

From: Islands2050
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:42 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Letter re Policy Statement review
Attachments: TPS letter to TPC .docx

From: Susan Yates [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 10:28 PM
To: Dilani Hippola <dhippola@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Clare Frater <cfrater@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Letter re Policy Statement review

Hello Dilani and Clare,

I sent the attached letter to Deb Morrison, for the TPC work on the Policy review; I am sending it to both of you also, with thanks for your ongoing excellent work on the Policy Project.

Kind regards,
Susan Yates

May 18, 2021

Dear Trustees,

As a former Trustee for Gabriola Island (1986-90; 1993-96) I was disheartened to watch the defeat of the March Council meeting motion “that Trust Council affirm its understanding that the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is preservation and protection of the natural environment.”

I believe that the historical significance of the Trust Object ‘to preserve and protect’ must be considered even with the most radical revisions of the Policy Statement. Protection of the natural environment was the reason for the original 1974 legislation, as a measure of dealing with alarming fragmentation and destructive human development on several of the Gulf Islands.

I am very pleased to see climate change and First Nations Reconciliation incorporated into this Policy Statement project, but I do not support the inclusion of housing as a primary guiding principle, despite my strong support for affordable housing as a national, provincial, and regional imperative.

Affordable housing for everyone requires a paradigm shift in the way our country, province, and finance systems deal with real estate. The fact that our children can not afford even the most modest accommodation in the place they were born is appalling. But it is not a problem that the Trust can solve.

Rather than have a Policy Statement that is ‘as broad as possible’ as a few Trustees have suggested, I believe it should focus clearly on environmental priorities. Otherwise its purpose as a guiding document for the future of the Islands Trust is scattered and ineffective, and Local Trust Committees will not have the support they need to make courageous decisions during the climate emergency era we are in.

Your most important job as Trustees is to support stewardship and be leaders for the protection and rehabilitation of the precious and highly-threatened natural ecosystems of the Trust Area.

The Trust needs to put all of its energy into what it *can* accomplish and use every means possible to regulate building size, lot coverage, tree removal, and natural area (including foreshore) protection. This work at the local and Trust wide level can only be done with a Policy Statement that boldly and clearly focusses on environmental protection.

Sincerely,
Susan Yates
Gabriola Island