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Subject: Island Trust Policy Statement Review - Request for Postponement of First
Reading

June 25, 2021
South Pender Island

Dear Premier Horgan, Ministers, Trustees, and IT staff,

I am writing to express my concern about the Islands Trust draft Policy Statement, scheduled to have its first reading on July 8, 2021.

I am a new homeowner on S. Pender. We purchased the property last fall and, as I live on the island greater than 50% of the time, I consider it my home. Since moving to the island, I have tried to raise my understanding of local community issues and have listened in and participated in local Island Trust meetings.

I was extremely surprised to learn recently about the proposed changes to the Island Trust Policy Statement and after discussion with long-time, permanent residents was amazed that many were also not aware generally that changes were being proposed, let alone what specific changes were being proposed or how extensive these changes are.

I understand from recent reading that a review began in the fall of 2019, but I certainly was not aware of the process or I would have made sure I took part in any community consultation that was undertaken. Given the fact that over the past year we have been experiencing a major global pandemic and many lines of communication have been limited, it seems a very poor time to move ahead with a major review and revision of this very important guiding statement for the Island Trust. People's ability to participate, as well as their ability to focus on such matters during this past year of crisis will have meant that many people who would otherwise liked to participate will not have. Many are unaware of what was happening, been unable to participate or simply have been unable to focus on issues other than those relating directly to their health and safety.

It seems that those who were aware of the process, understood that what was being undertaken was a general updating of the Island Trust's guiding principles. These would establish how the Local Trust Committees conduct themselves, while allowing each island to maintain its own uniqueness, adapting to the constantly changing needs of each community.

The draft document that is being proposed to go for First Reading on July 8th is a major change in every way and almost everyone I have spoken to feels that not only has the process to date been flawed, but also the document that has been produced is not one they would support in any way. Many of the proposed changes seem not just unrealistic, but would negatively impact island residents with extremely specific restrictions on what they can and cannot do in their local communities.

While it is important to recognize that there is a process to follow, and that first reading is only the first of several, the extremity of these proposed changes is alarming. Please postpone the first reading of the draft Policy Statement to allow for a better, post-pandemic public consultation.

Sincerely,

Anne Wallis, Ph.D.

Managing Director Centre for Hip Health and Mobility, UBC (retired)