

From: Ann Hennessy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2022 2:57 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Fwd: Draft Policy Statement

Hello, Islands Trust team - you have put so much effort into this endeavour - thanks for all you have done. I have lived on Galiano since 1971 and have always been a big Islands Trust supporter. Galiano would not be the place it is now without the Trust obviously, a real haven in an uncertain world.

One of the things I have valued most about the Trust process is the public meeting tradition which allows islanders to have their say about community issues. This is grass roots participation at its best. Due to the pandemic, opportunities for public meetings have been eliminated. Zoom meetings do not serve the same function because they limit involvement.

This new Policy Statement seems very far-reaching and touches on some of the core community concerns - farming, small business, affordable housing, the right of individuals to use the waterways for transportation and safety by limiting docks. Although our Galiano population is slowly growing, it is not keeping and attracting young working people who can provide services and staff emergency positions. Our new middle school setup on Pender Island, mandated by the school administration with no actual public meetings during the pandemic, will further discourage families from making their home on Galiano, to say nothing of the young people who grew up on Galiano and have to leave because of lack of housing and of even modest opportunity.

Can't we look at the timetable for this so that we can have those public meetings and get everyone on board?

My fear is that without consultation and consensus, confidence in the Trust will be eroded and its demise will be hastened. Community does matter and each island community is unique which is what makes the Trust area so remarkable. Often people don't agree completely but accept outcomes they originally reject because there has been a process for voicing their opinion.

Thanks for asking for our comments - I hope there will be more opportunity for everyone to collaborate on this project.

One thing I hope we have learned from the last two years is that a win/lose scenario does not work and will lead to undesirable outcomes.

Best regards,

Ann Hennessy