

From: Islands2050
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Letter to IT from Saturna Fire Chief
Attachments: Letter to IT from Saturna Fire Chief June 22, 2021 Re Policy Statement.pdf

From: Peter Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Executive Admin <execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: Paul Brent <directoraltsgi@crd.bc.ca>; Lee Middleton <lmiddleton@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Letter to IT from Saturna Fire Chief

Hello,
Please see the attached brief letter, which addresses concerns with the Policy Statement.
Sincerely,
Peter Clark
Chief, Saturna Island Volunteer Fire Department
[REDACTED] Daytime
[REDACTED] Evenings/weekends



TO: The Islands' Trust

June 22, 2021

As it is a Fire Chief's job to protect the safety of their community from wildfire, it is occasionally also their job to advise local government on the effect of proposed legislation on the safety of a community. One of the greatest risks affecting entire communities in the Gulf Islands is the risk of a large wildfire.

It is clear that the new Policy Statement, as drafted, will have a great power over what future bylaws and regulations will be created in the affected communities.

That being the case, it is alarming that section 4.3, which aims to regulate tree cutting practices in the Trust area, includes no mention whatsoever of wildfires, and their danger to life, property or ecosystems. The principles of "Firesmart" do not necessarily conflict with the principles of "Forest Stewardship". However, the policy statement, as written, could lead to the banning of such practices as building fire breaks, treatment of ground fuels, and other methods of proactively controlling wildfire risk.

It is essential that section 4.3 includes at least a mention of balancing "Firesmart" principles with ecosystem stewardship.

Sincerely,

Peter Clark

CHIEF, SATURNA ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT