



October 8th, 2020

Gillian H. Nicol
Program Coordinator
Islands Trust

Re: Review of the Islands Trust Policy Statement – Proposed Updates 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Islands Trust Policy Statement. We understand that this document is several decades old and has undergone numerous amendments over the years. We appreciate that the language in the proposed update serves as an improvement in recognizing the importance of First Nations in the Trust Area, including a commitment to the principles of UNDRIP.

We believe that the document could go further to involve First Nation governments in the decision-making process, starting with a reference to First Nations in the object statement. Several commitments, directives, and recommendations in the policy sections could include explicit reference to working with First Nations to improve the decision making process. This would serve to enhance cooperative decision-making in protecting natural and cultural sites, achieving First Nation access to resources, and improving consultation on planned developments.

The Tla'amin Nation would like to suggest exploring a Protocol Agreement, or a similar type of document, to help guide the future relationship between the Islands Trust and the Nation. This would be a formal agreement that outlines the procedures for identifying and avoiding archaeological and culturally important sites, works in managing the continued use of resources (as defined in our Treaty), establishes a set schedule of reviews (i.e., annual reviews on planned developments), and proactively consults on development decisions.

We look forward to continuing this discussion and building our relationship going forward. Thank you for sharing the opportunity to comment on this version of the Policy Statement and being willing to work with us for future benefit.

Sincerely,

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