

From: Janice McLean [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 5:35 PM
To: Executive Admin <execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca>; HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Rob Botterell MLA <R.Botterell@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Trust Draft Policy Statement

Dear Trustees of the Islands Trust Council and Minister Christine Boyle,

I am writing writing to express my concerns with the current draft Trust Policy Statement (TPS). As a Salt Spring resident for over 30 years I am well aware of the unceasing pressure to increase development on the Gulf Islands.

The mandate of the Islands Trust is to preserve and protect these special islands. It seems to me that the current draft TPS is intentionally weakening the protection of these islands when it should be strengthening this.

I know that lack of affordable housing is a crisis here, and in many parts of Canada and the world. However, housing is not part of the Trust mandate, nor is tourism – nor should they be. In addition, it is clear that developers and speculators have no motivation to build below market affordable housing. It seems that the usual way to achieve non market housing is when it is built by not for profit entities with some form of government subsidy.

If housing is to be affordable or “attainable”, this must be an enforceable legally binding obligation before any increased density or change of zoning is considered. So far I see no examples of this on Salt Spring Island.

You as Trustees have no right to weaken the protection of the Gulf Islands and open the door to increased density and destructive growth.

The Trust is mandated to prevent over development, and I urge the Minister to reject any Policy Statement that risks weakening the Trust mandate.

Sincerely,
Janice McLean
Salt Spring Island

RE: Trust Draft Policy Statement