

SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing to express my support for Central Saanich Community Gardens Society's initiative to start a community garden.

LifeCycles Project Society cultivates community health from the ground up by connecting people, the food they eat and the land it comes from. We support people in gaining the knowledge, skills and resources they need to access or grow their own food in a way that fosters biodiversity and enhances our urban environment. At LifeCycles we envision a world where all people participate in vital communities that co-create and celebrate abundant, healthy, local food and food systems. Community gardens are an integral part of this vision.

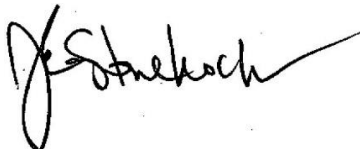
Community gardens support connecting people to the source of their food, build community, build food security and sovereignty, and provide opportunities for learning. They can provide people with a low income an affordable opportunity to grow their own fresh, healthy food when they might otherwise go without. It also provides residents living in housing without a garden, like apartments and condos, the opportunity to acquire garden space.

As green space, community gardens can play an important role in climate change initiatives including storm water management and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in food production. They also improve food access, contributing to economic and social change by supporting community education and awareness of food production, health and nutrition, and environmental resilience.

CSCGS's commitment to Indigenous Peoples and people with disabilities, as outlined in their constitution, is commendable. I support their dedication to inclusivity; accessibility and their intentions of applied universal design best practices their garden space(s). I believe that this project will have an overall positive impact on the community of Central Saanich and its residents.

Yours truly,

Joan Stonehocker



Executive Director