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**REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION
MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

SUBJECT **Short Term Rentals Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting**

ISSUE

To report on the outcome of the Short-Term Rentals Stakeholder Roundtable meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commissions (LCC) strategic plan identifies Economic Sustainability as a strategic priority with an initiative to develop an Integrated Housing Strategy for Salt Spring Island. As part of the integrated housing strategy the LCC hosted a round table to better understand the impact of Short-Term rentals, to consider potential actions that may be needed, and to facilitate future consideration of LCC's role.

On January 16, 2025, the LCC coordinated a Short-Term Rentals (STR) Roundtable with industry stakeholders on Salt Spring Island. A similar group last met to discuss the topic on July 5, 2021.

The participating stakeholder groups were primarily representing commercial groups or government agencies from across the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Island Electoral Areas and similar to the attendance in 2021. Many of the attendees provided brief presentations at the beginning of the meeting to enable an expression of perspectives. Following the presentations a round-table discussion occurred. A list of the participants and a summary of the discussion is attached (Appendix A).

The information and perspectives from the roundtable will be utilized in the completion of the Integrated Housing Strategy. Additionally, the next steps that were expressed included the following:

- The Chamber of Commerce offered to complete a Feasibility Study on Business Licensing
- The Southern Gulf Island Tourism Partnership offered to facilitate an Analysis of STR Data
- There is a need to review with the Province the enforcement and implications of Bill 35 – i.e. Short Term Rental Accommodation Act
- There is a need to explore the possibility of implementing a business licensing program
- There is a need to continue to consider advocating for inclusion of Salt Spring Island in the expanded taxable area for the Speculation and Vacancy Tax

CONCLUSION

A Short-Term Rental Roundtable meeting was held on January 16, 2025, on Salt Spring Island. The outcomes of the roundtable will be utilized in the completion of the Integrated Housing Strategy. The role of the LCC to support the next steps is available for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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Concurrence:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area

Appendix A – Outcome Notes from the January 16, 2025 Short Term Rentals Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting