

From: Paul Kubik [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2026 11:01 AM
To: Kristina Evans; Dag Falck; Tobi Elliott; Islands2050
Subject: IT draft policy—co-governance principle 2.3.3

Hi Kristina, et. al.

The IT draft policy statement contains the following principle.

2.3.3

*Work Towards Collaborative Governance with Indigenous Governing Bodies
Develop strong relationships with Indigenous Governing Bodies and work toward
building foundations for collaborative governance with Indigenous Governing
Bodies, including through the development of shared decision-making agreements
under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.*

The draft seems to envision the policy statement being in effect for about 25 years until around 2050. Does the principle no. 2.3.3 cover the full extent of the anticipated collaborative governance model with Indigenous governing bodies? Can you elaborate more on how it might look in ten or twenty years time?

Currently, it looks to me that Islands Trust is pretty much similar to other democratically elected bodies in Canada at the municipal, provincial and national levels. With democracy comes transparency, openness and accountability. Can you explain if the co-governance model being pursued by IT differs from a democratic model in ways that would concern us, we being residents, voters and taxpayers?

For example, Indigenous governing bodies may not govern democratically. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, B.C. contains sections 16 and 18 which restrict disclosure of information to the public that would harm "intergovernmental relations" and "interests of an Indigenous people." In my experience, even banal information is often hidden from public view. There are several possibilities that would undermine our confidence in co-governance, as a result.

I ask the question, what are the principles of democratic representation? You can do it yourselves. What comes up are things like, authority comes from the people (through elections), representatives are accountable to the people, every citizen's voice carries equal weight, citizens must be free to express opinions and organize, laws apply equally, regular free and fair elections ensure representation remains legitimate.

Therefore, how does co-governance fit in with the democratic principles that are essential to our society, our government, our well-being?

Paul Kubik, Pender Island