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July 26, 2018

File No.: 0420-20

via email: MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Robinson:

Re: Housing Needs Assessment Reports

In January, 2018 we met with you and mentioned that we were working on housing needs assessments. We are pleased to share with you the completed housing needs assessments for the northern islands including Denman, Gabriola, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, and Thetis islands while the Capital Regional District has supported the completion of a similar assessment for the southern Islands including Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, South Pender, and Saturna islands. Salt Spring Island has a housing needs assessment from 2015 and Bowen Island has a housing needs assessment that was updated in 2009.

The local trust committees will be receiving these housing needs reports over the summer and we have made them publically available on the Islands Trust website. We understand that by doing this, these interim housing needs reports will be deemed, under the transitional sections of the new legislation, to be the first housing needs reports for those local trust committees.

The new housing needs assessments starkly illustrate the difficult housing situations that many people living in the Trust Area are currently experiencing. Far too many of our island neighbours have a lack of housing security, with many forced to vacate during the summer season. Others live in substandard

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The Honourable Selina Robinson
July 26, 2018
Page 2

housing with serious potential health and safety risks. Others are paying unsustainable amounts – beyond the recommended maximum of 30% of their income – to have a roof over their head. Some local trust committees are addressing housing affordability issues through bylaw amendments to allow secondary suites and by enforcing on unpermitted vacation rentals. Much work remains to be done. We are thankful for the work you are doing on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Luckham', written in a cursive style.

Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Attachments (2): [Islands Trust Northern Region Housing Needs Assessment, 2018](#)
[Southern Gulf Islands Housing Needs Assessment, 2018](#)

Cc: Islands Trust Area MLAs
Capital Regional District Board
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website