

From: Islands2050
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Reply to Lori Foster
Attachments: Untitled.pdf

From: Erik Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Executive Admin <execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Reply to Lori Foster

June 22nd 2021

Dear Sirs, Like so many of my fellow Islanders here on Gabriola and throughout the Southern Gulf Islands I have just learned about the proposal to rewrite what is basically the Islands Trust Constitution, with minuscule or any consultation with the constituents of the elected Trustees. If any thought was given to informing the general public of your plans, you get a failing grade. In the midst of a once a century Pandemic, it seems islands Trust would rather not engage with Islanders as you seek to sneak one by us. What other conclusion can we come to? Advertisement in any form that truly reaches the public has been sadly lacking and just now we are learning what your proposals are, not even in time to receive a delegation. It's even doubtful that this letter will reach you before deadline for comments. I've read almost everything I could lay my hands on in the last few days regarding your plans, and frankly I'm horrified by your lack of regard for us or your respect for our intelligence. I am not a policy wonk but even those who are have been caught completely off guard. You need to step back from the precipice you've lead us to, and take a sober look at your abysmal lack of communication with the public. Particularly on this issue, but basically on every governance issue since the Pandemic started. On Gabriola, the silent treatment has been going on since we elected new Trustees, frankly. The first step is to substantially delay any First Reading and allow us to interact with our Local Trustees face to face for the first time in a long time. Never mind this red herring of the First Nations making you adhere to a time table you set out yourselves. It is just an attempt to end all discussion and move on to an agenda that was made without regard to the Islands Trust area as a whole, but instead to ad hoc special interest groups within and without the Trust hierarchy itself. You do not have a mandate to change the Trusts mandate. Unless you hold a referendum on the issues contained in the change proposals before you go any further. I would like to have confidence in the workings of the Trust. I would like to believe you didn't mean to be secretive. I'd like to hear that you feel you were in error and had just lost touch with the realities of democratic responsibility to the electorate. But so far, to me and so many other Gulf Islanders, the premise of these changes look like a naked power grab. Deeply insulting to us all.
Sincerely Erik Johnson Gabriola, B.C.