

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 5:31 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Feedback
Attachments: Islands Trust Policy Statement Critique 2025.pdf

Comments regarding Islands Trust Policy statement:

From, Norman Kasting, Ph.D.

4th generation Thetis island resident and Landholder of 4 properties totalling 72 acres of Thetis Island. Conservationist.

November 3, 2025

Preamble:

1. I am saddened that the only way to maintain a large tract of natural forest on my island is to sell off piecemeal lots, hypocritically developing the forest which I am trying to keep intact. Taxes on my residential property are ridiculously high. Government(s) need to be **proactive** to conserve what's left of undeveloped land and quit engaging in magical thinking.
2. These policies are well intentioned but without oversight, proper incentives and enforcement become just that: good intentions. Islands Trust Governance needs funding and teeth or it becomes irrelevant.

Specific comments:

2.3.4 Other levels of government are singularly **antagonistic or indifferent** towards goals and authority of Islands Trust with respect to surrounding waters and their uses. Their interests stop and start at economic benefits of the greater Canadian economy. Local interests are virtually ignored. Islands Trust must advocate for unique nature of the Gulf Islands . **We are not a parking lot for corporate Canada's sloppy planning and obeisance to multinationals.**

3.1.1 In the enthusiasm to protect Indigenous hunting/fishing/harvesting rights, although well-justified, comprehensive **oversight and enforcement** must be in place, to avoid replacing one system of unsustainable exploitation of natural resources by commercial fishers, fish farms, and poor DFO decisions, **by another led by Indigenous entities.**

3.1.1 With the strong directives to Reconciliation with First Nations and adopting policies to satisfy First nations expectations on non-reserve land, it needs to be clearly stated **whether Island Trust policies apply to First Nations territories (Reserves)** or only non-reserve land that is claimed by First Nations.

3.3.1 Everything must be done to encourage large tracks of land to be protected via buy-back or tax relief. Scattered and small protected areas are better than nothing but do not substitute **for large and contiguous protected areas.** The future of the Gulf Islands depends on such initiatives.

3.3.1 Land protection can't be successful without including contiguous bodies of water. There is **no clear break between ecosystems of the land and surrounding waters.**

3.4.7 Some island residents feel any economic activity should be allowed to support their personal economic agenda. These must be mitigated by compatibility with a rural island environment and health and security of neighbours. **Gulf islands are not to be equated with no bylaw or criminal activity enforcement** which appears to be the current thinking of many islanders.

3.4.31 Some and perhaps many Gulf islands have little public land and hence trail systems may be largely dependent on community-minded private landowners. There are associated costs viz trash pick-up, unauthorized usage, illegal camping, illegal harvesting, vandalism,

unauthorized internet advertisement benefitting for-profit tour groups, etc. Private landowners will only tolerate a limited amount of these annoyances before withdrawing access. Therefore, **policies must be implemented for purchase/oversight of trail systems.**

3.4 32 Public access to shorelines is a 2 edged sword. The public should enjoy such access but **the burden of clean-up ends up on the shoulders of the upland owners.** If such policy is encouraged then clean-up and nuisance situations must be credited towards tax credits or oversight from appropriate authorities. you can't have one without the other since a small proportion of all visitors to shorelines leave garbage, commit vandalism and disturb the peace.

3.5.7 Digging of ponds; encouraging hydro-engineers such as beavers; preventing roadway ditches from discharging directly into the sea, all should be encouraged **to allow aquifers to recharge during the rainy season.**

3.5.8 **Maintaining large private forest holdings is currently impossible.** Taxes and maintaining security (ie preventing illegal logging, plant harvesting, illegal camping, vandalism, trespass) make this a mug's game. All residents want tracts of natural forest but the burden lies entirely on the private landowner's dollar. The only choice is to develop or sell to a land conservancy for a loss. Many large tracts of forest are inherited and not based on a large endowment.