

4563 Parry Cross Rd.
Victoria, BC.
V9C 3W1

September 30, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Permissive tax exemptions

The peer-reviewed, academic evidence is clear: community-based nonprofits and stewardship groups create the social capital—feelings of trust and commitments to mutual care—that bond communities together and help them thrive.

Communities with stronger local networks have more social capital. This is their invisible wealth. These networks—often convened and maintained by nonprofits—improve information sharing, mobilize volunteers and resources in times of emergency, and connect residents with institutions, fundamentally strengthening a community's resilience.

In Metchosin's context, your staff report confirms that every applicant provides services to District residents, and that full 2025 exemptions would add \$91.53 to the average residential bill. We'd like to be on record that, as municipal residents, we find these amounts acceptable burdens relative to the risk of weakening organizations that underpin Metchosin's rural character, social networks, and environmental stewardship.

We ask Council to reconsider its decision and retain—or carefully target—exemptions where there is clear public benefit, alignment with community priorities (e.g., recreation, cultural activity, land conservation), and limited fiscal effect, recognizing that these nonprofits help maintain the very networks and trust that make our wonderful community more resilient over the longer term.

Sincerely,

Sarah Elizabeth Wolfe
Professor, Royal Roads University
Metchosin resident

Thomas ("Tad") Homer-Dixon
Executive Director, Cascade Institute
Royal Roads University
Metchosin resident