

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Islands2050; douglas.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: IT Draft Policy Statement

I do not support the initiative taken by the Islands Trust (IT) to rewrite and expand the organization's policy statement. The *raison d'être* of the Islands Trust is the "Islands Trust Act" which outlines the purpose or "Object" of the trust in paragraph 3 of the Act. No changes to the Islands Trust policy can or should be made without first amending the Island Trust Act to support those changes.

The Islands Trust intention to "seek meaningful engagement with First Nations" is without definition and is unbounded. The Island Trust Act does not mention an Island Trust responsibility of any kind with respect to the First Nations. In fact, Penelakut Island, formally Kuper Island, is specifically excluded from Schedule B of the Act. And yet recently, the IT is giving First Nations effectively stakeholder status with inexplicit veto power over the proposed modernization of Gabriola Island's critical ferry terminal.

Nowhere in the Island Trust Act is IT assigned the responsibility of "committing to urgent and equitable climate action". Without identifying the specific threat global warming might inflict on the gulf islands is to provide the Islands Trust with unbounded authority to declare any activity to be against the preservation and protection of "its unique amenities". No proof that this is in fact the case needs to be given. My interpretation of "unique amenities" will differ from every other Gulf Island resident and the amenities important to me are those which drew me to the islands in the first place. It now appears the Islands Trust wishes to use "global warming" to come up with their own exclusive definition of unique amenities which was never defined in the Islands Trust Act. A perceived but unspecified or measurable threat of flood, drought, ocean acidification, etc. will likely be used by IT to arbitrarily interfere with my enjoyment of this island's unique amenities as I define them.

Human habitation always affects the natural order of the environment and this is unalterable. Unless the IT intends to stop all new construction on the Gulf Island, the immediate ecosystem will be impacted for better or worse with each turn of a shovel. Land use on Gabriola is governed by the Region District and any migration of that responsibility to the IT will require an amendment to the Island Trust Act. Population density has been managed by IT on Gabriola by offsetting subdivisions through the creation of parkland. This has been extremely successful with hundreds of acres now untouchable parkland. Building codes establish the minimum requirements of house construction. The Island Trust Act does not give IT the authority to determine how a property is to be landscaped. This is what you are proposing and I consider this a direct threat to the enjoyment of my unique island amenities.

The implementation or management of affordable housing within the Gulf Islands is not assigned to the IT by the Island Trust Act. In fact, paragraph 3 excludes any responsibility for affordable housing since it cannot be classified as environmental or a unique amenity. The inclusion of affordable housing to the IT mandate would require a huge increase in the organization's bureaucracy for which it has no budget, experience or expertise.

The Islands Trust does not have the legislative authority to amend its mandate beyond what is defined in Paragraph 3 of the Islands Trust Act. The proposed policy amendment to me smacks of empire building and further interference in the Gulf Island residents' peaceful enjoyment of their environment and unique amenities. I would request that the IT cease all initiatives to increase their area of responsibilities and the trustees carry out the mandate to which they were elected.

Douglas Cavill Peng



Gabriola Island, BC