

**From:** Islands2050  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:04 AM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** FW: Islands Trust draft Policy Statement

**From:** William Russell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 11:12 AM  
**To:** Morgana van Niekerk <[mvanniekerk@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:mvanniekerk@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Islands Trust draft Policy Statement

Yes, please do so.

While I am not sure how that will answer my concerns. How will this mean a more thorough approach to informing Islanders of the reasons for all this activity? And it is an expensive exercise, given the resources being consumed.

So just what is the shortcoming in the Island Trust mandate that is lacking? What is the reason this "revisit" is necessary? Is it mandated in the original document that there is to be a renewal? I would have thought such information was critical before any steps were taken to "rectify" the problem. What problem? I have read the Mandate many times over and it appears to not require revision. Perhaps abolition of the Islands Trust is the solution.

And how will the Islands Trust Council ensure widespread community involvement in the issues discussed. Given the low level of awareness on Galiano of what is taking place so far. Or is that in dispute?

Any interest in a mailbox campaign to keep everyone informed of this process and how it is to be advanced? It would be far more efficient and relevant given the waste of resources on the "online survey" I referenced earlier.

The technology exists. A resealable piece of paper that can be put back in the recipients mailbox and mailed back, at no charge. If people wish to ignore the opportunity to participate, so be it. But at least they were personally canvassed. This is a means of achieving consensus, if that is desired.

But relying on the internet for informed discussion is just not practical.

Regards

Bill Russell

Galiano Island

On 26-Aug-25 3:22 PM, Morgana van Niekerk wrote:

Hi Bill,

Thank you for responding to my email.

Would you like me to add your email to the draft Policy Statement correspondence folder? This means your email will be available on the Islands Trust website, and can viewed by trustees.

**Morgana van Niekerk**  
Communication Specialist  
T 250.405.5197

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**From:** William Russell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 24, 2025 10:43 PM  
**To:** Morgana van Niekerk <[mvanniekerk@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:mvanniekerk@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Islands Trust draft Policy Statement

Thank you for the response.

I do have some concerns regarding the process being followed in advancing this very detailed description of the direction the Island Trust should take in the future.

The first concern is the fact that there has been little or no serious input to this process from the ordinary residents of Galiano Island.

The survey you attached to this email was not representative and was very limited in scope and presentation. A great deal of money and time was devoted to the exercise, (\$180,000?), and the few responses were not really of value. For example each "ip" address only allowed one response. Only one person per adult resident? The number of returned responses was statistically without value.

The questions in the survey were also simply statements in many cases that asked multiprong questions with a range of agree or disagree. Poorly written in my view.

The one issue that is outstanding is the lack of input to all the processes being used so far. Requiring an individual to provide a transcript of their input and then needing to be a member of a group is not open dialogue. Traveling to another Island as an individual and not being permitted to offer an opinion is not "engagement". Very efficient, but not a dialogue.

For example, at what point in the entire process of creating a new Trust Mandate, was the question seriously asked, do we want or need one? A bigger and more expensive bureaucracy to duplicate or expand on laws already in existence. Were

we asked? Were we provided with a set of problems not being addressed by our current Mandate? No.

And having any such documents "online" is meaningless. It supposes all residents of the Gulf Islands are sufficiently politically motivated and internet savvy to participate. This applies as well to all the future arrangements for local input. I suggest you work on that as a matter of priority.

It costs about \$180 to distribute a mailout to ALL addresses here on Galiano. I suggest you use this fact to spend the resources of the Islands Trust more effectively. You could start by sending out an envelope circular explaining the necessity for a revised Trust Mandate. That would include an envelope to be dropped off at ALL the mailboxes on the Island. Postage paid of course. That will inform everyone of Trust Council's actions and planning. You could explain just why this entire exercise is needed at all. Seek approval that is "open". Get consensus.

Please do not assume everyone here has access to the Internet. A friend of mine has no option. No cell service, no satellite available and no access to the Saltspring Beacon antenna. How do you plan to "engage " with that household?

Personally I do not see a problem seeking a solution here. I see a solution seeking a problem. An expanding bureaucracy seeking justification. We have more than enough Government on Galiano already. We need less, not more.

Regards  
Bill Russell  
Galiano Island

On 2025-08-18 12:17 p.m., Morgana van Niekerk wrote:

Hi Bill,

Thank you for your call on Friday about the Islands Trust draft Policy Statement.

During the call, you mentioned that you were looking for the survey questions from a previous round of public engagement. I have attached the report, which includes the survey questions closer to the end of the document.

You also said you would like me to email you the draft Policy Statement, see attached.

Our engagement promotion is underway and you will see advertising in local publications, emails in your inbox, posters on islands, and a brochure going to all household mailboxes during the month of September. There is also an [online Town Hall](#), and [on-island engagement opportunities](#). Staff will be at the Galiano Island local trust committee meeting on [October 14, 2025](#). Engagement will be ongoing until February 2026.

Please call me any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

**Morgana van Niekerk** (she, her, hers)

Communication Specialist

Islands Trust

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You can also reach us toll-free via Service BC 1-800-663-7867 | 604-660-2421

### **Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea**

*I respectfully acknowledge that the Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOŖEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, Da'naxda'xw, K'ómoks, Lummi, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL, Mamalilikulla, Qualicum, scəwəðən, səliłwətaʔ, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Sk̓w̓xwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', S̓TÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ʔaʔəmen, Tlowitsis, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, W̓JOŁELP, W̓SIKEM, Xeláłtxw, Xwémalhk̓wu, Xwsepsum, and x̣ʷməðḳʷəỵəm First Nations/Tribes/Nations. Islands Trust is committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.*