



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

September 16, 2025

File No: 0220-20

New Horizons for Seniors Program,
Government of Canada
125 E10th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5T 1Z3
Via email

To whom it may concern:

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR APPLICATION BY THE SOUTH SALT SPRING
GATHERING PLACE TO THE NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PROGRAM**

As the locally elected Capital Regional District (CRD) Director for Salt Spring, I'm writing to urge your support for the funding application by the South Salt Spring Gathering Place to the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

As you may know, the proportion of seniors on Salt Spring Island is one of the highest in Canada, but our community still does not have a dedicated, wheelchair-accessible bus to support seniors' essential needs. Seniors with limited incomes face challenges daily accessing medical appointments, shopping, and community events and programs. Mobility barriers and the rural nature of our community limiting public, scheduled transit service exacerbate these challenges.

This New Horizons funding application proposes a one-year pilot program to lease a privately operated Hop On - Hop Off accessible bus that will provide reliable, affordable, and inclusive transportation for seniors in our rural community. The funding would cover the cost of leasing and operating the bus, as well as evaluating this program. The project will directly improve the quality of life of seniors on Salt Spring, and importantly, serve as a model for establishment of a permanent service.

Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Holman', is positioned above a vertical line.

Gary Holman
CRD Electoral Area Director, Salt Spring Island