



Making a difference...together

Salt Spring Island Administration
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File No: 0220-20

Salt Spring Health Advancement Network
Via email: sshealthadvancementnetwork@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE MENTAL WELLNESS INITIATIVE APPLICATION

As the locally elected Capital Regional District (CRD) Director for Salt Spring Island, I am pleased to offer my support for the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network (SSHAN) Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI) application.

As a participant of SSHAN, and as a local elected official, I have seen how this initiative has mobilized a spirit of shared responsibility within our community and engaged those with lived experience to provide mental health 'first aid' to, and advocacy for, vulnerable individuals.

The CRD has worked with SSHAN, other community groups, and agencies such as BC Housing to advocate for a 30 bed, year round shelter space, a 10 bed cold weather facility, and a 32 unit supported housing facility, all now in place. The CRD has also provided grants in aid to help support SSHAN's Mental Wellness Initiative. The MWI has been instrumental in helping the CRD participate in a much more collaborative, coordinated, and effective way to help address unmet housing and social support needs in our community. A more recent success of this collaborative approach has resulted in the establishment of the Chuan Society Hearth Project, a community gathering place located on CRD leased property.

The positive impact of these successful projects, particularly in the Ganges core area, has been heartening. The CRD will continue to work with SSHAN on the Mental Wellness Initiative that has successfully demonstrated how a collaborative and caring approach can improve supports for our most vulnerable residents. I hope your organization will join us in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Holman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gary Holman
CRD Electoral Area Director, Salt Spring Island

