

From: Peter Scholefield [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 6:23 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: Boris Gorgitza; Mike Stamford; Jeanne M; Carol Petroski; Christopher Higgins; Samantha Wing; Snell, Peter V.; Kate-Louise Stamford
Subject: Re: Comments on the Topic of Reconciliation in the Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement
Attachments: Squamish Nation Areas of Importance in Howe Sound.pdf; Squamish Nation Phase 2 Cultural Sites in Howe Sound.pdf; 2026-02-02 My Reconciliation Comments on the Draft IT Policy Statement.docx

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached two maps referred to in the first paragraph on page 2 along with my comments.

Sincerely, Peter

Peter Scholefield,

[REDACTED]
West Vancouver, British Columbia,
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Tel: [REDACTED]

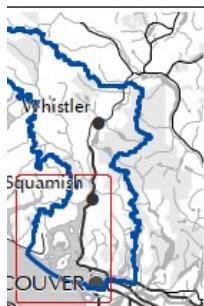
Cell: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Re: Comments on the Topic of Reconciliation in the Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement



Schedule A
Map A.5 : Howe Sound Areas of Importance
Squamish Nation Land Use Planning Agreement Phase 2



Legend

- Squamish Nation Area of Importance
- Squamish Nation Territory

- LRMP Wildland Zone
- Municipality

- Provincial Park
- Provincial Conservancy
- Indian Reserve



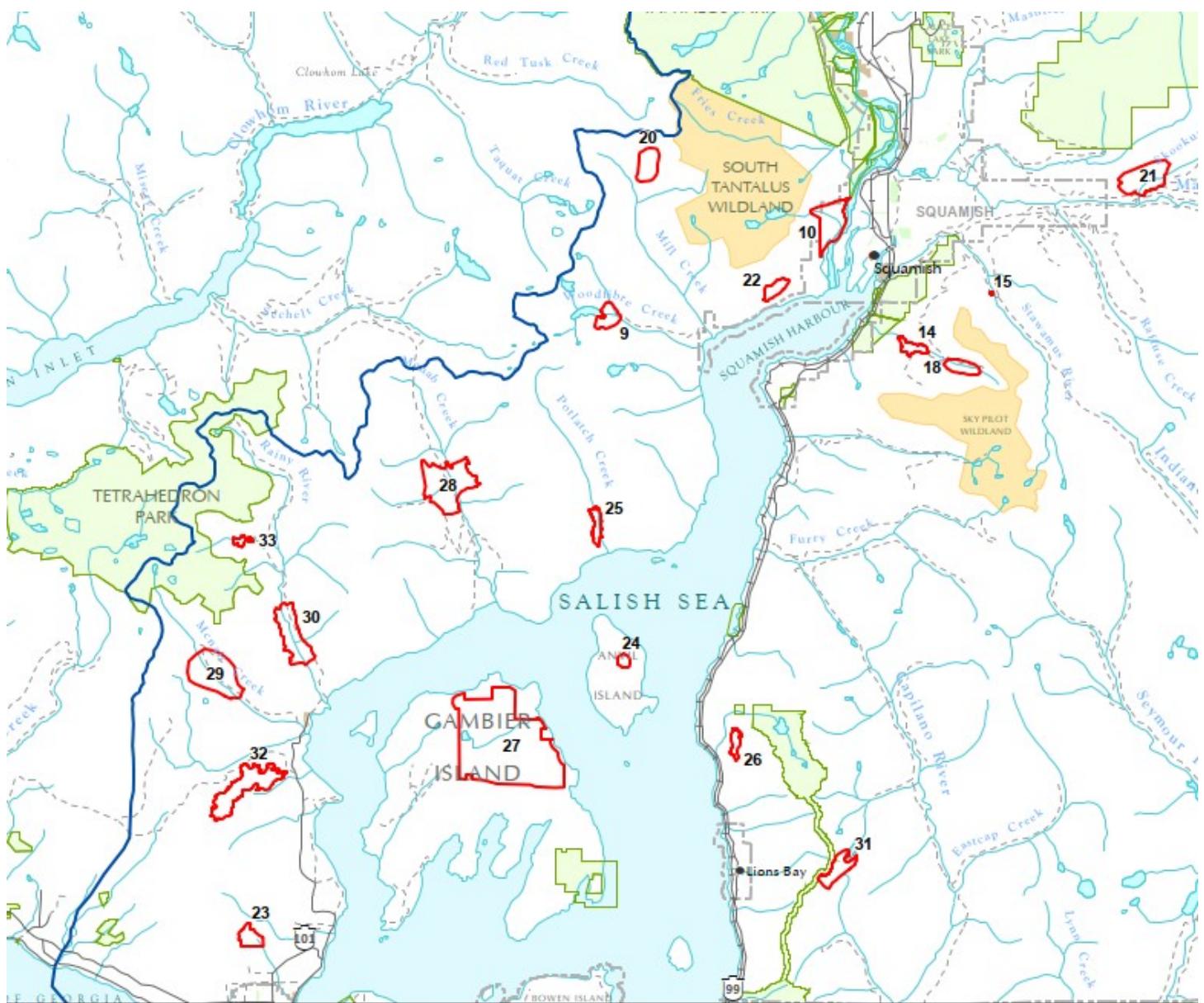
Scale: 1:200,000

0 5 km

Use and Limitations:
 Areas shown on this map are intended to illustrate the general location of certain Squamish Nation interests raised with the Province in land use planning negotiations in or about 2006 and are not intended to signify a final designation or legal boundary.

Date: May 16, 2024

Squamish Nation Cultural Sites in Howe Sound



Schedule B.1 Overview Map Phase 2 Siiyamin ta Skw̱wú7mesh (Cultural) Sites Squamish Nation Land Use Planning Agreement Phase 2



Legend

- Phase 2 Siiyamin ta Skw̱wú7mesh (Cultural) Sites
- Squamish Nation Territory

LRMP Wildland Zone	Provincial Park
Municipality	Provincial Conservancy
Indian Reserve	

Comments on the Topic of Reconciliation in the Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement

I would like to see changes in the current wording to accommodate the June 26, 2025 Squamish Nation Land Use Planning Agreement (Phase 2) between the Squamish Nation and the Province of BC. This signed agreement can be found at the following website link: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/agreements/squamish_nation_lup_agreement_phase_2_26june2025.pdf.

This agreement establishes a government-to-government framework for sustainable land management and stewardship within the Squamish Nation's territory. In this agreement, the Province of British Columbia is represented by the Minister of Forests and Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. There is no mention of the Islands Trust in the agreement, but I feel that the Islands Trust, through its Policy Statement, should be supportive of these types of sustainable land management and stewardship agreements between the Province of BC and First Nations in the Islands Trust Area.

Noting that the Minister of Forests is a party to this agreement with the Squamish Nation, it is surprising to me not to see any mention in the Draft Policy Statement about commercial forestry activities such as commercial logging, which can be harmful to the environment and therefore work against the preserve and protect mandate of the Islands Trust. Furthermore, logging and forestry activities can be detrimental to First Nations' desire to engage in their cultural, spiritual, and traditional practices.

Noting that the Islands Trust falls under the oversight of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, which was not a party to this agreement, it is suggested to amend the last sentence of the first paragraph in the Acknowledgment section on page 2 as follows:

Islands Trust Council is committed to reconciliation and to working together with First Nations and other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.

Similarly in section 1.4 on page 6, it is suggested to amend the 2nd sentence of the 2nd of the second paragraph as follows:

Islands Trust Council commits to an ongoing effort to co-develop planning and land use management processes with Indigenous Governing Bodies within the Islands Trust Area in coordination with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations. It acknowledges that this document does not serve as an endpoint.

Similarly in section 2.1.1 on page 8, it is suggested to amend the statement as follows:

To grow understanding of the history and legacy of colonialism in the Islands Trust Area, to acknowledge and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to work together with Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders as well as other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to preserve and protect culturally significant areas, sites, and species.

In view of this recent Squamish Nation Land Use Planning Agreement (Phase 2) between the Squamish Nation and the Province of BC, it is suggested to add the following sentence to section 2.3.4 on page 10:

To work towards establishing effective inter-agency coordination mechanisms with different levels of government, academic institutions and organizations who have important roles to play in supporting

the Islands Trust Object. This would include supporting other Provincial government department's involvement in land use planning agreements with First Nations.

The Squamish Nation Land Use Planning Agreement (Phase 2), designates within the portion of the Squamish Nation Territory that lies with the Gambier Local Trust Area what are specifically called '**Areas of Interest (AOIs)**' and '**Phase 2 Siiyamin taSkwxwú7mesh (Cultural) Sites**'. Attached are maps showing the locations of these two features in Howe Sound. Note on the maps that all of Gambier Island is designated as an AOI and a sizable portion of the island's forested lands (close to 18 square kilometres) is designated as a Cultural Site. The only other Cultural Site within the jurisdiction of the Island Trust is a small one on Anvil Island entitled 'Leading Peak'. It should also be noted that the agreement establishes '**Special Cultural Management Areas**' but none of these lie within the Jurisdiction of the Islands Trust.

However, as specified in this following excerpt from the agreement:

certain AOIs or portions of AOIs will not be subject to additional land use direction under this Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that Squamish Nation may seek resolution of its interests in these areas in other provincial processes or government-to-government engagement, or with other levels of government.

It looks like there could be a role for the

Islands Trust to engage with the Squamish Nation on their interests in certain AOIs or portions of AOIs, but it is not currently specified in the Draft Policy Statement.

When these designated indigenous cultural features of the Squamish Nation Land Use Planning Agreement (Phase 2) become implemented, it is not at all clear how they will be identified and referred to in the IT Policy Statement. I don't see how they would fit in the current Draft Policy Statement. For example, I feel that these Phase 2 Siiyamin taSkwxwú7mesh (Cultural) Sites are uniquely different from the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites that are referred to in section 3.2.1. and 3.2.4 of the Draft Policy Statement, particularly because they specifically set out to ensure protection from commercial logging and mining within these sites.

The intent to implement these protective measures in these Cultural Sites is demonstrated in the following excerpt from Schedule C in the agreement. It lays out how the designated Squamish Nation Cultural Sites on Gambier and Anvil Islands must be cared for and managed when implemented. The overall idea is to protect the land so Squamish people can continue their cultural, spiritual, and traditional practices and limit anything that would interfere with those practices such as commercial logging and mining.

Schedule B.1 Polygon#	Site Name	Implementation Direction			In the Draft
		Land Act Sect. 17	Land Use Objectives to Prohibit Commercial Logging	Recommended Mineral Reserve (non- staking reserves)	
24	Leading Peak	Yes	Yes	Yes	
27	Gambier Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Policy Statement, under the heading of **Directive Policies — Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Culturally Significant Areas, Sites and Species** on page 12, I don't see a place, as currently written, for AOIs or phase 2 Cultural Sites due to the definitions and directive policy specified in 3.2.1. 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 policy. For example, in implemented Squamish Nation Cultural Sites, the directive policy for protection could go beyond just minimizing potential adverse impacts to prohibiting detrimental activities such as logging and mining.

Under the heading of **Directive Policies — Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Culturally Significant Areas, Sites and Species** on page 13, AOIs or Phase 2 Cultural Sites could possibly be included in section **3.2.7 Other Culturally Significant Areas for Indigenous Peoples**. However, the advisory policy would need to be stronger in order to include prohibiting detrimental activities such as logging and mining.

In the Glossary, Archaeological Sites are defined as sites that consist of the physical remains of past human activity. The descriptions of Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites are almost identical in both sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.4, and it is noted that most, if not all, of the listed sites are in fact archaeological sites, so I suggest the following rewording of these descriptions as follows:

3.2.1 Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites

Minimize potential adverse impacts to Indigenous cultural heritage sites including, but not limited to, registered, unregistered, or newly-discovered archaeological sites. Identified village sites, burial sites, camp sites, middens, cairns, petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, fish traps, clam gardens, pictographs are examples of archaeological sites.

3.2.4 Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites

Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and prioritize protection of Indigenous cultural heritage sites including, but not limited to, registered, unregistered, or newly discovered archaeological sites. Village sites, burial sites, camp sites, middens, cairns, petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, fish traps, clam gardens, and pictographs are examples of archaeological sites.

In the section **Advisory Policies — Ecosystem Integrity** on Page 15, the following is a suggested amendment to incorporate the possibility of developing land management agreements with First Nations similar to the 26 June 2025 agreement between the Province and Squamish Nation.

3.3.10 Indigenous Ecosystem Management

Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies and other Provincial agencies, support opportunities for Indigenous-led ecosystem management, including the possibility of developing land management agreements with First Nations similar to the 26 June 2025 agreement between the Province and Squamish Nation.

Summary and Conclusion

The recent 26 June 2025 agreement between the Squamish Nation and the BC Provincial government establishes a government-to-government framework for sustainable land management and stewardship within the Squamish Nation's territory. Within that portion of the Squamish Nation territory that lies within the Islands Trust Area, it designates a number of Areas of Interest (AOIs) in Howe Sound and it is planned to implement two Phase 2 Cultural Sites, a very small one on Anvil Island and a much larger one on Gambier Island, which occupies an area close to 18 square kilometers. When implemented, they will be subject to a high level protection which will include prohibiting commercial logging and mining. This agreement could set a precedent for similar agreements between the Provincial government and other First Nations within the Islands Trust Area resulting in the implementation of similar Cultural Sites elsewhere in the Islands Trust Area. I believe that the Islands Trust, through its Policy Statement, should be supportive of the land management agreements with First Nations.

The Draft Policy Statement lists on pages 12 and 13 a number of Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Culturally Significant Areas, Sites and Species but it is not clear where these rather unique Squamish Nation Cultural Sites would fit in the document. One option would be to broaden the description of Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites in section 3.2.4 so that it encompasses all of those sites and areas listed on pages 12 and 13 as well as the Squamish Nation Cultural Sites. Such a broad description would be consistent with the results of a website

search of the term 'Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites'. Another option would be to name and define these Squamish Nation Cultural Sites as 'Indigenous Land Management Cultural Sites'.

Going forward, one suggestion would be to engage with the three parties to the 26 June 2025 agreement to find out how they feel the results of their agreement could best be represented in the Draft Policy Statement.