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Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 4:09 PM
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Subject: New Islands Trust Policy-draft-1st reading

Dear Trustees,

I have been holding off writing with the hope that, with common sense and all the letters of concern, this shipwreck called adoption of first reading would have been abandoned by now. But alas!, it appears I am wrong as a number of you still believe the process was great and all that's needed is a bit of tweaking and it will be perfect.. I must believe that you choose to be elected representatives because of a belief in doing good and in the democratic process. Sorry - some have lost that vision.

The "New Islands Trust Policy" that you are trying to ram down our throats is so outrageous it should never have seen the light of day - never mind such a dramatic and legal process as adoption of first reading! In fact, in my opinion, it needs to be sent to the closest garbage can! This is not a simple review of the Trust Policy but a total gutting and 180 degree turn to some sort of new future. While the review of the Trust Policy started with good intentions, Covid struck and hid the process behind a pandemic shutdown followed by a cursory attempt at democracy, such as a booth at a Christmas market, a meandering on-line survey and Zoom meetings as justification. It's scandalous and an insult, suggesting that we are too stupid to understand and our leaders need to show us the way. Then to top it all off, with a simple easy 90-day referral period of the proposed draft by-law sent to over 100 referral agencies before a final reading defies logic. What is the hurry/rush to finish?

I'm also at a loss to understand "staff have received early positive feedback from some First Nations on this draft of the new policy statement bylaw". Then further on I read, "have an

expectation that the new policy statement bylaw will be considered for adoption during this term of office" (2022). This suggests to me that First Nations are ceding authority/control over their lands to the Islands Trust, such as when it comes to tree cutting that affects the forest canopy. This simple statement (forest cover) can be interpreted to mean no building of housing if trees already exist on the site chosen to build nor for affordable housing as well as no clearing to make new farm land. This NEW policy bylaw will regulate this type of activity and much, much more. If First Nations have agreed, I would be very surprised.

I also believe good leaders are supposed to give all of us a vision and provide background, allowing us to meet as a community to discuss and with the help/guidance of our local Island Trustees on how best to move forward. Yes! Time consuming but it's our historic democratic practice and has worked very well. In each of our islands, the communities have developed OCPs, taking in the "preserve and protect" concept as the guiding light but this proposal renders all our OCP's illegal in their present form.

History has shown that while leaders can make decisions without the support of all, consequences can be unforeseen. We as citizens and taxpayers need to believe and feel we are part of the process and solution - not an addendum!

While I cannot know, I hope the other Islands have had the foresight and information necessary to see for themselves this draconian charade because I'm sure they too will be/or are appalled.

In closing, I am not asking - I demand that you give us back our democratic right to choose our future.

Submitted by
John Hutchinson
Saturna Island