

From: Islands2050
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Request to pause the Islands Trust Policy Statement

From: Jane Perch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 8:19 PM
To: premier@gov.bc.ca
Cc: MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca; AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca; IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; adam.olsen.mla@leg.vc.ca; directorsgi@crd.bc.ca; Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Russ Hotsenpiller <rhotsenpiller@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Request to pause the Islands Trust Policy Statement

Honorable John Horgan, Premier of BC

I am writing to make you aware of monumental changes to the Islands Trust Policy Statement and the lack of consultation with those of us who reside in the Trust area.

The object of the Trust is “to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment **for the benefit of the residents** of the trust and of BC generally” (my emphasis).

The Trust Policy Statement is a very important document and we, the residents, need to be involved in any proposals to amend this guiding document. The normal process would be to consult with residents and others and based on that input, create a proposal for discussion with each of the islands. The Trust has not done this. Most of us are not even aware that the Policy Statement was under review.

The Act goes on to say that Trust Council must adopt a policy statement and it must be “a **general** statement of the policies of the trust to carry out the object of the trust”.

The changes being proposed go far beyond “general statements”. They are directives. For example, the Trust is proposing that no docks be permitted in the Trust area except where that is your only means of access to your property. We are island communities and docks are an integral part of islands and our transportation. This is just one example. There are many more.

The Trust has called a special meeting of the Islands Trust Council on July 8th, 2021 for the purpose of giving the amended Policy Statement First Reading yet those of us who reside in the Trust area have yet to see this document. As a former trustee, I know from experience that once First Reading is approved, only minor changes are considered. That is why the process needs to stop now. The input of the affected residents needs to be considered before any bylaw readings.

Today I received a News Release from the Trust via email advising that a two hour zoom meeting will be set aside the day before the Trust Council meeting to allow for public input. The only reason I received this notice is because I subscribe to the Trust site – otherwise I would not know about this meeting and I suspect that most of island residents will not know about this meeting. Each person will be allowed to speak for a maximum of two minutes. We are invited to read the proposed Policy Statement “cover to cover” but there was no attachment or link to this document. How can one speak without this information? The time allotment, the means of communicating and the lack of providing relevant information speaks loudly to what is wrong with the Trust and this whole process. It is a sham.

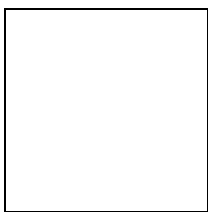
The News Release goes on to advise that after First Reading, which they expect to happen on July 8th, over 100 provincial and federal agencies, organizations, First Nations, and other governments will be invited to review and provide feedback. There is absolutely no reference to us, the residents.

I have been told that the Trust intends to consult with residents after First Reading. That is far too late. There should be no referral of this document to other agencies until we, the affected residents, have an opportunity to provide input and to shape this document. There needs to be meetings on all the islands and the Trust needs to provide the residents a copy of the proposed draft document.

I ask for your assistance in stopping this process and that you review the actions of the Islands Trust and their abuse of power.

Sincerely,

Jane Perch, a 31 year resident of South Pender Island and a former Islands Trustee



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