

From: Executive Assistant ST <execasst_st@sd79.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 4:16 PM
To: Islands2050 <Islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: Tim Davie <tdavie@sd79.bc.ca>; Cathy Schmidt <cschmidt@sd79.bc.ca>; Cindy Lise <clise@sd79.bc.ca>; E. Croft <ecroft@sd79.bc.ca>; Eduardo Sousa <esousa@sd79.bc.ca>; Jennifer Strachan <jstrachan@sd79.bc.ca>; Joseph Thorne <joethorne@sd79.bc.ca>; Randy Doman <rdoman@sd79.bc.ca>
Subject: Islands Trust Council Policy Statement Response from Cowichan Valley School Board.

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter and Bylaw Referral Form Response Summary from the Cowichan Valley School Board.

Kind regards,

Claire Spencer (she/her)
Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer

Cowichan Valley School District
AD: 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan, BC
PH: 250-748-0321 ext. 201
W: www.sd79.bc.ca



Our Journey is **Beyond Education**

FW: Islands Trust Council Policy Statement Response from Cowichan Valley School Board.

I acknowledge that for thousands of years the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, & Lyackson Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where I now work.



September 10, 2025

Via email: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca

Islands Trust – Islands 2050
200 – 1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

Dear Trust Council Members:

Re: Comment on Bylaw No. 183 – Policy Statement (First Reading)

On behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley), I would like to express our appreciation for the comprehensive and forward-looking approach reflected in the updated Policy Statement. We commend the Trust Council for its strong emphasis on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and for embedding Indigenous rights, cultural heritage, and co-governance principles throughout the document.

This direction aligns meaningfully with our Board’s strategic priorities, particularly:

- **Indigenous Ways of Knowing** – through the recognition and integration of Indigenous perspectives and governance;
- **Caring for Place** – through the protection of sensitive ecosystems, freshwater sustainability, and cumulative impact awareness;
- **Individual and Collective Well-Being** – through climate resilience and sustainable community development that supports healthy, inclusive communities.

We are encouraged by the environmental protections and social considerations outlined in the Policy Statement. However, we believe its success will depend on clear implementation strategies and accountability mechanisms. To that end, we encourage the inclusion of measurable outcomes that will allow you to assess the effectiveness of these policies over time.

Additionally, we seek further clarity on how these policies will be enforced across local trust areas, particularly in relation to engagement protocols and housing affordability. Ensuring that these goals translate into tangible, equitable outcomes will be key to realizing the vision set forth in the Statement.

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Overall, this Policy Statement lays a strong foundation for a more inclusive, ecologically responsible, and resilient future for the Islands Trust Area. We look forward to continued collaboration and dialogue as this important work progresses.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Schmidt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cathy Schmidt
Board Chair
Cowichan Valley School District

cc: Trustees
Tim Davie, Superintendent

Enc.

BYLAW REFERRAL FORM RESPONSE SUMMARY

- Approval Recommended for Reasons Outlined Below
- Approval Recommended Subject to Conditions Outlined Below
- Interests Unaffected by Bylaw
- Approval Not Recommended Due to Reason Outlined Below

Islands Trust Area (Islands 2050)

(Island)



(Signature)

September 10, 2025

(Date)

TC 183

(Bylaw Number)

Cathy Schmidt, Board Chair

(Printed Name and Title)

School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley)

(Agency)