

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 1:05 PM

To: Rueben Bronee <rbronee@islandstrust.bc.ca>

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Subject: Re: Draft OCP

Hi Ruben

The following is published as the Development of the Plan. Part of the draft Gabriola OCP

earners, impacting community well-being and economic sustainability across the Trust Area.

1.3.4 Island's Trust Policy Statement

Section 15 of the Islands Trust Act states that Trust Council must adopt, by bylaw, a Trust Policy Statement that applies to the Islands Trust Area as a whole. The Islands Trust Act specifies that the Policy Statement must be a general statement of the policies of Trust Council to carry out the Islands Trust Object, that it may establish different policies for different parts of the Islands Trust Area. The Policy Statement represents Trust Council's vision for the preservation and protection of the draft Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

This Plan is consistent with the Islands Trust Policy Statement in effect at the time of adoption.

1.3.5 The Development of the Plan

The Plan Area's social, environmental, economic, and infrastructure conditions establish the context within which this Plan is developed and implemented. The development of this Plan reflects this information and public input, and guides land use decisions that balance environmental protection, housing needs, infrastructure capacity, economic vitality, and community well-being, consistent with the Islands Trust mandate, reconciliation commitments, and community values identified through the engagement process for this Plan.

The development of the Plan involved a number opportunities for public involvement through 3 Phases of the Plan development.

Phase 1 – Gabriola Vision 2050 Launched in 2023, focused on the identification of community values, vision and related principles through the Gabriola Visioning 2050 Process. This process included:

- Online survey (363 respondents)
- Group led engagement events (200 community members engaged)
- Community meeting (40+ community members attended)
- Engagement with Snuneymuxw First Nation initiated

Phase 2 - Launched in July 2024 phase 2 involved two parts:

- **Part 1** - Reviewing the key principles emerging from the Gabriola Visioning 2050 engagement
 - Survey (163 Survey respondents)

Gabriola Official Community Plan
Bylaw No. 325

DRAFT

...easingly difficult for people of many income
...multiple housing needs assessments have
...able housing for low-to-moderate income
...inability across the Trust Area.

- Summer engagement at markets and events
- **Part 2** - Engaging the community in topic-focussed discussion.
 - Survey (590 respondents)
 - Focus groups on the following themes: connectivity, economy, environment, housing, resources stewardship, water. Focus group reviewed draft policy
 - Methodology and data collection for the water balance project.
 - Engagement with Snuneymuxw First Nation continued

Phase 3 – Launched in Summer 2025, supported the OCP drafting and review involving

- Reimagining Growth workshop (September 2025)
- Freshwater Footprint project work
- Survey on Reimagining Growth (156 respondents)
- Draft Plan writing (including values, vision/guiding directions)
- Draft Plan review by public and referral agencies
- Deeper engagement with Snuneymuxw First Nation

My personal perspective regarding each category.

Online surveys: No digital signatures or water marks to indicate multiple surveys completed by the same person or if they are even living on Gabriola Island. VPN usage can mask ISP location. The numbers are still low considering we have over 4500 persons on Gabriola .

Community meetings: low attendance
No weekend gatherings.

Focus Groups: Selection of these individuals by trust staff maximum 12.
No materials posted for the public to review what was said in the form of minutes or who the individuals were that had this forum bestowed upon them.

As far as library and Ground up drop in sessions all scheduled during the week, no weekend meetings.

The online meetings offered at most a 45 minute Q and A session both for the fresh water footprint and the most recent Q and A meeting.

Most recently I attended a Gabriola talks session on Housing at which there were approximately 30 participants, it was wonderful that the community could engage in this way with sometimes spirited debate occurring spontaneously. This is what this community needs to flesh out ideas, not siloed meetings that do not allow for public discussion. The fact that some members of the public do not feel comfortable with sharing their ideas in public is valid. This should not be used as a reason to preclude weekend meetings where those that want to attend can.

I'm afraid I have to disagree with you on the Gabriola constituency having sufficient engagement from the Islands Trust.

Democracy is not served by limits placed on budgets and time when it comes to something as Important as an Official Community Plan.

I look forward to a future engagement that will include weekend community information meetings.

Regards
Gavin