

From: Ruth Simons <howesoundbri@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Support for Islands 2050 Policy statement changes
Attachments: Islands Trust 2050 policy statement.docx

Hello,

Please see our letter attached.

Thank you,
Ruth Simons,
Lead,
Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society,
Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region
604 921-6564 c: 778 834-4292
www.HoweSoundbri.org
Biodiversity Conservation - Reconciliation - Sustainable Development



April 17, 2022

To: Islands Trust re: the Islands 2050 Draft Trust Policy Statement

Emailed to: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca

I am writing on behalf of the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society to support the proposed changes to the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

We are the managers of Canada's 19th UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound biosphere region boundary covers 2,000 square kilometres, including the islands of Howe Sound. For more information and to view the boundary map, [please visit our website](#).

We are also members of the [World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves](#). This Network was launched in 2009 by UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme to foster sustainable development in islands and coastal areas and to promote adaptation and mitigation strategies on climate change.

The high level and directive changes proposed in the Islands 2050 Policy Statement align with and are relevant to the overarching objectives of UNESCO Biosphere Regions: Sustainable Development, Biodiversity Conservation, Reconciliation, Equity & Inclusion.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are guiding principles for framing sustainable development. The 17 global goals strive to leave no one behind. Striking balance between the goals in is an ongoing challenge. The Islands 2050 statement addresses many of the targets Canada has committed to in Agenda 2030.

Due to the high sensitivity of the ecosystems on the islands, particularly at risk with a changing climate and increasing population demands, we support changes that place priority on the four environmental goals: [Clean Water and Sanitation \(6\)](#), [Climate Action \(13\)](#), [Life Below Water \(14\)](#) and [Life on Land \(15\)](#).

Importantly, without further delay, we support the Islands Trust update with respect indigenous peoples.

We urge the finalization of the changes without further delay.

Sincerely,

Ruth Simons,
President,
Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society
howesoundbri@gmail.com