

From: Secretary BYC [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 8:26 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Responseo the the Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement
Attachments: 2026-01-30 Burrard Yacht Club.pdf

Please see attached for Burrard Yacht Club's response to the Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Kind regards,

Renée Willock

Secretary

Burrard Yacht Club

604-318-1906



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BURRARD YACHT CLUB

January 30, 2026

Islands Trust Council (ITC)

Re: Response to the Draft Island Trust Policy Statement

Burrard Yacht Club was established in 1932, by boaters in Greater Vancouver, and currently serves nearly 500 active members. Over the years we have established outstations in several locations governed by the Islands Trust including in Howe Sound and the Southern Gulf Islands. Many club members now own and reside permanently on Gulf Island property, and we all cherish the Gulf Island Provincial Marine Park system.

We are encouraging our membership to complete a survey regarding the Draft Island Trust Policy Statement (ITPS) before February 2, 2026. We believe our membership strongly supports the emphasis on policies relating to ecological integrity and controlled development in our Gulf Islands. However, our Executive wishes to highlight two key concerns with the policies proposed by this statement:

a) the ITPS contains examples of areas of potential jurisdictional conflict and legal challenges around marine shoreline policies:

In our recent past, we have worked extensively with both the federal and provincial governments on issues dealing with our foreshore leases and navigable water policies. With patience and acceptance, we have developed a working understanding of the jurisdictional pathways required to provide our membership with opportunities to enjoy our coastal resources. Yet the ITPS introduces directives that are clearly out of compliance with existing Trust policies and will cause confusion among the stakeholders you propose to regulate. Sections on aquaculture tenures (3.5.19), vessel moorage (3.5.22), marinas (3.5.23), sharing of coastal facilities (3.5.24), marine docks (3.5.25), and marine structures (3.5.26) must consider the Island Trust Policy 5.9.2 which states: ***“a local trust committee does not have jurisdiction over matters that fall within federal or provincial jurisdiction.”*** This is important for recreational boating because a lack of property ownership does not prevent local OCPs from influencing the management of areas that are vitally important. Therefore, it would seem inappropriate for the Islands Trust to propose changes to their policies that do not comply with their own policy (viz 5.9.2) or conform with the intentions of senior governments and expose us all to potential legal challenges.

b) the ITPS lacks a general balance between efforts to meet our First Nation reconciliation responsibilities while supporting the needs of other parties that have an interest in the Gulf Islands:

The Directive Policies relating to both goals three (3.3.1-9) and four (3.4.1-8) are realistic and supportable. Scrutinizing ecosystem integrity and local community development are justified given the pressure of population growth on our natural resources. However, the Advice Policies provided for the development of OCP's are unbalanced as they appear to direct related actions based exclusively on the principles of Reconciliation and UNDRIP. **We agree that First Nation involvement is critical, but conservation perspectives, habitat mitigation strategies, and western science considerations are also critical and should be given equal weight in community planning.** Similarly, your advice should seek equitable consideration of policies that support practical economic opportunities for youth, new Canadians, and others who wish to build diverse and sustainable island communities.

Naturally, all policies that impact the recreational boating community are of interest to us (particularly 3.4.29-30) and we appreciate their inclusion for the purpose of directing official community planning. However, these are "Directive Policies"; equivalent "Advisory Policies" are not provided. In the absence of specific advice, we are concerned that development of OCP's will give priority to the preservation of shoreline ecosystems guided by the restrictions on almost every shoreline type (section 3.3.6) and the stipulation that First Nation Governing Bodies have the exclusive authority to define areas of "Indigenous Cultural Heritage" (Directive 3.2.1-3 and Advisory 3.2.4-8). This is regulatory imbalance and could effectively exclude all development of shoreline structures that by nature are proximate to the foreshore and meet the needs of all types of boating recreation (3.5.20-26). **Advice should identify mitigative measures to allow construction and maintenance of boating facilities while ensuring ecosystem protection and should introduce balance and flexibility into OCP's and ITC policies.**

We appreciate this opportunity to provide input to the policies that are critical to our recreational ventures. We hope that the Province agrees to the principle that the boating public deserves reasonable access to coastal recreation sites and the ability to maintain waterlot investments and the adjacent upland facilities in the Trust Area, where the vast majority of British Columbian boaters recreate. We would welcome any further opportunities to assist with this important process.

Sincerely



Katy Muenter, Commodore, Burrard Yacht Club

cc Hon. Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs