

July 10, 2021

To: North Pender Island Trustee Deb Morrison, dmorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca
North Pender Island Trustee Benjamin McConchie, bemcconchie@islandstrust.bc.ca
Islands Trust Chair Thetis Island Trustee Peter Luckham, pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

From: Joyce Thayer

Re: Amended Islands Trust Policy Statement – Public Consultation

I am a resident of North Pender Island. I commend the Trust Council for its decision of July 8, 2021 to delay 1st reading of the amended policy statement until December 2021 to allow for public consultation. I look forward to the Trust arranging in person meetings on Pender Island to allow the public to express their views on this important policy document.

I have reviewed all of the available information regarding the amended Policy Statement posted on the Islands Trust website along with the associated legislation and public correspondence. It is apparent that the concerns raised by the public relate as much to what in the existing version has been left out of the amended Policy Statement as the concerns expressed regarding new provisions. To facilitate informed understanding of the changes made I ask that the Trust Council have staff prepare a version of the policy document that tracks the changes and provides a brief rationale of the reasoning behind the changes. It is asking too much to expect the general public to undertake such an analysis. Such a document will ensure that everyone is on the same page and avoid any misunderstanding as to the reasoning of the Trust Council respecting the changes and facilitate informed dialogue.

In addition, it is apparent that serious concerns have been raised about the manner in which the First Nations consultation has taken place. Reconciliation with First nations is clearly important. The two track consultation process followed by the Trust Council to date does not further this goal. Nor does the failure to provide details of the feedback from First Nations during the course of consultation to date. Failure to disclose this information is also inconsistent with the provisions of *FIPPA*. To facilitate reconciliation First Nations should be invited to participate in the upcoming public consultation phase so that the public can understand their concerns and their position as regards the provisions relating to reconciliation currently contained in the Amended Trust Policy and any feedback provided by them should be made public. Such disclosure and dialogue will generate understanding and foster reconciliation.

Finally I understand that despite the fact that first reading has been delayed Trust Council has decided to refer the amended Policy Statement to government agencies and First Nations. Any cover letter accompanying the amended Draft Policy to these agencies and First Nations should clearly set out that public consultation will take place before December and major changes to the amended Policy Statement may occur as a result.

I thank you for your consideration of these requests and would be happy to discuss with you any questions you might have regarding them.

Yours truly;



Joyce Thayer B.A. , JD.

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