

October 27, 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: SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE SOCIETY –
HOUSING NOW: COMMUNITY HOUSING OPERATIONS MODEL (CHOM)**

As the Capital Regional District (CRD) Electoral Director for the Southern Gulf Islands, I am writing in strong support of the Housing NOW Community Housing Operations Model (CHOM) project submitted by the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society (SGICRC).

The Southern Gulf Islands face a significant and persistent shortage of affordable workforce housing. Local employers, small businesses, and service providers across Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Salt Spring, and Saturna Islands report ongoing challenges in attracting and retaining staff due to housing insecurity. This shortage affects not only our local economies but also the delivery of essential services in health care, education, and community support.

The CHOM project presents a timely and strategic response. By developing a coordinated, regionally managed framework for workforce and community-based rental housing, this initiative will strengthen economic stability and enhance housing management capacity across the islands. The model's focus on sustainability, scalability, and collaboration reflects both local priorities and the broader CRD objective of supporting rural housing and community resilience.

The SGICRC has a proven record of effective regional collaboration and leadership in housing innovation through its Housing NOW program, positioning them well to deliver this project and share its outcomes with other rural and remote communities across British Columbia. The organization builds partnerships across the Southern Gulf Islands and is a hub for residents across all the islands improving access to resources and strengthening overall community resilience.

On behalf of the CRD and the residents of the Southern Gulf Islands, I fully endorse this application and urge the ministry to give it strong consideration. This project represents a vital step toward improving housing access, supporting local employers, and strengthening our region's economic diversification.

Best regards,



Paul Brent
CRD Electoral Area Director
Southern Gulf Islands