



Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute

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June 24, 2022

Island Trust
#1-500 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island BC



Re: Islands Trust Policy Statement - 2050

Attention: Trustees of the Islands Trust

The Salt Spring Islands Farmers' Institute is concerned by the rhetoric of the proposed 2050 Policy Statement. The new policy removes the statement about agriculture being a traditional and valuable activity and signals to us the lack of importance the new policy statement puts on farming.

The following words and phrases are of grave concern to the SSI Farmers' Institute members because they could well be interpreted and used to negatively restrict the efforts of our farming community when food security is becoming of utmost importance. Combined with all the restrictions around forestry, foreshore, and soil, we feel that the Trust is trying to expand their powers beyond the mandate they have been given.

For example:

4.4.1 "commits to take a precautionary approach to agricultural land stewardship "

and

4.4.2 "small scale, sustainable, regenerative, supportive of local climate action and food security, respectful of indigenous harvesting areas and protective of the environmental integrity of the area",

We agree with this statement included in the District A letter sent to you recently, "Both the ALC and Ministry of Agriculture have a responsibility to the citizens of British Columbia to uphold the rules put in place to maintain our agricultural lands. Whether they are forested or not, these lands have been set aside to serve as agricultural lands therefore any restrictions placed on them by Islands Trust, I would assume, would have to be overriding the provincial government."

We also agree with the statement sent by District A, "Our board of directors (i.e. District A) have reviewed the documentation and determined both the ALC and the Ministry Of Agriculture have made statements to ensure that agricultural activities, whether intense or light, are allowed on all agricultural lands no matter what size. It cannot be restricted if it falls within the guidelines of agricultural practices."

The draft Policy Statement has gone from being supportive of agriculture to viewing it as an environmental problem. The draft policy statement lacks any understanding about the importance of agriculture to the people on the islands who farm. Island trust must not draft a policy statement that is negatively going to affect agriculture within the Islands Trust Policy 2050.

This Island Trust Policy statement draft bylaw 2050 needs to be reviewed by the local agricultural community before completion to ensure that they have received fair consideration and have been properly consulted with, and that all the needs of the Agricultural community are met to the provincial guidelines.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the conversation regarding the importance of Agriculture on Salt Spring Island as it pertains to the 2050 Policy Statement.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Lee
President

The Salt Spring Farmers' Institute