

From: MARY BETH RONDEAU [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2022 9:48 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Non Support for Trust Policy Statement Revision - Agriculture

Islands2050,

I do not support the proposed revisions and specifically for agriculture and farming. Food security on our islands is most important. The current Trust Policy Statement openly values agriculture/farming and suggests **compatibility** with environmental objectives. The proposed revisions to the Policy Statement (July 15, 2021) have many concerning aspects which have already been stated by other submissions to Islands2050. I would like to focus on how the current 1994 Trust Policy Statement places open-ended value on agriculture and farming and on how our important colonial history of farming by settlers has been removed.

From the **current 1994 Trust Policy Statement:**

"POLICIES FOR STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

4.1 Agricultural Land

Commitments of Trust Council

*4.1.1 Trust Council recognizes that agriculture is a **traditional** and **valuable activity** in the Trust Area."*

The word **traditional** has new meaning related to First Nations since 1994. It would be helpful if all the residents were able to be part of the dialogue with our First Nations and Indigenous Peoples but since that process has not been open to the residents, I would respectfully suggest that the intent of this statement can be retained while still respecting First Nations concerns. Is it the intent to take out the facts on our islands history where farming was one of the first activities by settlers, that it provided food security to the region? And the second part of the above statement places open-ended **value** on agriculture.

From the **proposed revision to the Policy Statement (July 15, 2021):**

"4.4. Agricultural Land Stewardship Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

4.4.1 Trust Council commits to take a precautionary approach to the stewardship of agricultural lands in the Trust Area, in cooperation with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, and the public, and on the basis of the best available area-based mapping, science, social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing.

4.4.2 It is Trust Council's policy that agricultural activity in the Trust Area should be small-scale, sustainable, regenerative, supportive of local climate action and food security, respectful of Indigenous harvesting areas, and protective of the environmental integrity of the Trust Area."

There is no replacement clause for the 1994 clause 4.1.1 in the July 15, 2021 Policy Statement revision. This is an important clause that should be kept because it tells part of (all of) our history and because it places open-ended value on agriculture.

There should be a replacement clause that keeps both of the intents.

Could an alternative be something like this?:

"Trust Council recognizes that agriculture was **practiced by early colonial settlers** and **continues as a** valuable activity in the Trust Area."

Mary Beth Rondeau

North Pender

Acknowledging the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples