

From: Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Susan Yates
Subject: Re: [GaLTT] Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement Review

Thank you Susan

Peter Luckham, Chair Trust Council
Trustee, Thetis Island
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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands
and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

On 7/14/2021 10:52 PM, Susan Yates wrote:

Hello Deb and E.C. members,

I'm please with GaLTT's effort on this front and thought you might want to see their message,

Kind regards,
Susan

GaLTT's President Rob Brockley has requested that I send out the following message to our members from the board and the **attached draft response from the Board to the Islands Trust's draft Policy Statement Review.**

Subject: Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement Review

As you may have heard, the Islands Trust Council voted at its July 8th meeting to delay first reading of the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement (revised Bylaw 183) to allow for enhanced public engagement. The Policy Statement is a foundational document containing commitments and policies that guide Trust-wide strategic plans, official community plans, and regulatory bylaws meant to preserve and protect the unique amenities of the Trust Area.

The new Policy Statement addresses many important issues that were not at the forefront when the current document was last

updated in 1994 – issues such as meaningful First Nations reconciliation and engagement, increasing pressures applied to the Trust’s ecosystems and communities by climate change, and the need for safe, secure, and affordable housing. The recent discovery of residential school graves, record-breaking temperatures, and devastating wildfires highlight the need for bold new directions. An updated and robust Policy Statement is critical to the long-term sustainability and health of our island ecosystems and communities.

The GaLTT Board has spent considerable time reviewing the draft Policy Statement. We are impressed with the effort that has been put into this comprehensive update, and with many of the new commitments and policies. However, we also note the draft document is not perfect and that many revisions are undoubtedly needed. Our President presented our general preliminary review at the public Town Hall meeting on July 7th, and a copy of our comments is attached for your information (due to time constraints, our verbal presentation was condensed).

The draft Policy Statement addresses many complex issues, and we welcome your feedback as we fully develop our position. You can email them to us at info@galtt.ca. We’re currently working on a more comprehensive commentary on the draft Policy Statement which we will share with you in the coming weeks.

The GaLTT Board encourages you to read the draft Policy Statement thoroughly. It is available at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>. We found the side-by-side comparison between the original policy document and the new proposal provided by local Trustee, Kees Langereis (<https://keeslangereis.ca/proposed-trust-policy-statement-amendments/>) particularly useful in identifying the extensive changes. We also encourage you to attend future public meetings to voice your opinions and to hear the opinions of others, and to submit your own comments to the Islands Trust Council (Islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca). Our Local Trust Committee will likely be offering opportunities for Gabriolans to express their views in the coming weeks.

Finally, some people attending the recent Town Hall public meeting expressed their view that the Islands Trust should be disbanded. We strongly disagree. With its unique mandate to preserve and protect, the Islands Trust is well positioned to be world leader in addressing urgent issues affecting the environment

and society. We view the Policy Statement as an important visionary document that is needed to guide those efforts.

Rob Brockley, President, Gabriola Land and Trails Trust
