

From: Executive Admin
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 5:47 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement Feedback

From: Geoff Duyker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 4:59 PM
To: Executive Admin <execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca>
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Subject: Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement Feedback

Dear Members of Islands Trust Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement.

My family has a long connection to the Trust Area, and we are currently rebuilding a home on one of the islands so future generations can continue to enjoy it. For that reason, policies affecting land use and stewardship in the region are of particular importance to us.

I completed the online survey but felt the format did not allow respondents to fully express nuanced views, as several questions grouped multiple policy concepts into single responses. As a result, I am providing comments directly in writing.

In general, my concern is that the draft Policy Statement expands beyond the Trust's traditional land-use planning role and introduces uncertainty for residents and property owners regarding how decisions may be made in the future. While Indigenous reconciliation is an important objective at provincial and federal levels, I believe the Trust's primary role should remain focused on conservation and practical land-use management within its jurisdiction.

Several aspects of the draft would benefit from clearer definition and refinement.

- **Decision-making and governance:** Concepts such as shared decision-making with Indigenous Governing Bodies are introduced without sufficient explanation of how authority, accountability, and final decisions would function in practice, or how existing private property

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interests may be affected.

- **Implementation practicality:** Proposals involving mandatory engagement requirements and cultural monitoring raise questions about logistics, cost, and proportionality, particularly for small residential or routine projects. Clearer guidance would help ensure these measures are workable across the diverse communities of the Trust Area.
- **Regulatory overlap:** Policy direction concerning docks, foreshore use, and marine access risks overlapping with existing federal and provincial frameworks. Maintaining clarity of jurisdiction would help avoid duplication and uncertainty.
- **Property rights and certainty:** The distinction between advisory policy and enforceable direction is not always clear, which may create uncertainty for property owners. Policies should provide predictable guidance while respecting existing lawful uses.
- **Public access:** Language concerning culturally or spiritually significant areas and potential protected designations should more clearly explain how public access to lands and waters will be balanced with other interests so that current shared use is not restricted.
- **Consultation process and terminology:** Given the scope of the proposed changes, a longer consultation period and broader notification would have helped ensure stronger public participation. Additionally, glossary language should remain neutral and technical so the document functions clearly as a land-use policy framework.

In closing, while I support many of the Trust's conservation objectives, I believe further refinement of the draft Policy Statement would improve clarity, practical implementation, and long-term certainty for residents and property owners alike. Consideration might also be given to extending the consultation timeline so more community members have the opportunity to participate.

Thank you again for considering public input as part of this process.

Sincerely,

Geoff Duyker, Sara Nathanson, Sarah Duyker and Ashley Duyker

Islands Trust area residents