

**From:** Arlene Yardley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 8:06 PM  
**To:** Executive Admin  
**Subject:** To the Islands Trust Executive, Trust Council and All Trustees:

I want to add my name to the below letter composed by another Gabriolan , but completely reflective in every way to my own thoughts & concerns . \* ( I also think Trustee Dan Rogers reply letter \* that I have seen, does not represent the perspective of people that I have discussed this matter with ( the recent IT Motion) . No sensible person considers that Trustees voted against the environment , nor do they feel that a top priority consideration of “ Preserve and Protect “ , means to ignore all other considerations , as Dan R. apparently surmises . It’s not a negative to consider the environmental impacts of Development Applications and By Laws etc.. I did not see the Motion that Dan Rogers referenced in that letter he sent out , but the premise he laid out is unlikely to actually be the views of sensible people . I do hold the IT responsible for protecting the sensitive eco system across these very unique Islands . I am extremely disappointed in Trustee Dan Rogers ... I found that sarcastic tid bit in his reply letter , suggesting people move off the island etc.. etc.. Just more disappointing behaviour from this person. I lack confidence in his ability to represent citizens . \*PS ( my older lap top has issues with some Keys ,hence the variable typeface ) .

To the Islands Trust Executive, Trust Council and All Trustees:

As residents of Gabriola, we request that the Trust Council and the Trustees think very carefully about how they are proceeding with the review of the Trust Policy Statement (TPS). This document is critical to protecting our precious island ecosystems. The Gulf Islands are currently under great pressure from development according to the recent Trust press release and island residents observe this with alarm.

The inclination of a majority of Trustees in the current TPS review process to give community needs such as housing and transportation the same importance as the protection of the environment due to strident community lobbies is a grievous error. This approach will inevitably result in disaster for the environment as there will always be ways to justify our destructive human footprint on the land and water if human needs are considered to be of equal importance.

Satisfying human needs was never the mandate of the Trust at its inception and there is even more onus on the Trust now with the declared climate crisis to stand up for the environment above all.

You heard from the islanders in the public engagement process Islands 2050. And yet their overall and overwhelming concern for the environment and the rural nature of the islands is not being heard it appears by many Trustees, as reflected in the motions that were voted on at the last Trust Council meeting in March where the efforts of Pender Trustee Wright and Denman Trustee Critchley's motions to reaffirm that the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is preservation and protection of the natural environment were defeated.

Without this affirmation, present and future Trustees will not have any firm ground to stand on when it comes to land use decisions. We are already witnessing this on Gabriola where little discussion or examination of environmental impact accompanies rezoning for higher density. We know this to be the case on other islands as well.

Extreme caution must be exercised when it comes to forests, water resources, wetlands, wildlife habitat, wildfire risk etc. on our islands. And Trustees must be given clear Trust Policy Directives to guide their decision-making. That should be the primary focus of this Policy Statement Review, not muddying the waters with inclusion of "community needs, healthy communities, inclusivity" and so on. Promoting residential land use and solving social problems is NOT the legislated object of the Trust. Surely we have learned that human need will always overwhelm the environment's ability to support it.

Prior to the upcoming June Trust Council meeting, we ask all Trustees to carefully reflect on the charge they have before them in the review of the ITPS. It is "to preserve and protect the Trust area and its unique amenities and the environment" above all else. We ask you to not allow a few strong but misguided voices among you and within your constituents to distract you from this mandate. The future of the Trust area depends on you.

I also want to express some thoughts on large Urban style Townhouse complexes being proposed on Gabriola Island and on other Islands ... Sincerely , Arlene Yardley .

I T stats that I saw , point to Gabriola being almost at the threshold of population density .. that the Island eco system can accommodate (& stay balanced / healthy ) . I am concerned about the long term health of the eco system as there are hundreds of Lots as yet to be developed and many new Wells will be tapping into the Ground Water .. plus Septic saturation impacts . Eco conservation Biologists are concerned about the fracturing of the forest systems on the Gulf Islands. I do not think that larger / Urban

style townhouse complexes on the Gulf Islands , are in line with circumspect eco management on the long term . I hope that future elected Trustees and the I T Council will put the conservation of the sensitive & finite Eco systems of Gulf Islands , upper most when considering zoning and By Laws and Development in general.

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