

**From:** Sibyl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 3:20 AM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** comments on some proposed Policy Statement changes

March 8, 2021

TO: Islands Trust Trust Council  
FROM: Sibyl Frei, Gabriola Island resident

RE: IT Policy Statement

My apologies for the last-minute nature of my brief comments.

I am writing to express my strong concern about changes that are being proposed to the Policy Statement that would remove communities and housing from the interpretation of “unique amenities” in the Policy Statement. The Islands 2050 project is intended to update and help "shape the 20 official community plans – documents providing direction for community growth and change – plus associated bylaws, policies and regulations."<sup>[1]</sup> It is because the Policy Statement helps shape OCPs, including local affordable housing policies, and OCPs must not be determined to be “contrary to or at variance with the policy statement,”<sup>[2]</sup> that I believe the Trust Council must go at least as far as to retain housing and community in its interpretation of “unique amenities” in the Trust Object.

A housing crisis is impacting many islands in the Trust Area, making it impossible for many residents of the Trust Area with low to moderate income to find rental housing or ever hope for home ownership. I firmly believe that a coordinated regional approach to housing policy, supported by prescriptive statements within the Policy Statement, is necessary, and that the Trust Council has a critical leadership role "for the benefit of the residents."<sup>[3]</sup> It is not enough to leave this issue to individual LTCs because LTCs need to understand that it is their responsibility to address affordable housing as part of their mandates, and this will encourage explore innovative approaches, pilot projects and other collaborations within the Trust Area that find ways to support the preserve and protect mandate.

Saying that regional housing policies developed by the Trust are "a duplication if not an encroachment" on Regional Districts' authority completely fails to recognize the significant role that LTCs and the Islands Trust itself already have on local housing policy, whether intentionally or as a result of a lack of clear policies mandating attention to this critical issue in communities across the Trust Area. We need "OCP policies that more closely reflect the vision and needs of their community *within the terms and conditions of the mandate which are set out by Council* [emphasis added]”,<sup>[4]</sup> which is much more difficult without leadership from the Trust Council.

I also ask that the Trust Council add Indigenous Peoples to the Trust Object as a fundamental step toward reconciliation. We are uninvited guests on their unceded territories, and we need to do everything we can to acknowledge that truth, and make efforts toward reconciliation.

Thank you for considering my concerns and suggestions,

Sibyl Frei

*With gratitude for being able to live on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation*

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/islands-2050/>

[\[2\]](#) Young Anderson, 2020 Publicly Released Legal Opinion, p. 36 (p. 46 of Policy Statement Amendment Project Discussion Paper)

[\[3\]](#) Policy Statement Amendment Project Discussion Paper: March 2021 Trust Council Meeting, p. 28

[\[4\]](#) *Ibid.*, p. 86