

**From:** Gillian Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 16, 2022 10:09 PM  
**To:** Islands2050; CC:; josie.osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Peter Luckham; Russ Hotsenpiller; Deb Morrison; Benjamin McConchie; info4allourvoices@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Proposed Revision of the Islands Trust Policy Statement

Hello,

My husband's family has been coming to Pender Island regularly since 1954. His grandparents and parents owned property on North Pender since the 1950s. His parents lived full time on Pender for 25 years, and were active in the community, setting up the first Optometric practice on the island, and donating two logs that are support beams in the community centre.

Now we own property in Otter Bay, and come to the island regularly to enjoy many different activities. We actively support the local businesses on Pender and participate in events while we are on the island.

The Islands Trust Council has written a draft Policy Statement that states "the need to shift towards less human-centric and less settler-centric planning paradigms". Paradigm shift is accomplished by smaller incremental steps towards meaningful goals. Momentum needs to be built in order to gain buy-in and subsequently convergence of opinion resulting in action.

Council and other levels of government have the job of helping to negotiate this convergence.

The stories of the "settlers", families who ended up moving to the islands are just as valid as the First Nations stories of land and sea harvests and traditions. One cannot sweep aside one set of stories in an attempt to replace instantly with another set. The proposed policy will alienate and evict one group of people by favouring another and will result in anger and frustration. Council needs to develop a policy that encourages the creation of new stories not trample on existing ones.

The Council has an opportunity to create a nimble form of government – local decision making using local population, local knowledge and local science. Diversity of the population (people and ecosystems) leads to converging cooperative communities who will care for the environment. Council needs to work with the communities to make change happen, not dictate that change.

I do not support this policy statement. In an attempt to compensate for historical events, this Council has written a policy that over-rotates on political correctness. I strongly believe that working towards reconciliation requires heart-felt change and cannot be imposed in the way the Trust Council proposes.

Yours,  
Gillian Morris