

## Squamish Nation's Preliminary Comments on Island's Trust Draft Policy Statement

	Revised Comments
<p>Archaeology</p>	<p>Further scrutiny and direction will be needed be towards the actual implementation of principles and goals relating to heritage sites and areas.</p> <p>The Gulf Islands that fall within Squamish territory (through Howe Sound, Átl'ka7tsem) have many recorded sites on them, but those have been discovered piecemeal and reactively in response to proposed developments. Oral traditions, cultural history, and archaeological evidence all support a picture of heavy indigenous use of these areas, especially along shorelines where high value properties are being expanded. Many of these areas have not had proactive study to determine their archaeological potential, and until that is done, we should treat all such areas as having high potential for archaeological or cultural values. Our goals for protection for both recorded and unrecorded sites in these areas would be for either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Official protections for island areas with archaeological potential and the requirement for archaeological assessments to be done whenever there is development that would risk encounter a new site.</li> </ol> <p>or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Broad AOA studies that could accurately determine with more precision the archaeological potential of the islands - specifically shoreline areas - and record any easily found sites. The results of such a study would provide us, the province, and Islands Trust with more detailed information to adjust the boundaries of areas of archaeological potential that require further assessment.</li> </ol> <p>These are our recommendations because existing provincial protections for archaeological sites are insufficient and reactive. The Squamish Nation is seeking a more proactive and protective approach in preserving its heritage. Separate discussions relating to Keats and Gambier have been fruitful in that respect. We would hope that Islands Trust can work with us on continuing that.</p> <p>It is imperative that all individual projects are uploaded to Squamish Connect for thorough analysis.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring that the OCP includes a formal acknowledgment of the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation at the beginning of the document.</li> <li>- Squamish Language (sníchim) use in billboards, signages, and other platforms.</li> <li>- More Squamish place names for areas (engage with Language and Culture Department for all place names).</li> <li>- Training staff in Squamish values and history.</li> <li>- More procurement, business and employment benefits to Squamish businesses and members.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Environment</p>	<p>The goals are high-level and inclusive of natural resources, and I agree with them. Draft 2.4 includes some environmental concerns missing in the policy statement 2003, such as kelp forests and eelgrass beds.</p> <p>Few requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SN recommends regularly revising and updating the usage of pesticides and buffer zones in agriculture, especially lands near water bodies and with a high potential for leaching under Goal 5, Agricultural lands.</li> <li>- SN recommends exploring the opportunities for rainwater harvesting and replenishing groundwater aquifers in the new/ existing buildings wherever applicable under Goal 5, Freshwater.</li> <li>- Ensuring that all dock and riparian setback projects are uploaded on Squamish Connect for through analysis.</li> <li>- Engaging with Nation on case to case basis for all individual projects for Environmental analysis through Squamish Connect.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Climate Action</p>	<p><b>3.4.1:</b> Development should also aim for ‘complete communities’ with all services as possible Development should be net zero carbon emissions, low embodied carbon, pursue highest sustainability standards in all categories (including waste/water) and resilient to climate impacts</p> <p><b>3.4.5</b> Consider future drought in planning for development/water uses, sustainable use of water Consider minimizing waste and opportunities for reuse/repair/reduce, unbuilding standard for old structures</p>

	<p><b>3.4.6</b> Incorporating climate impacts into these hazards</p> <p>Creating and using sustainable and updated solutions for future development and restoration projects.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Forestry</p>	<p>Informed consent from SN Forestry Specialist for all requirements mentioned below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engaging with Squamish Nation for all cut block permits.</li> <li>- Engaging with Squamish Nation for all trees to be felled.</li> <li>- Engaging with Squamish Nation for all matters concerning Old Growth/Second Growth.</li> <li>- Being mindful of cutting Cedar trees and returning them back to the Nation if they are felled.</li> <li>- Refer to Squamish Nation Culturally Significant Vegetation list for all native plantation</li> <li>- <b>Engaging with SN for all above and other Forestry related concerns.</b></li> </ul>