

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 12:02 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Comments on Proposed Draft Policy Statement

Hello,

I am co-author of “Southern Gulf Islands Local Area Food and Agriculture Plan 2021” being finalized for publication for the southern gulf islands.

My general comment on the draft Policy Statement is that agriculture and food security with its land and water requirements continue to be recognized as a key community building component on the southern gulf islands. Food security is an emerging issue and a concern especially with disruptions being caused by the pandemic, ongoing climate change, and war on the global supply chains. The ability to grow much more food to achieve a higher degree of self-sufficiency and resilience on the islands should be safe-guarded and fostered in the Policy Statement.

In addition I have extracted a number of specific actions from the Food and Agriculture Plan that the Islands Trust and its Local Trust Committees should consider that would help foster agriculture and food security on the islands:

- Establish a standing Food and Agriculture Advisory Committee, perhaps as agricultural advisory planning commissions, on each SGI to advise and develop land use recommendations for each Local Trust Committee; work with CRD to determine if there is value in establishing an SGI Food and Agriculture Commission.
- Work with the ALC, Islands Trust Council and Local Trust Committees to address and resolve affordable seasonal and full-time housing for food and farm workers.
- Inventory successful water management practices and techniques currently used such as the Rain-Flo System at Cable Bay Farm, Galiano and develop a water management educational program for farmers and gardeners with seminars, site visits, mentorship and an online video library of the techniques featuring the farmers and gardeners that use them.
- Develop an active awareness campaign that includes - regular articles in island newsletters and magazines, excerpts and links on social media, speaking tours and town hall sessions, and presence at island festivals, events, and farmers’ markets - to promote the findings and recommendations of the [Vancouver Island Adaptation Strategies](#) plan and the [Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan](#) with a special focus on reducing emissions from livestock production, agricultural soils and fossil fuel use.
- Support Islands Trust to quantify agricultural water demand standards for different types of agriculture and to produce a water master plan for each SGI, funding may be available through BC’s [Infrastructure Planning Grant Program](#)

- Support Islands Trust to produce [groundwater sustainability plans](#) such as the [North Pender Island Groundwater Sustainability Implementation Plan](#) for each SGI.
- Work with farmers, the Islands Trust, CRD and island fire departments to map prime locations for ponds, weirs, dams and other water retention systems to increase infiltration and availability of surface water, develop feasibility studies and implement such structures where practical.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Policy Statement.

Keep well,

Edward Andrusiak

Co-author “Southern Gulf Islands Local Area Food and Agriculture Plan 2021”

