



## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** January 8, 2021 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Regional Board

**FROM:** David Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST – QUADRA ISLAND HEALTH SOCIETY

### PURPOSE

To consider a request that the Regional District provide a letter of support for the Quadra Island Health Society's application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream to optimize the success of the grant application and agree to investigate the feasibility and possibility of establishing a new service for the ongoing maintenance of the proposed health facilities should the QIHS's application be successful.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional District has received a request from the Quadra Island Health Society (QIHS) for a letter in support of a grant application that they intend to submit under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream in order to build public restroom facilities on Quadra Island.

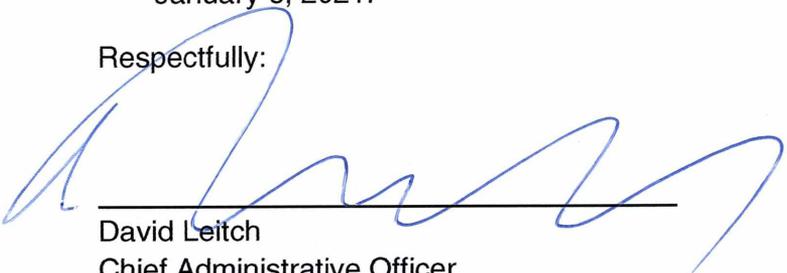
The QIHS is proposing to work with local businesses, volunteers and property owners to build modest structures that can house toilets, showers and provide access to clean drinking water in Quathiaski Cove and in Heriot Bay. They are also proposing to implement a program that will provide consistent and comfortable access to toilet facilities at four trailheads at the Village Bay Lakes area, an important recreational site for visitors and community members alike. If the QIHS's application is successful, the project will provide benefit to multiple areas of Quadra Island.

The deadline for the application under this grant is January 27, 2021. Since this is an opportunity to develop closer working relations with the QIHS and support public health on Quadra Island it is recommended that the Regional District lend its support to this initiative.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT a letter of support be provided to the Quadra Island Health Society for its application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream to undertake the development of public washroom facilities as outlined in its letter of January 6, 2021.

Respectfully:



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David Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Prepared by:** *A. Nelson, Community Services Manager; S. Koopman, Protective Services Coordinator*

Attachments: A – Email correspondence from the Quadra Island Health Society  
B – Letter of Support Request from the Quadra Island Health Society

## Attachment A – Email Correspondence from the Quadra Island Health Society

**From:** Mary McIntosh <[gavinmc@gicable.com](mailto:gavinmc@gicable.com)>  
**Sent:** January-06-21 1:00 PM  
**To:** Email - [administration@strathconard.ca](mailto:administration@strathconard.ca) <[Administration@strathconard.ca](mailto:Administration@strathconard.ca)>  
**Cc:** Andreas Hagen <[andreas@study-build.com](mailto:andreas@study-build.com)>  
**Subject:** Directors board meeting Jan 13 Agenda request. QIHS

Attn.Strathcona Regional District Board of Directors.

Dear Directors,

I am writing on behalf of the Quadra Island Health Society (QIHS) to ask that a proposal for which we have the full support of our area director, Jim Abram, be placed on the agenda of the board meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. .

The society is preparing an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream. The goal of our grant application is to fund the building of **public washroom** facilities on Quadra Island at Quathiaski Cove to address a longstanding unmet need that has been particularly exacerbated by the current pandemic.

We request that the Strathcona Regional District please consider passing a motion to the effect that a letter of support be provided to the Quadra Island Health Society for its application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Steam to undertake this initiative.

Sincerely,

Mary McIntosh

Dr Mary McIntosh. MB BS FRCPC.

President, Quadra Island Health Society

## **Attachment B – Letter of Support Request from the Quadra Island Health Society**

Dear Strathcona Regional District Board of Directors, The Quadra Island Health Society is preparing an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream. The goal of our grant application is to fund the building of public restroom facilities on Quadra Island to fulfill an unmet need that has been present for quite some time and that has been particularly exacerbated by the current pandemic. More specifically:

1. Many individuals in our community plan critical errands around their ability to access restroom facilities. This is particularly true for some of our seniors and for individuals who need access to restrooms frequently for medical reasons. Public restrooms are exceptionally limited in Quathiaski Cove and Heriot Bay. Furthermore, reduced business hours and limited access to facilities because of COVID-19 safety protocols have made it even more stressful for individuals to plan their errands.
2. We have limited access to good, affordable housing on Quadra. This need has been articulated by the community in several forums and through several surveys. There are members of our community who do not have regular access to clean water and restrooms where they sleep and live. These important and sometimes vulnerable and overlooked members of our community deserve our support and access to these critical resources.
3. We see an increasing number of visitors to Quadra Island each year. It is not uncommon to see individuals queuing at local businesses to use the restrooms. This puts additional strain on businesses, especially at times of higher traffic such as market days in Quathiaski Cove and when ferries arrive on-island. We see signs of people relieving themselves outside, which is both unhygienic and stressful for those individuals.
4. Our beautiful nature is drawing an increasing number of visitors to the island. A group of dedicated volunteers and generous businesses have shouldered the responsibility and cost of implementing porta-potties at several of our higher-traffic trailheads. Without the porta-potties, visitors and locals resort to relieving themselves on the periphery of our parking lots.

To resolve these issues, we propose to work with local businesses, volunteers and property owners to build modest structures that can house toilets, showers and provide access to clean drinking water in Quathiaski Cove and in Heriot Bay. We also propose to implement a program that will provide consistent and comfortable access to toilet facilities at our four busiest trailheads and at the Village Bay lakes, another important recreational site for visitors and community members alike.

The Quadra Island Health Society would be the primary applicant and be responsible for grant management. We would like to thank SRD staff for helping us navigate this grant application process, especially Shaun Koopman and Aniko Nelson.

We also recognize that reliable sustainable funding will be required for the ongoing operation of these facilities. Our understanding is that the Strathcona Regional District has established services to provide operational funding for local infrastructure such as Function 680 Sayward Valley Heritage Hall which local service is for the operation of a community centre, including the hall and surrounding lands. This facility is not owned by the SRD but is operated under contract with the Sayward Community Recreation Association. A similar model could potentially be established between the Strathcona Regional District and the Quadra Island Health Society. We therefore request that the Strathcona Regional District please consider passing one or both of the following proposed motions:

1. THAT a letter of support be provided to the Quadra Island Health Society for its application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream to undertake the initiatives outlined in this correspondence;
2. THAT the Strathcona Regional District agree to investigate the feasibility and possibility of establishing a new service for the ongoing maintenance of the proposed health facilities should Quadra Island Health Society's application be successful.