

From: Alix Hodson Deggan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 2:06 PM
To: Islands2050; communications; Tobi Elliott; Susan Yates
Subject: Extending the TPS review process

February 1, 2026

Dear Trust Council and Gabriola Local Trust Committee

I am a Gabriola Island resident. I have concerns regarding the public engagement process and the general process for review of the TPS. The draft in its current state is not adequate or ready for approval.

Acknowledgeably, many islanders on Gabriola, Salt Spring, North and South Pender, and Galiano have similar concerns.

Concerns:

- In the spring of 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 favours private development.
- □ Each island has two trustees, but there is currently only one representing the largest, Salt Spring Island, who is also the chair of the Trust Council & Executive Committee.
- Major public consultation took place in 2019-20, in this survey they 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 falsely claims to build upon that original consultation but does the opposite...
...the natural environment has been woefully neglected and protective language from our past TPS has been weakened to meaningless while many important details and glossary definitions have been omitted
- Currently, 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 Process

Period of Engagement: In July 2025 it was decided by the Islands Trust to have a six-month period of engagement. Two things interfered with 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. Over this period scheduled meetings.

Survey- People found it complicated and frustrating. It takes more than two hours to complete and not 15 to 20 minutes.

-There are 2 pages of preamble but absent is a short list of the most significant changes to help the public provide more informed feedback.

-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.

-The survey is anonymous and so the Trust has no way of knowing if people sent more than one written form or online responses.

Public Notifications -Recently there have been complaints to the Trust Council about not using the local newspaper for official public notices, asking for transparency and the importance of reliable information. Notifications for TPS hearings in many communities were not widely known as a result of this change.

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.

Community Information Meetings;

On most islands Gabriola, Galiano, Mayne, Hornby, Lasqueti, Thetis, North and South Pender the TPS Hearing was compressed into a single regular Local Trust Committee meeting on a weekday in the morning or 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 TPS. After spending so much time and money on this draft, one “Hearing” piggy-backing on the regular LTC meeting is simply inadequate to address this important review process.

I ask the LTC to provide additional meetings to Gabriola residents to discuss the draft Policy Statement: and, that our LTC present to Trust Council and Staff a request for extending the public consultation period, to give island residents enough time to be informed and to discuss the implications of the draft TPS.

Sincerely,

Alix Hodson.