

From: Paul Michael Petrie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: Steve Wright; Cameron Thorn; Laura Patrick; Robert Kojima
Subject: Submission re draft bylaw 183
Attachments: Islands Trust Policy changes September 20, 2021.docx; ATT00001.txt

Please accept the following submission regarding the proposed changes to the Trust Policy Statement.

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I write to express my qualified support of the Islands Trust Council DRAFT Bylaw No. 183 July 15, 2021. This long overdue review details important changes to the Trust Policy Statement that will equip Trust Council and LTCs to meet the multiple challenges that threaten to undermine the preserve and protect mandate of the Trust, to further disrupt the integrity of island ecosystems and to compromise the efforts of island communities to become more sustainable.

While I support the general focus of the proposed changes relating to climate change and recognition of Indigenous rights, the process has been cumbersome and at times has lacked transparency. Some proposed policies (e.g. housing) seem to reach beyond the Trust's jurisdiction. A more streamlined and less repetitive version of the proposed policy changes would assist islanders and British Columbians generally to understand the changes.

Trust priorities

I strongly support Council's directive to LTCs to place priority on the integrity of the environment and Indigenous cultural heritage in all decision-making and limit the rate and scale of growth and development in their planning area. (3.1.12)

Climate emergency

Foremost among the challenges facing the Trust Area is the accelerating climate emergency that presents multiple threats to fragile ecosystems and island communities. The August 2021 IPCC report documents the impacts of climate change that is spiralling us toward a climate crisis with increased windstorms, droughts, wild fires and sea rise.

I support Council's commitment to identify, monitor, and address the impacts of climate change on Trust Area communities through climate vulnerability assessments, adaptive management approaches, and nature-based solutions that are informed by the best available evidence including Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. I support the policy amendments to reduce climate vulnerability including amendments: 4.1.5; 4.1.7; 4.1.9; 6.1.18; 6.1.20

Indigenous relations

I strongly support Trust Council's commitment in 3.1.6 to seek meaningful engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area, recognizing First Nations' treaty and territorial lands and waters, and to be guided by the specific reconciliation principles and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, that fall within Trust Council's jurisdiction.

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I also support the direction to LTCs (3.1.15) to seek meaningful engagement with First Nations and strive to align decision-making with the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

I agree (4.1.12) that the Trust must consult with First Nations to preserve First Nations' traditional harvesting areas; (4.2.3) respect inherent FN rights to access freshwater streams for cultural and spiritual purposes; (4.5.4) and commitment to prevent removal or excavation of soil or fill from middens or foreshore areas that have been identified as culturally significant areas.

Over development

I agree that (6.1.2) all development in the Trust Area, of any scale or for any purpose, should be compact, energy-efficient, sustainable, and appropriately situated in order to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard protected area networks, freshwater sustainability, a healthy marine environment, and Indigenous cultural heritage in the Trust Area. I agree with the related policies in 6.2.4; 6.2.5; 6.2.6; and 6.2.7. I strongly support the Trust's commitment to apply the precautionary approach for protecting island water resources (4.2.1)

forest ecosystems

The Trust has an obligation to increase its commitment to protect the endangered Coastal Douglas Fir Zone. I strongly support the Trust's commitment to secure jurisdictional authority to preserve and protect forest ecosystems and prohibit clear cutting and logging old growth and to regulate tree cutting in the Trust Area. I also support the Trust's application of the precautionary approach to stewardship of forest ecosystems and opposition to clear cutting of forests and logging old growth trees.

I look forward to Trust Council acting decisively to enact the proposed changes to the Trust Policy Statement and securing the necessary resources to implement the changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Petrie
South Pender Island