

From: Islands2050
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Island Trust Policy Statement, lack of oversight!

From: Cro and Sue [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 11:49 AM
To: MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca; josie.osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: MAH.DMO@gov.bc.ca; Trustees <Trustees@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Island Trust Policy Statement, lack of oversight!

Dear Minister Osborne,

I am writing to protest the rushing of the First Reading of the revision of the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

I first became aware of the proposed changes on June 28th 2021 through other concerned Bowen Island citizens.

I believe there has been a lack of transparency or consultation by the Islands Trust with owners and residents in the area regarding the proposed changes. Islands Trust seems to be run with a hidden agenda to reduce the ability of working people to either live or be employed on the islands. There is very little awareness of the requirements of the individual islands for instance;

The removal and restriction of docks on Islands which may provide vital egress in the event of disaster.

The restriction of desalinators on Islands that have little or no ground water

The restriction of tree cutting private property which flies in the face of proper wildfire management.

The restriction of agriculture, commercial or private

The lack of public input on broad sweeping changes to an area of independent eco systems are a few examples of Islands Trust being out of touch with the realities of living adjacent to Metro Vancouver.

Prior to revising a policy statement that affects Bowen and the Gulf Islands, the Islands Trust needs to follow due process. Specifically, the Islands Trusts should go through a planning phase allowing the public to ask questions, provide information, and contribute to the proposed changes. Impact studies should be undertaken to consider the potential environmental, health, social, and economic impacts of the proposed changes.

Those findings and key documentation should be made available to residents and owners for discussion and to allow for meaningful engagement. The public interest should be forefront of the process, and the process should not be rushed.

The Islands Trust should base their decisions on any policy changes on the findings of the impact studies, with the support of Bowen and Gulf Islands residents and owners, and made in the public interest.

I request a pause to the rushing to the 1st Reading, and that the Islands Trust undertake impact assessments, and engage in meaningful and effective public consultation with all affected residents and property owners, prior to making any changes.

I am disappointed by the lack of understanding on issues facing Bowen Island by Islands Trust. Please review this issue and support a more responsible governance.

Crozjer W. Lucas (Former BIM Councillor)

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Bowen Island, BC

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