

From: Donn K <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 8:07 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Fwd: Draft Bylaw 183

Begin forwarded message:

July 7, 2021

Peter Luckham
Chair of the Islands Trust Council
Victoria, BC.

Sir:

I am writing to express my opposition to both the contents of New Draft Policy Statement Bylaw and Trust Council's decision to place the Bylaw on the July 8th agenda for first reading .

1. The process of developing the policy statement has been deplorable. Under the cover of Covid, the Trust Council proceeded to propose to restructure the government of the Islands and the objectives of the Trust. Attempting to proceed with a first reading in July is simply the culmination of a process, I consider, illegitimate. No regional/municipal government should have proceeded with fundamental revisions to policy during the pandemic.
2. Not only should Council not proceed to first reading but the entire document should be withdrawn and trustees should commit themselves to set aside basic policy issues for the remainder of this term of office.
3. Before the Trust undertakes further policy development, the structures of the local trust committees need reconfiguration. The practice of appointing Off-Island Chairpersons on Local trust Committees should be ended. Local Trust Committees should represent only Island residents.

4. Restructuring of the Trust should include dismantling the independent bureaucracy and rolling the Trust offices into the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The fundamental political problem for residents is that our regional bureaucracy belongs not to the region but to the provincial government. The members of this bureaucracy do not have to live with their recommendations; in short they do not eat their own cooking.
5. The document is itself flawed and self contradictory at many levels and should be withdrawn for that reason. The Islands Trust does not speak for Indigenous people. The legal implications of the provisions written into this foundational document are unknown and there is no evidence legal implications have been considered.. The document invites conflict, disappointment and endless legal proceedings.
6. The policy statement explicitly downgrades the economic and general wellbeing of the residents of the Islands as they intend to shift from “human-centric and settler-centric planning paradigms.” The policy statement implicitly introduces a new political status to the Islands — ‘settler ‘ — into our bylaws. This is reckless drafting.
7. Turning to a practical issue, namely the draft section on forest management, I note if predictions concerning a drier climate are accurate, a reduction of forest cover will be required. Drier summers will produce the extirpation of some species on the Islands. Trees will need to be cut. Forested areas will need to be thinned and fire breaks constructed. Your proposed directives will inhibit such developments, increase costs, generate delays and increase the risk of catastrophic fires on the Islands. The Trust does not contain the expertise within its organization to organize and maintain a department devoted to managing forests and issuing permits to harvest.

The process is unacceptable and the document is unacceptable; the entire project needs to be halted and the policy document withdrawn.

D. Korbin