



Making a difference...together

Salt Spring Island Administration

#108-121 McPhillips Avenue

Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T6

T: 250.538.4448

www.crd.bc.ca

January 13, 2025

File No: 0220-20

Raincoast Conservation Foundation
P.O. Box 2429
Sidney BC V8L 3Y3
Via email shauna@raincoast.org

To whom it may concern:

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RAINCOAST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION'S
APPLICATION TO INTACT INSURANCE'S CLIMATE RESILIENCY GRANT**

I am writing as the representative of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area within the Capital Regional District (CRD) in support of the project proposed to Intact Insurance's Climate Resiliency Grant by Raincoast Conservation Foundation in collaboration with Transition Salt Spring and other partners. The CRD is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The CRD is already partnering with both groups on related projects – with Raincoast and First Nations on an assessment of the Tod Creek watershed, and with Transition Salt Spring on climate action and education initiatives.

The purpose of Raincoast's project entitled "Climate Resilience and Equity Across The Ecosystems" (CREATE) is to improve ecological resilience and reduce climate-related fire risk by building community capacity. The project builds on Raincoast's ongoing efforts (*See Wildfire, Watersheds, and Landscape Change, 2024*) and focuses on communities within the globally unique ecology of the Salish Sea region, known as the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone and surrounding ecosystems of coastal British Columbia. The majority of land in this region is under private ownership. Interface fire risk, knowledge gaps, lack of resources, and limited opportunities for government to intervene on private land within these regions, combined with legacies of industrial logging and fire suppression mean that the forests of the Gulf Islands are vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. This project will identify and help address existing gaps and complement work being done within and by the CRD to reduce fire risk.

I urge your support for this important proposal and look forward to the project's results and recommendations on ways in which CRD can help enhance ecological resilience in our forests.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Gary Holman
CRD Electoral Area Director, Salt Spring Island