

**From:** Jorge and Maria Carmita Menyhart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 1, 2026 5:19 PM  
**To:** Islands2050; Executive Admin; lisagauvreau@gmail.com; Ben Mabberley; Timothy Peterson  
**Cc:** HMA.minister@gov.bc.ca; Botterell.MLA, Rob  
**Subject:** Comments-Islands2050  
**Attachments:** letter draft TPS process.docx

Dear Trust Council and Galiano Trust Committee,

Please find attached my letter for the Trust Council and the Galiano Local Trust Committee outlining my concerns regarding the draft TPS public engagement process.

Sincerely,

Maria Carmita de Menyhart  
Galiano Island

February 1<sup>st</sup>.2026

Dear Trust Council and Galiano Local Trust Committee

I am a Galiano Island resident. I will write in this letter about my serious concerns regarding the public engagement process and the general process that has led to the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement being under consideration.

I have spoken with other Galiano residents as well as residents of Salt Spring, North and South Pender, and Gabriola islands about these issues.

### **Process**

I learn a lot about the process by reading an excellent letter in the Islands2050 list. I learn

- That in the spring 2025, then Minister of Housing, Ravi Kahlon, told Trust Council that the TPS must follow the “ecological mandate” of the Islands Trust Act. This warning has been ignored in the draft TPS, which favors private development.
- That normally each island has two trustees, but there is currently only one representing the largest, SaltSpring Island, who is also the chair of the Trust Council & Executive Committee...
- That major public consultation took place in 2019-20, which found that most islanders want to strengthen Trust protections. That led to a draft TPS that was suddenly shelved before its first reading. The new draft, which we are (falsely) being told builds upon that original consultation, does the opposite...
- That about half a dozen OCPs are being revised at the same time as the TPS review, yet you can't make an OCP if you don't know the legal parameters of the TPS, which all OCPs must abide by. Many islanders are confused as to which document they are responding to...

### **Public Engagement Period**

In July 2025 it was decided by the Islands Trust to have a six-month period engagement.

- Two things interfered with the public engagement during this period. Trust Council decided to slash the publishing of official public notices in local newspapers and moved to Facebook. This happened when newspapers were beginning to report on disagreements about the draft TPS.
- The eight-week BC General Employees 'Union strike. Scheduled meetings were cancelled.

There have been complaints about stopping using the local newspaper for official public notices, asking for transparency and the importance of reliable information. The complaints were disregarded.

I spoke in person at the Town Hall of December Trust Council meeting asking Trustees to give more time for consultation due to the strike time being lost, to delay the February 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. No response from Trustees.

Input on the draft TPS-

**Survey-** People found it complicated and frustrating. It takes more than two hours to fill with comments, no fifteen or twenty minutes. Many complex directives were put together and the responders were asked to indicate levels of agreement or disagreement. The survey tries to guide the responses to agreement: " *Please rate your agreement with the following statement*) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities*". The Survey has a two pages Preamble, why they did not put in the survey preamble a short list of the most significant changes to help the public provide more informed feedback? The survey is anonymous. The Trust has no way of knowing how many people sent many written forms or online responses.

**Letters to Islands 2050-** Many letters are arriving in the last days. More people became aware of the draft TPS importance in the last month. It has taken time for islanders to exchange information and ideas. Islanders need more time!

**Virtual Town Hall.** There was only one virtual town hall in September. The few dozen who took part were required to submit questions in advance and reported having their questions changed or never addressed.

**Community Information Meetings.** On most islands (Galiano, Gabriola, Mayne, Hornby, Lasqueti, Thetis, North and South Pender) were compressed into a single regular Local Trust Committee, a weekday in the early afternoon. Residents requested additional meetings, specifically in the evenings or weekends for workers on the island to be able to attend, and to meaningfully discuss the draft with one another. They could have been held at minimal cost by locally elected trustees.

What reason has the Islands Trust Council, after spending so much time and money on this draft, to have only one in person meetings held in their regular LTC committee meetings (except for Salt Spring) for one or two hours? Why not provide islanders with more time and opportunity to learn about the draft policy statement? To be able to ask questions and to exchange information between them? To discuss it with Trust staff and trustees? Doesn't the draft TPS merits especial meetings, instead of being presented together with applications in the LTC regular meetings?

**I ask the Galiano LTC through this letter to provide one more meeting to Galiano residents (at a time and day workers on Galiano could attend) to discuss the draft Policy Statement and that the Galiano LTC present to Trust Council and Staff a request for extending the**

**public consultation period, to give Galiano and other island residents enough time to be informed and to discuss the implications of the draft TPS.**

Sincerely

Maria Carmita de Menyhart

██████████-Galiano

Cc: Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs; Rob Botterell, MLA