

From: Holly Schofield [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2026 12:22 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: Rob.Botterell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Lisa Gauvreau; Ben Mabberley; Executive Admin; Timothy Peterson; Laura Patrick
Subject: Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement

To the Islands Trust Council:

The draft Trust Policy Statement is too vague and too open to interpretation. It must be revised.

In particular, the following needs to be changed:

- The most important Guiding Principle needs to be on preserving, protecting and restoring the natural environment, as it is fundamental to the Object of the Trust.
- All "directives" need to state that they "must" be followed rather than "should" be followed, and all "advisory policies" need to be directives.
- All uses of "strive to ensure" should be revised to "ensure".
- All uses of "consider" during decision-making should be revised to "require".
- Goal 3, Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Natural Ecosystems, needs to have the 30X 30 biodiversity goal (30% of land protected by 2030, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022) as a target.
- All references to "managing growth" need to be changed to "limiting growth" in accordance with the Trust's Object of preservation and protection of the natural environment. Growth can happen as long as it fits the Object and is evaluated using current environmental principles of sustainability. Ensure that all development respects the ecological integrity of each island and the ability of natural ecosystems to support it.
- Housing directive policies need to allow for each island's individual needs and need to focus on affordable housing (not "attainable" housing).
- Climate mitigation is mostly missing from the draft Policy Statement. There needs to be a full and comprehensive directive on it, in accordance with Islands Trust declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019.
- Restore current policy 5.4.2 "Neither hazardous nor industrial waste should be disposed of in the Trust Area."
- The current section on the history and context of why the IT came to exist needs to be restored to this draft version, shortened and updated.
- The Glossary is vital to the understanding of the document and needs major improvement:
 - **Density** needs be defined as total footprint of the built environment, not using the urban metrics in the draft document.

- **Ecosystem** needs to be defined as: A collection of communities of both living and non-living things that are connected. The biotic elements in an ecosystem include living things such as plants and animals. The abiotic elements found in an ecosystem include non-living things like land forms or climate. Healthy ecosystems provide important "services," like clean air and water, healthy forests and farms, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and habitat for plants and animals. (Source: Government of BC).
- **Environment** needs to be defined as: Air, land, water and all other external conditions or influences under which humans, animals and plants live and are developed (Ministry of Environment Act, 1996, up to date to January 6 2026 and Environmental Management Act, Chapter 53, current to January 6 2026), or even better to replace "developed" with "honoured".
- **Fragmentation** needs to be defined as: The splitting-up of intact area of forests into smaller, more isolated units or patches (source: Lord and Norton 1990). Habitat fragmentation is one of the primary drivers of species extinction worldwide. (Source: D. Mullu, 2016, A review on the effect of habitat fragmentation on ecosystems.)
- **Sustainability** needs to be defined as: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN Brundtland Report , 1987).
- **Sustainable Development** needs to be defined as: An integrated approach that takes into consideration environmental concerns along with economic development (Canada Auditor General, 1985).
- **Unique Amenities** needs to be continued to defined as: The unique natural features of the Islands Trust Area including, but not limited to: vegetation, wildlife tree cover, large undeveloped areas, recreational opportunities adjacent to two major urban areas (The Object of the Islands Trust: Renewing the Consensus. Islands Trust Position Paper No.1, 1986)

You have each sworn an oath that you will uphold the Object of the Trust. Please carry out your commitment by amending this draft as above.

Holly Schofield

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Galiano, BC