Division  
Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Cc: Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee,  
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