



BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 61830

February 1, 2024

Timothy Peterson, Chair
Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee
Islands Trust
1-500 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2N8
Email: rpingle@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dear Timothy Peterson:

Thank you for your October 3, 2023 letter, regarding the Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP). I apologize for the delay in responding.

First, I would like to thank you, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee, and the Salt Spring Island community as whole, for your interest in this innovative new program. The Province recognizes that one of the biggest challenges for people in BC is finding an affordable home to live in. To address this need, we have developed an action plan to meet those challenges and to deliver more homes for people, faster. The *Homes for People* action plan will speed up delivery of new homes, increase the supply of middle-income housing, fight speculation, and help those who need it the most, and the SSIP program is just one of multiple initiatives coming out of the plan. Complete information on the action plan is available here: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Homes For People.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Homes_For_People.pdf)

SSIP is a three-year pilot program, which we expect to expand over time. This program supports the creation of new, affordable rental housing while ensuring the units are safe for tenants and owners living in those homes. SSIP requires participating homeowners to provide building and occupancy permits issued by the local authority to verify that publicly-funded units are legal and meet building safety standards.

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**Office of the
Minister of Housing**

Website:
www.gov.bc.ca/housing

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9074 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E9
Phone: 236 478-3970

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Email: HOUS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

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As a result of recent discussions with individuals and local representatives in unincorporated areas, we have expanded program eligibility to include 16 Regional Districts for the April 2024 launch. These are Regional Districts with building bylaws that provide building permits and inspections to all parts of the electoral areas within their boundaries, and the Salt Spring Island Trust area is among them.

Updates to program eligibility on BC Housing's website are forthcoming and will be shared on the BC Housing website when they become available at <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/secondary-suite>

Program adaptations will be explored in future years to enable expansion to properties in the remaining Regional Districts.

Thank you again for writing. I hope this information is helpful to you and your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ravi Kahlon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing

pc: The Honourable Anne Kang