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Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2022 12:49 PM
To: Islands2050
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MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Emailing: Scan0101.pdf
Attachments: Scan0101.pdf

Dear Council

Attached please find my comments on your performance and draft policy.

Olaf Knezevic

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Scan0101.pdf

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Feb 20, 2022

Islands Trust Council

Subject: Islands 2050 policy statement Proposed Revision.

Dear Council

I have reviewed your proposed revised policy statement several times. I was hoping I was mistaken but I am shocked by how far the policy is moving beyond your legislated mandate. Striving to save the world for future generations and save mankind is noble. Please do so if you must but do so at your expense and not at mine in your policy statement.

Your object as you so often voice is to “preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of British Columbia generally,”

. That mandate does not include you saving the world. Your object is limited to the Province of British Columbia. You have been granted zoning authority for the Islands within a small specific geographic area. That zoning authority has in my opinion at times been and continues to be abused. In spite of not fulfilling your existing roll responsibly your proposed policy seeks to expand your influence into areas beyond your jurisdiction understanding and expertise.

Stick to your jurisdiction, to what you know and do that well. Consult on but do not try to regulate areas such as for example Forestry, Agriculture, Fisheries and Oceans, BC Ferries, Climate change and Reconciliation. The provincial and federal governments have that responsibility, the jurisdiction and the expertise. Your duplication or confusing these issues is counter productive.

The policy Statement needs no so called major updating. What is needed is that the Islands Trust fulfills the existing mandate responsibly. Instead of trying to prevent natural changes in the environment at the expense of the communities living in the environment the council and trust policy should be supporting the communities to adapt to and thrive with change. The environment, climate and ecosystems are dynamic and have always been evolving. Stop interfering with the natural process through “restoration” and artificially modifying the natural evolution to an imagined static state.

Specific examples of where the proposed policy is unacceptable include;

-Environmental restoration is considered protection. No it is environmental manipulation to satisfy someone’s vision of what should be. Is that your new nature? Your manipulation does not permit the environment to evolve naturally. Let nature evolve and permit it to restore naturally. Do not require manipulation in the policy that is supposed to protect natural evolution. You are confusing manipulation with protection. Your policy seems to consider the effects of mankind as unnatural events which must be discouraged. Your view of your mandate and therefore the policy statement needs to recognize and encourage amenities for people and the community.

1. The proposed prohibition regarding modifying wetlands on agricultural land will limit the ability to grow food for people. That seems counterproductive as most food grows better with moisture found around wetlands.

2. The proposed policy to "protect" unfragmented forest ecosystems against growth, development or land use strips practical use from private land. Such policy must be restricted to public or preserved land as it is unacceptable for private land. In the time of climate change and hotter summers such policy further sets the forest up for catastrophic wildfires and mass destruction.

3. The proposed policy of permits for tree cutting demonstrates insensitivity to the needs of many in the community who rely on wood for heat in the winter. The additional cost in time and money for tree cutting permits for firewood or attending to dangerous trees adds to the cost and bureaucratic burden of living on the islands.

4. The outright prohibition of clear-cutting demonstrates a lack of understanding of good forestry practice. Clear cutting can be the best prescription for some areas. In case you were unaware the Douglas fir you mistakenly claim to be endangered and claim to want to protect thrives in the sunlight of clear-cut areas.

5. The policy to regulate forestry is outside your expertise and zoning mandate. Encourage people to live in the forest zones to enable them to care for and enjoy their forests.

6. Any policy for forest ecosystem reserves where no extraction takes place must be not be applied to private land.

7. Policy prohibition on shoreline armouring is simply unacceptable. This policy prevents adequate protection of on shore development thereby punishing the land owner or community.

8. The policy relating to no new docks is unacceptable. These are islands. Docks are a necessity for reasonable access and desirable for recreational use as well. If you do not want a dock, fine do not build one. However do not deprive others the benefit of a dock. Do not as you have already done on Ruxton Island, deny property owners the right to a dock. It creates unnecessary hardship particularly for the less able and handicapped in our islands and discourages visitors from other parts of BC.

9. The proposed policy to ban desalination facilities on islands that claim to have ground water shortage is the height of lunacy. Please try to facilitate solutions to problems rather than making them worse. Think about encouraging water catchment.

10. Policy requiring low carbon housing, transportation and the like is outside your zoning mandate. That should be left to the building code which is not your expertise. Avoid needless jurisdiction creep.

11. Your proposed policy for restrictions relating to oil tankers, freighters transiting and anchoring in these waters shows how out of touch the proposed trust policy makers really are. These items are outside the trust's jurisdiction. Make all the recommendations you want but do not embarrass the community by telling these other departments what they must do. Stick to your knitting, land use in the gulf islands.

12. I sense your proposed policies may infringe on how islanders and the natives have kept warm through time immemorial, burning wood. Do not even consider restrictions on heating with wood our

renewable resource which does not require the flooding of countless acres of prime unceded native territory.

The proposed 2050 policy statement confirms the Islands Trust has lost its way. The document seems to be a blueprint for how in the coming years the residents will be required to serve the Trust instead of the Trust serving the people. The proposed policy advocates for farfetched ideal visions instead of advocating for the island residents and folks in British Columbia.

The 2050 proposed policy does not address real island issues such as;

Protection from Forest Fires by advocating for

- less dense forests,
- forests with fire breaks,
- forests with roads for maintenance and protection.

Controlling the proliferation of deer

- They spread ticks
- they annihilate Douglas fir and cedar seedlings
- their incessant browsing destroys biodiversity.

The Trust's prescriptive and restrictive land use policies make housing less affordable by driving costs up through requirements for;

- endless costly studies
- reports by professionals to explain the obvious
- land surveys for minor renovations
- rezoning processes which in some cases extend over 15 years and are still not concluded.

The proposed Islands Trust 2050 policy is unacceptable as it confirms the need for islanders to be protected from this islands trust.



Olaf Knezevic

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Cc. Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests Land and Natural Resources

Hon. George Heyman Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Hon. Josie Osbourne, Minister Municipal Affairs