

From: Richard Kerr [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 2:13 PM
To: HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Executive Admin <execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Rob Botterell MLA <R.Botterell@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Islands Trust draft Policy Statement (TPS)

The Honourable Christine Boyle,
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Dear Minister Boyle,

I agree with April 2025 letter to the Islands Trust by your predecessor Ravi Kahlon stating that “land use planning to preserve and protect the Trust Area ... is the core responsibility of the Islands Trust” and that the development of the next iteration of the Trust Policy Statement requires “a Policy Statement in which all involved can have confidence”. I urge you to maintain the positions of your predecessor and to withhold approval of the current draft Trust Policy Statement.

I also agree with the MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, Rob Botterell, who stated that there is no justification for the Islands Trust Council to fast track approval of the current draft policy statement and to seek your approval before the October Trust elections [Gulf Islands Driftwood 21 January 2026]. MLA Botterell cites numerous concerns that have been expressed by Salt Spring Island residents about loose language in the current draft that would fail to comply with the Trust’s long-standing “preserve and protect” mandate.

Rather than ensuring compliance with the Islands Trust Act’s mandate to “preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment”, the draft TPS would only require that environmental impacts of development be “considered”. A secret (!) meeting of the Trust Council in September 2023 concluded that “unique amenities are broad-ranging and may include issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism”. This flawed thinking is reflected in the draft TPS.

FW: Islands Trust draft Policy Statement (TPS)

One example is the promotion of undefined “attainable” housing. This should be replaced by the legally defined term “affordable housing”, with provisions to ensure that any re-zoning to allow affordable housing provides for enforcement.

The Islands Trust Council has clearly failed so far to meet your predecessor’s requirements for the revised Trust Policy Statement. Because of the crucial role of the TPS in guiding official community plans and other bylaws within the Trust Area, the draft statement requires further opportunities for public input and debate by candidates in the October Trust elections. Only after those elections can a clear picture emerge of the wishes of Islands Trust voters. As indicated by MLA Botterell, approving the current draft Policy Statement before the fall elections “would flout democracy, destroy confidence and could trigger litigation”.

I hope you will continue to support the “preserve and protect” mandate set out in the Islands Trust Act.

Thank you.

Richard Kerr

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Salt Spring Island BC