

October 21, 2025

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Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation
Regional and Rural Development Unit
Rural Policy & Program Branch
Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program
(REDIP) Economic Diversification Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: SALISH SEA INTER ISLAND TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY – AQUALINK PROJECT

As the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Electoral Area Director, I am pleased to offer my full support for the Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation Society's funding request to implement the AquaLink Project. The AquaLink Pilot Project demonstrated significant and lasting benefits for our region, and I believe its continuation and expansion will be a tremendous asset to all five of our islands.

As a resident of Saturna Island, the smallest of the Southern Gulf Islands, I have seen firsthand the positive impact AquaLink has had on our community. The service has increased tourism to our local businesses, including our winery, and provided greater access and connectivity for residents who rely on dependable transportation between islands.

AquaLink has made travel across the Southern Gulf Islands more accessible and sustainable by offering a convenient alternative to vehicle use. Visitors now have the flexibility to explore multiple islands in a single trip, leading to longer stays and stronger support for local economies. The project has also enhanced opportunities for collaboration, cultural exchange, and inter-island trade—strengthening the social and economic fabric that connects our island communities.

Before serving as SGI Area Director, I was a founding member of the Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation Society and served on its Board of Directors for many years. I remain deeply committed to the vision of improving inter-island connectivity and reducing transportation barriers. I wholeheartedly endorse the AquaLink Project and encourage support for this important funding application to ensure its continued success and growth.

Best regards,



Paul Brent
CRD Electoral Area Director
Southern Gulf Islands

