



Pender Islands  
Conservancy



30 Nov 2024

Dear North Pender Island trustees and staff:

In the Nov 29 North Pender Island LTC meeting, trustees requested an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed industrial rezoning on Port Washington Road. We assume that the standard expected of this EIA is that dictated by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA, 2012). As part of that process, the QEP that is retained to complete this EIA will be expected to document species present, consider recommendations of recovery strategies for all species at risk on the Subject Property and adjacent properties, examine cumulative impacts, and incorporate public comments into their assessment. As time is of the essence, we assume the site assessment will be conducted in the coming winter months, outside of the breeding season for migratory songbirds, and during the dormant period for at-risk sharp-tailed snakes, most meadow plants that occur in the DPA on the Subject Property and surrounding Nature Reserves, and their associated at-risk pollinators. The Pender Conservancy has some inventory and mapping data for our protected properties in the area, and we would be happy to share this information with the QEP to ensure the EIA that is produced is comprehensive and can be accepted by our community.

To this end, it would be helpful if the trustees or Trust staff can provide some guidance on what EIA standard they require. If the Islands Trust indeed follows CEAA standards (as is the industry standard throughout British Columbia), the public must be invited to comment on the identified environmental impacts and mitigation measures. The assessment report should also identify “alternative means of carrying out the project” (i.e. alternative locations), so the QEP will need to be fully aware of these potential alternatives and have the opportunity to discuss them with relevant landholders.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance in this process.

Best wishes,



Dr. Pamela Wright  
Stewardship Committee Chair  
Pender Islands Conservancy Association