



SSI Farmland Trust - 189 Beddis Road Salt Spring Island

To the LCC - of Salt Spring Island.

Jan. 5th 2025

Regarding: the SSI Farmland Trust portion of the collaborative funding request as outlined in the cover letter from the SS Agricultural Alliance.

The SSI FLT is pleased to be part of this effort to build agriculture capacity on SSI.

SSI Agricultural Alliance members have discussed priorities for this funding year and within that process we have identified a series of priorities that are needing support from the LCC. The cover letter lists these.

SSI FLT identified priority:

1. Linking Land program & identifying host sites for Neighbourhood farmer training program \$7000 (FLT & ING project)

To provide a context to this portion of the request; the following is a summary from a pending funding proposal for the Neighbourhood Farmer training and land linking program.

Funds from the LCC will become a contribution to this program.

Increasing agriculture capacity and its economic benefits to the island overall, require new relationships for success. This program will develop an agricultural training program with the cooperation of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). In this program, the training of new farmers will feed a neighbourhood where community members commit to supporting new farming enterprises either on existing farms or on new sites with agricultural potential.

This program is working in partnership with the Neighbours Feeding Neighbours project - linking neighbourhood emergency pods to food security projects and opportunities.

The partnerships are in place and agreements have been developed in principle for all parties. The recruitment phase is ready, and is a multi-pronged community based approach that requires relationship building not only with the trainees, but with the neighborhoods where the neighbourhood farms will be. By embedding the educational program within our neighborhoods, this not only improves the skills of the trainees but promotes increased agricultural awareness, resilience, and support in the broader community. Completing this phase will allow the launch of the program in the succeeding season.

The funds requested from the CRD will be put towards the development work of this project over 2025/2026 and will; Identify and recruit 3 new farm sites for placement of trainees, develop the neighbourhood farmer training model including partner coordination, training centre, and participant relationships, and marketing of the project and recruitment.

Thank you for your attention and look forward to discussing this and our overall requests with the LCC at a future meeting.

Sheila Dobie

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