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Dear Islands Trust Council

At the June 2025 Quarterly Trust Council Meeting, we presented our petition as written below with a list of almost 800 signatures. We are now presenting this petition once again, now with 1455 signatures. Please include this as correspondence in the September 2025 Quarterly Trust Council Meeting agenda package. We will also submit this to Islands 2050. The [petition](#) can be found on our website.

### **Petition Issue**

In 1974, the BC government passed the Trust Act to protect the natural environment of the Trust islands from over-development. The Act states that “The object of the trust 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 .....” The province oversees the work of elected Trustees from each island by approving a Trust Policy Statement, which sets standards for islands’ community plans and bylaws.

Weak bylaws and weak enforcement has left the islands vulnerable to over-development, deforestation, freshwater depletion, pollution, foreshore degradation and climate change.

A new Trust Policy Statement is now being drafted. Successive drafts have weakened environmental protection and put social, economic and environmental goals on equal footing, like any unprotected area. Please support our vision for the Gulf Islands by signing the petition.

**To: Elected Trustees of the Islands Trust & Minister of Municipal Affairs: Christine Boyle**

We request that the new Trust Policy Statement not be approved until it:

- affirms that the term “environment” in the legislated Object of the Islands Trust Act refers to the natural environment and does not include residential development and infrastructure;
- affirms that the Islands Trust’s top priority is protection/preservation of the islands’ land and marine ecosystems, and rural island character;
- contains directives that require each island to establish development limits;
- requires each island to limit development to that which can be supplied with drinking water from that island while providing adequate water for natural systems;
- requires each island to produce a build-out report that determines its maximum population if all existing lots are developed and subdivided;
- requires that decisions allowing more intensive use of land and water be guided by independent, up-to-date scientific data, local knowledge and traditional Indigenous knowledge and practices.

Sincerely, Maxine Leichter, Secretary, Friends of the Gulf Islands Society

c.c Islands 2050