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**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 2:39 PM  
**To:** Islands2050; HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca; rob.botterell.mla@leg.bc.ca  
**Subject:** Islands Trust Policy Statement Revision

## Response to Islands Trust Council Draft Policy Statement

Following two failed end-runs to the Minister's office, the current Islands Trust Council now presents a Draft Policy Statement that violates the principle objective of the *Islands Trust Act*. As justification, Council Chair Patrick and Chamber of Commerce president Roy-Allen claim this is the only way to resolve the housing crisis for employees unable to afford current real estate pricing.<sup>1</sup> Small business manager Hermani claims that businesses must be allowed to violate building bylaws to survive. "There is no other option."<sup>1</sup>


Vested interests now push a development agenda that abandons the *Act*'s core principles of preservation and protection while ignoring obvious options that have succeeded in other resort communities: 1) paying a living wage, 2) creating a not-for-profit housing authority to provide covenant-protected accommodation on an "as-needed" rather than "as-wanted" basis, 3) public policy and investment to limit the worst aspects of gentrification and excessive tourism, 4) enforcement of current building bylaws to ensure public safety, and perhaps re-establish respect for the law. The additional limitation of potable water supply is entirely ignored.

A recent independent professional review of the self-described "dysfunctional"<sup>2</sup> Islands Trust Council has compiled a long list of failures without explicitly suggesting incompetence. Further evidence of dysfunction includes: 1) consultation with unspecified agents behind closed doors in preparation of the Draft Policy Statement, 2) inappropriate simultaneous revision of the Policy Statement, the Official Community Plan, and the Land Use Bylaw, 3) refusal to allow a popular vote on the most consequential revision in the history of the *Islands Trust Act*, 4) putting the community at risk with public endorsement of the routine violation of building bylaws.<sup>1</sup> The consultant report identifies this behaviour as "a dramatic example of Trust Council's collective leadership deficit".<sup>3</sup>

While the community is shut out of the decision-making process, one of the three Salt Spring Island representatives fails to qualify for the privilege to vote in an election. He publicly advocates for abolition of the *Islands Trust Act* and uses his committee voting privilege to advance a development agenda. If reformers had the courage of conviction, they would welcome the opportunity to gain the support of a popular vote. Such support being absent, reformers aim to quickly replace protective regulation before the fall election of representatives. I must insist that the Minister dismiss the Islands Trust Council effort as flawed, illegitimate, and illegal.

Thank you,

Francois Thériault,  
[REDACTED]  
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## References

1. Salt Spring Island businesses relying on illegal worker housing, officials say many services on Salt Spring Island are experiencing a labour shortage, driven by a lack of affordable housing. Emily Fagan, CBC News · Posted: Nov 15, 2025 6:00 AM PST | Last Updated: November 15, 2024
2. Islands Trust Governance Review. Great Northern Management Consultants, 2022. p.19
3. Islands Trust Governance Review. Great Northern Management Consultants, 2022. p.24