

**From:** Christian Engelstoft [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 1, 2026 10:35 AM  
**To:** Executive Admin; Islands2050  
**Cc:** HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Laura Patrick; Tobi Elliott; David Maude; Timothy Peterson; Kristina Evans; falck@islandstrust.bc.ca; Kim Stockdill; marijke.edmondson@gov.bc.ca; kris.nichols@gov.bc.ca; rob.Botterell.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Faye Mogensen  
**Subject:** Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement

To Trust council and Executive Committee

1 Feb 2026

As full time residents of the Gulf Islands, we are saddened that the proposed Island Trust Policy Statement draft weakens conservation at a time where it needs to be strengthened. On the other hand, we do agree that it is time to include guiding principles with regard to the First Nations since the current Trust Policy Statement has not been changed since the amendment in 1995.

The current proposal of changes to the Trust Policy Statement is weakening the core principle of "preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally".

Here are 4 examples,

1- Incorporating development focused issues like housing, tourism, infrastructure and livelihoods as new "unique amenities", will weaken the protection of the unique environment present on the islands, which was what the Trust was established to protect. Furthermore, there is nothing "unique" about housing, tourism, infrastructure and livelihoods to the Gulf Islands. These are issues in every region of the province. What is unique is the fact that "unique amenities" are not defined in the draft, considering that it is an important concept.

2 - The Trust Council's Guiding Principles - 2.1.7 to "Foster Informed and Balanced Decision Making" will further weaken the core mandate. As a retired conservation biologist, working in the CRD for 25 years, Christian has seen very few cases when the environment "wins" when it comes up against development in so-called balanced decision making processes. The whole idea of the Islands Trust was to protect and preserve the ecological integrity of the trust area, so "balanced decision" should not be a guiding principle. All it will do is weaken all the other guiding principles with respect to the environment and First Nations.

3 - Considering that the word "environment(al)" occurs 28 times in the policy draft, it is

concerning that it is not defined in the draft glossary.

4 - The weak language throughout the draft will also make it more difficult to protect and preserve. For example in the Directive Policies—Managing Growth the word "consider" appears in 4 of the 8 directives, these policies should include concrete words of action such as "shall", as in the current Trust Policy Statement.

We are also concerned about the survey the Trust posted. It is biased towards agreement, since the various statements are lumped together and survey participants cannot easily express concerns about specific statements.

Until we have a clear definition of the meaning of "unique amenities", we ask the Trust Executive Committee to pause your consideration of the 2025 Trust Policy Statement. We strongly agree and support the Island Trust's protect and preserve mandate and ask you to make sure that is upheld.

We thank you for your public service and for considering our views on this important issue.

Sincerely  
Christian Engelstoft and Faye Mogensen

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CC:

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