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Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 10:10 PM
To: premier@gov.bc.ca
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nicholas.simons.mla@leg.bc.ca; jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca; information;
Islands2050; Peter Luckham; Russ Hotsenpiller; Clare Frater
Subject: Letter re Islands Trust Policy Statement
Attachments: 2021-06-27 Tretick letter re IT Policy Statement.pdf

Premier Horgan,

Please find attached a letter outlining our concerns regarding Island's Trust rush to get the proposed new Policy Statement to First Reading on July 8. We call on you to ensure that islanders have the opportunity to participate in physical Town Hall meetings before the draft statement goes to First Reading.

Chris & Sandra Tretick

[REDACTED]
(North) Pender Island, BC V0N 2M1
[REDACTED]

27 June 2021

Premier Horgan (premier@gov.bc.ca)

Re: Islands Trust Proposed Policy Statement set for First Reading

Dear Premier Horgan,

We are writing to comment on the Islands Trust intention to take a proposed new Policy Statement to first reading on July 8. The Islands Trust states there was an 18-month public consultation process designed to gather input into the revisions to the Policy Statement. We participated in the process by reading the Islands 2050 documents and completing the survey. Islands Trust led us to believe they were updating the Policy Statement to reflect First Nations reconciliation and climate change considerations.

At no time during this period was there any indication that there would be sweeping changes to the agriculture and forestry sections of the policy nor an outright ban on private docks, among other changes. This has morphed into a significant rewrite and should go back for additional public consultation with the islanders who will be impacted by the changes BEFORE it proceeds to First Reading. In person town halls should be organized on each island.

But, according to the July 8 agenda package, there is no legislated requirement for public engagement on changes to the Policy Statement. How can that be? The intention of the Policy Statement is to guide local OCPs and bylaws. It will impact every resident and landowner in the islands.

This must explain why local area trustees have not shared the proposed changes with their island residents, land owners or local organizations representing impacted groups. And given that we have been in lockdown during COVID-19 during much of the consultation process and drafting process, the tradition of holding robust town hall meetings has been eliminated. Even the Islands Trust timeline for public consultation following First Reading is heavily geared towards obtaining external reviews. A plan for public engagement following First Reading has not yet been developed and we understand that Islands Trust has plans afoot to continue with virtual meetings even once the Province opens up more. We have lousy internet infrastructure on the islands and a significant population of older people who do not Zoom. Virtual town hall meetings are inadequate. Are the views of the islanders who live and work here and operate businesses here inconsequential?

Regarding the proposed prohibition of docks, the Islands Trust appears to be saying they don't respect the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations current approval process. **Much of the Islands Trust jurisdiction is already located within the West Coast Region Private Moorage Application Only area.** This area prohibits General Permissions for new docks and requires an application for Specific Permission (or possibly a lease), for reasons of environmental sensitivity or other concerns. The application process is thorough and involves extensive consultation. Waterfront properties within the Islands Trust's jurisdiction that are adjacent to eelgrass beds and other sensitive marine ecosystems would not qualify for approval, so we don't understand why the trust is proposing an outright ban. One trustee we spoke to, who is in favour of the ban on docks, wasn't even aware of this process. We expect many others are also unaware of the current application process.

The revisions proposed by Islands Trust are dividing our communities, not bringing them together. Virtual town halls will not help heal this rift. That can only happen when people are brought together to discuss these changes and come to a workable solution.

We respectfully request that you intercede in this flawed timeline to push through the revised Policy Statement and advise Islands Trust to halt First Reading until open meetings can once again be held to discuss the changes and how they will impact us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris and Sandra Tretick



Pender Island, BC V0N 2M1

Copies to:

Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs (MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

George Heyman, Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries (AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

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