

From: Marc Winckers [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement.

Hello,

Yesterday I took the time to respond to the survey on the Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement. The survey itself was clearly structured in a way that simply sought affirmation that if certain steps were taken in the form of Directive or Advisory Policies, then the various Goals would be met. There were no opportunities, other than in the free form comments to express whether we agreed with the goals or related policies. I did, however, take the time to add many comments throughout the survey.

As a resident on Gabriola Island, I was deeply concerned that the draft policy statement clearly has First Nations Reconciliation as a priority with almost no mention of the involvement of Islands Trust residents as a whole in the reconciliation process. Whether you are aware of it or not, this is not how reconciliation in Canada was supposed to work. The TRC describes reconciliation as "Establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in this country." As a result of the approach being taken by the BC Government and Islands Trusts, there is a growing divide between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in our communities. This divide is further exacerbated by recent court rulings in BC that now put our rights as fee simple property title holders into question. It is apparent that government bodies in BC, including Islands Trust, are dutifully working with First Nations on Reconciliation while largely ignoring the rest of the population. Despite being elected by the general population of the communities you govern, Islands Trust is not representing the interests of those individuals who voted for you and pay the property taxes that fund Islands Trust.

My ask is that you suspend the review of the Draft Policy, until such time that the BC Government's promised amendments to the DRIPA legislation has taken place. In addition, you should step back to re-engage your community together with First Nations groups to see how we can work together as a community. Perhaps you will be able to take steps towards mending the divide you have created.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,

Marc Winckers

Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement.