

From: A & S Forest [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 5:25 PM
To: Islands2050; Executive Admin; Ben Mabberley; Lisa Gauvreau; Timothy Peterson; David Maude; Tobi Elliott; Laura Patrick
Subject: COMMENTS re Proposed Trust Policy Statement of July 2025

Dear Trustees and Trust Staff:

On the subject of UNIQUE AMENITIES: I suggest the Trust has wrongly included development in its working definition of Unique Amenities.

Please list my opposition to the 2023 working definition: will "include, but not be limited to, housing livelihoods, infrastructure, and tourism".

If you have time to read further, I base my opposition on an excellent Trust Discussion paper, cited below, that includes the history of First Nations' curating of the Trust's Unique Amenities.

The 2023 Unique Amenities definition has not been agreed to by Trust area citizens, nor has it been legally approved, but is now a foundational concept in the proposed new Trust Policy Statement.

Simply put, development activities are not unique amenities.

Every community across the country has economic, development, tourism, and housing infrastructure amenities and/or needs for them. Each Trust island has land use bylaws that provide opportunities for meeting islanders' needs for housing and economic activity which can be updated without the need to erase the actual meaning of Unique Amenities.

The Islands Trust Discussion Paper – "The Islands Trust Object, Past, Present, and Future" – March 2021 (page 20) clearly delineates the unique amenities of the Trust Area in the chart below:.

Text	Interpretation
<p><i>“...and its unique amenities and environment...”</i></p>	<p>The special amenities and environment of the Trust area derive from the combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a mild climate; • approximately 500 islands and the extensive coastline and sheltered waters they provide; • diverse and unusual natural features, vegetation and wildlife; • almost a continuous tree cover and large undeveloped areas; • numerous areas of heritage or archaeological significance; • abundant and varied recreational opportunities accessible to adjacent major urban centres; • solitude, scenic beauty and a clean environment; • compact, marine-oriented settlements; • tranquil rural areas; • a range of lifestyles; • a unique water supply situation (i.e. small watersheds, shallow soils and heavy reliance on groundwater sources); • the self-sufficiency yet interdependence that island living entails; <p>Defining the unique amenities and environment of the Trust area is the focus of the Trust's program. Special areas such as the most outstanding beaches, the most significant landscapes featuring unusual grassland and wildflower areas or attractive open stands of Garry Oak, Arbutus or Douglas Fir, and intertidal and subtidal zones especially rich in a variety of marine life may be of National or Provincial importance and may require special attention (perhaps through preservation as a park or ecological reserve). Areas such as smaller, attractive sand beaches, promontories providing superior views, and major bays providing protection for boats from open water are of regional or local significance and may warrant special zoning or regulation to avoid loss or disturbance. Residential, commercial or tourism development appropriate to the services and lifestyle of the islands can, in this way, be steered to the most suitable areas.</p>

The last sentence: "Residential, commercial or tourism development appropriate to the services and lifestyle of the islands can, in this way, be steered to the most suitable areas" in fact advises 'steering' development to areas that will not damage the unique amenities.

The Unique Amenities of the Trust Area are its natural environment, curated since time immemorial by First Nations.

The following excerpts from page 10 of the 2021 Discussion paper further illustrate how far afield the Trust has deviated from its primary task — to protect and preserve the natural environment and unique amenities of the Trust islands while giving way to development pressures.

"At the time of the formation of the Islands Trust in 1974, the government of the day recognized the importance of the unique "amenities" of the lands and waters. There was understanding that the environment of the area was fragile and could be greatly impacted by development and resource extraction or overuse. However, it was not acknowledged or understood that this unique environment was the result of thousands of years of active cultivation and stewardship by Indigenous Peoples."

Throughout its forty-seven years of preserving and protecting the Trust Area the Islands Trust has consistently failed to recognize or acknowledge resource gathering areas, spiritual places, medicinal plant areas, and culturally significant species. The Islands Trust has managed the Islands Trust Area with a disconnected, single species view of the ecological landscape versus a relational, interconnected acknowledgement of what truly makes the Islands Trust Area unique. Indigenous ways of knowing are not only important to reconciliation efforts, but also to the effective stewardship of these lands and waters.

In 1992, the Islands Trust encapsulated the views of the public in a Summary Report on the Islands Trust Public Forums: These Islands of Ours . . . Framing Our Common Future. At the public forums, people listed “history and archaeological heritage” and “archaeological record” as key attributes they valued about the Trust Area.

At a time of rapid climate change, in a time of recognition that Reconciliation requires stewardship and restitution of First Nations' largely unceded lands, and in a time of development pressures that have existed in the Trust area since before the formation of the Islands Trust in 1974, the Trust must find leadership to enact its mandate of Preserve and Protect.

In closing, the Trust's own 2021 Discussion paper perfectly describes Unique Amenities. There is no justifiable reason to dismantle the actual meaning of Unique Amenities to accommodate what we will all, no doubt, belatedly discover has been a predictable development agenda.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for comment.

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Galiano Island, also known as Swiikw
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