

GULF ISLANDS Co-op Proposal

for Food Producers and Thriving Island Sustainability!

<http://heartwoodfolkschool.ca/gulfislandsco-op>



1. INVITATION: Dear **Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna food producers, other producers, and island folks**, with special honour to the [Coast Salish](#) Indigenous people of the [Southern Gulf Islands...](#)

2. FUNDING TO PLAN A CO-OP: The non-profit [Heartwood Folk School](#) has a Community Works grant, to help interested producers and supporters plan a **potential Gulf Islands co-op!** This co-op could prioritize creating:

- (A) **new resources for the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Electoral Area**, and co-operation with others;
- (B) **primary support for food producers**, as in the new [SGI Food & Agriculture Strategy](#) (see also its [Growing Islands website](#), for grower mapping and reports on the future of agriculture for our islands);
- (C) **supporting other producers** (e.g. events, art, craft) and island sustainability, as in the [SGI 2020 Plan](#).

3. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS: to explore how a non-profit CO-OP could apply for grants and facilitate practical co-operation, to meet key food producer needs and potentially more...

- (A) **Pender:** Oct 14 – see [CO-OP Proposal](#) presentation, [VANCITY expert](#), & discussion [NOTES](#)
- (B) **Galiano:** Oct 29 – same [CO-OP](#) presentation, plus [expert Marty Frost](#), & discussion [NOTES](#)
- (C) [“Co-op Boot Camp” training](#): Nov 16 to 19, 2017 (we learned about exciting possibilities & roadmaps)
- (D) **Mayne:** Saturday, [Feb 17](#) (Noon); Agricultural Hall, Co-op presentation, expert Marty Frost, discussion
- (E) **Saturna:** Saturday, [Feb 24](#) (1 pm); Community Hall, presentation, expert Elvy Del Bianco, discussion

[REGISTER](#) to hear more about this **GULF ISLANDS Co-op Proposal**, and also be in the [GULF ISLANDS REGISTRY](#), plus you can [WRITE POSTS HERE](#), or add

[GULF ISLANDS CALENDAR](#) events!

4. SUPPORTIVE CO-OP ACTIONS: For **Food Producers** this could mean **funded initiatives** to support the [Southern Gulf Islands Food & Agriculture Strategy](#), including **co-operation on:** soil building; increased access to agricultural land, equipment or storage; knowledge sharing and education; advocacy on behalf of food producers; joint marketing; and online multi-vendor ecommerce (e.g. [Ottawa Valley Co-op](#) or [Cowichan Valley Cow-op](#)). **Other island producers** have similar needs that a co-op might serve, starting with the above Gulf Islands Registry and Calendar (for all Southern Gulf Islands producers).

5. CONTACT: Project Coordinator Zorah Staar (gulfislandscoop@gmail.com or 250-891-2424). We invite you to **REGISTER** at <http://heartwoodfolkschool.ca/register> to hear more about this Co-op Proposal. You can also contact us any time, with questions or ideas about **how a Co-op could best help you!**