### HOUSING, HOUSING, HOUSING

IN A RURAL TOURIST DESTINATION COMMUNITY

#### Cortes Island Housing Statistics

- 1% of people unhoused
- 10% of people live in unstable housing
- 175 people on the waiting list for rental housing
- 240 empty homes (1/3 of all homes)
- Average listing price = \$794,000 Average person can afford = \$209,000

# First community in BC to use MRDT tax entirely for housing



#### **PROGRESS**

- 3% short term rental and hotel tax (MRDT) that goes entirely to Cortes Housing Society
- Forming a housing service at the Strathcona Regional District with up to \$10M in debt approval
- Opting into the primary residence requirement for short term rentals
- Zoning Bylaw review
- Buying houses that are already built and up-zoning for non-profit rentals
- Long term leases with shared services for people to build their own homes

#### **WISHLIST**

- Opt-in choice for provincial vacancy tax with funds going to local housing development
- Reform property transfer rates with percentage that goes to housing in community of transaction
- Provincial modular housing program to create economies of scale for small homes
- Increased access to cheap financing for people to develop secondary rental units
- Support for landlords

## MARK VONESCH

Regional Director – Cortes Island Strathcona Regional District

<u>mvonesch@srd.ca</u> - 250-202-4422