

From: Executive Admin
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 10:17 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Letter to Trust

From: ALIX HODSON <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 4:56 PM
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July 5, 2021

To All Trustees:

Please do not give first reading to Policy 2.0 as there are too many things wrong with it.

In trying to keep the policies and language as flexible as possible for the planning services, many of the policies have been weakened or rendered meaningless.

When considering the “natural environment”; groundwater and recharge areas; unique and fragile island ecosystems; the words “shall strive to” or “will strive to”, and so on, is not sufficient to protect. Instead, “duty of care”, “makes certain” or “will keep safe” would strengthen the accuracy and effectiveness of the policy: also, assures, ensures, guarantees, secures.

The 2.0 policy amendment is based upon the presumption that the environment is not the Trusts “first principle” and “priority”; and there is no differentiation between “built” and “natural” environment throughout.

“Carrying capacity” has been removed from this document so there is no measure to control population and urbanization of the Islands. The lack of measurability, and more specifically, policies that are too flexible allow the planners and LTC’s to continue to follow

a developer centric course. While their irreversible decisions have consequences that in time become the depletion of limited island resources and the destruction of the natural environment and rural life.

Nature based solutions to protect ecosystems do not allow for the destruction of the land for residential use. Three islands Gabriola, Hornby and Mayne are, on or over, the “tipping point of environmental health”. In policy 2.0 there is no mention of what the Trust must do to prevent this from happening: No cap on population, no moratorium on densities and no restrictive measurable language to guide the Trust’s staff. The fact is we have all been lulled into the readily accepted idea that sustainability is possible. Obviously, on these islands “sustainable” is a word that can be used no longer with resources depleted and eco-systems destroyed.

The [REDACTED] would like to omit two sections from 4.2.7: “the freshwater quality is maintained”, and that, “Islands are self sufficient in their supply of freshwater”. Please, don’t allow this section to be amended, as we need more water and resource protection, not less. Off Island municipalities such as Nanaimo have already made it clear that in a drought situation there will be no water deliveries to the islands. This mandates that the islands must preserve their resource autonomy.

Currently, a severe heat wave has affected BC the likes of which we have never experienced in recorded history. It is accepted scientific knowledge that this occurrence is linked to climate change and global warming; and yet, Trustees on March voted not to make the natural environment a priority. How could this happen?

The Trust’s object is to preserve and protect the natural environment: and yet, to date they have not been implementing the necessary policies to ensure that their object is being followed. Before amendments 2.0 are accepted there must be an acknowledgement of this object and a pledge by staff and Trustees to make all decisions with a duty of care and priority given to the natural environment. Then and only then, should this policy be reviewed and the amendments made in keeping with the prime object. This is the direction that the majority of islanders would like the Trust to take. When surveyed in 2021(Driftwood, 2050, Housing First)76- 86% of the people wanted the Trust to make the environment a priority. Until, this direction can be achieved it is pointless to amend policies, and ergo, no reason to rush 2.0 through to pass first reading, especially, when the public has had no time to scrutinize the document.

In view of global warming and indeed the very survival of mankind, not making the environment a foremost concern is beyond irresponsible.

Respectfully yours,

Alix Hodson Deggan