



Islands Trust

June 22, 2022

Dear Trustees,

I wanted to answer some questions about the draft new Policy Statement and provide some information on next steps that might help you answer questions you may be getting regarding first reading.

There seems to be concerns by some that first reading somehow creates immediate regulatory change and/or that it suggests a 'done deal' with little flexibility for change. This is simply not the case.

In fact, first reading is just the introduction of a draft that reflects the changes proposed by Council committees, First Nations, Islands Trust and Bowen planning and specialist staff and reflects the engagement received to date, as well as any amendments desired by Trust Council itself. It gives communities, First Nations and referral agencies something to comment on. It doesn't set a timeline or preclude major changes happening at second reading. After first reading Trust Council retains full ability to change the process or change the document in whatever ways it sees fit.

You can do a Google search and find a number of references from the provincial government, UBCM and others. Bottom line, the various "readings" are taken to mean:

First Reading: Tabling

Second Reading: Discussion in principle

Third Reading: Final discussion including any changes

Final Adoption: Assent

First Reading is in my estimation the first opportunity for the governing body to indicate to everyone, community, senior government, First Nations, and other agencies that "this is what we are thinking" and "we want you to look at it."

We have thought about these amendments to the Policy Statement for a long time; it is again in my estimation time to start the public and agency engagement. First reading is that starting point and that moment.

There is no hurry, but we do need to start. When I say start, what I mean is engage with the all interested parties in a formal process. It is intended that this public engagement phase will take a minimum of three months, more if necessary.

I want to recap where we are at.

The draft new Policy Statement document is still a draft. It has been developed and reviewed by Trust Programs Committee and Executive Committee, and reviewed by the Regional Planning Committee and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board. This draft incorporates all early feedback from TPC, EC, RPC, and

the ITC Board. It may be tweaked on Wednesday by the Executive Committee prior to forwarding to Council for its July 8th meeting. Trust Council will have the opportunity to consider amending the document on July 8th, and the opportunity to give first reading (tabling). After that, there will be as many opportunities to consider amendments at future meetings as council desires based on the feed back received from the public and agencies. The current plan allows for three to four months of public review, referrals and First Nations engagement to gather insights and feedback to inform amendments prior to second reading.

The latest version of the draft new Policy Statement that Executive Committee will consider on Wednesday along with the recommended changes from Trust Programs Committee is at:

https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/EC_2021-06-23_AGD_PKG_FINAL.pdf

Also, in that agenda are briefing materials and an annotated version of the 2003 Policy Statement that explain the changes between the current Policy Statement and the new draft that Executive Committee will consider advancing to Council.

Once Executive Committee has decided about the final materials to provide to Trust Council for consideration of first reading, staff will post the proposed draft bylaw with supporting materials to the Islands 2050 webpage and send out an agenda package to all trustees for the July 7-8 Special Trust Council Meeting. At the July 7-8 meeting, staff will provide a presentation on the guiding principles, paradigms, and policy goals that lay the foundation for the current draft.

Executive Committee and Staff are planning the next phase of public engagement and the referral process. After first reading, there will be at least three months, and likely longer, for communities to consider and comment on the Policy Statement. In addition, staff will prepare at least three information webinars and a Trust-wide survey. There will be advertising in each local trust area and Bowen Island Municipality, and there may also be mailouts, or other methods of engagement that Council desires if the budget is available.

After first reading, each local trust committee, and Bowen Island Municipality, will receive a referral of the proposed Policy Statement, and will have the opportunity to host local events supported by staff to discuss and inform the local trust committees' and Bowen Island Municipality's in developing their responses to Trust Council; these local events will be a further opportunity to answer public questions.

Staff is working on the Islands Trust Policy Statement amendment project based on a project charter, adopted by the Executive Committee, which sets out the budget, timeframe and activities for the project. There have been increases to the project scope along the way, which included the addition of the Policy Directions Report (January 2021), a Trust-wide online survey (February 2021), and a Virtual Open House webinar (March 2021). There has also been increased engagement with First Nations who, for the first time, are working with us to draft the Policy Statement so that we can more fully fulfil the preserve and protect mandate.

To ensure that all trustees benefit from public input, **please ask constituents to send or copy correspondence to the Islands 2050 inbox (islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca)**. It will be posted to the Islands 2050 webpage for you to read.

If you or your communities have questions about the project, please have a look at the materials posted to the Islands 2050 website. Near the bottom of the page, staff has posted the discussion paper that

Trust Council received in March, the public legal opinion relating to interpretations of the Islands Trust Object, all public engagement materials and responses, presentations given to committees, trustee input to the process for the March Trust Council meeting, and public correspondence and delegation presentations received by staff. Staff will continue to post correspondence to the webpage as it is received along with other background materials, as resources permit.

Please let me or Deb Morrison, as Chair of the Trust Programs Committee, know if you need more information in the coming days to support you or your communities in understanding the Policy Statement amendment process. This is complex work as we strive to catch up on more than 20 years of delay in amending the document. As a Trust Council we have sought to address the years in which we did not address reconciliation and engagement with First Nations. So this is a historic time in which we have, in collaboration with First Nations, engaged on changing the offensive language that was contained in the past version of the Policy Statement, and in which we have worked closely with First Nations to align the new Policy Statement with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. This is such important work that you as a Council has undertaken, and you are one of the first government bodies to undertake this. It has been also been drafted to respond to Trust Council's climate emergency declaration, the biodiversity crisis, and the acute shortage of diverse and affordable housing options on many islands. I am very pleased we are at a point where we will have a draft for Trust Council to consider and I look forward to discussing the draft document with you all in July.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Luckham', written in a cursive style.

Peter Luckham

Chair, Islands Trust Council

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