
From: Joan Bartley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2025 6:20 PM
To: Executive Admin <execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Correspondence: Trust Executive Meeting, December 17, 2025

Dear Trust Executive Committee Members;

While completing the Islands Trust Policy Statement Draft (TPS) feedback survey, I noted areas of ambiguity and omissions which are pertinent to the future best interests and the mandate of the Islands Trust Act: “preserve and protect”. Particularly, the fragility of the islands’ setting, the “natural” environment, and Climate Change will require specificity and clarity in the final document.

Specificity and clarity will support our elected trustees, current and future, in fulfilling their obligation and supporting the accountability of their actions “to preserve and protect” the natural environment, surrounding waters and the rural character of the Gulf Islands. The current loopholes not only put trustees in jeopardy, but certainly, the long-term sustainability and best interests of the Gulf Islands at risk.

Ensuring a healthy habitat and lifestyle, for the natural ecosystems, islanders, stakeholders, and visitors, further revisions to this TPS Draft require: wording that is clear and specific; and, ‘operational’ definitions. For example, operationally define: “natural” environment; Indigenous consent (as described in UNDRIP); engagement (see Islands Trust Communications Strategy 2024); ecological capacity; affordable housing; attainable housing; water sustainability... In order to guide policy and bylaw making, to collect credible/measurable data, to monitor and assess/evaluate the sustainability of the Directives, clarity and specificity is vital.

Current and future trustees, community members, and other stakeholders have the need to fully understand the *what*, the *why* and the *outcomes* of policies and bylaws. Therefore, the meticulousness of the TPS is fundamental not only to current and future trustees in meeting their mandate, but also for all stakeholders and community members to engage proactively in the protection and preservation of a healthy and sustainable island lifestyle and natural environment.

Fundamental areas to strengthen follow:

Clarify: DIRECTIVE Policies are **mandatory** for ALL islands as required by the Islands Trust Act.

State **measurable** goals for data collection and monitoring of thresholds and outcomes for habitat health, water sustainability, population density, ecological capacity/sustainability which are determined by scientifically/credible expertise and Indigenous knowledge.

Strengthen groundwater and freshwater protection with enforceable **DIRECTIVES** against

unsustainable water usage.

ADD: GOAL and **operational/ measurable** DIRECTIVES to mitigate Climate Change (Climate Emergency Declaration 2019)

ADD: historical context of the Islands Trust; governance; and roles and responsibilities of bodies involved.

EDUCATE!!! in respect to purpose and an all-encompassing audience!

Every citizen- child, teen, adult, elder -has a shared responsibility to "preserve and protect" the natural environment. Thus, everyone needs to fully understand that the policies will indeed confirm the Islands Trust mandate to “preserve and protect” the islands.

The greater the clarity, the fewer the loop holes; the greater the clarity, the increased stakeholder knowledge; the greater the clarity, the better the community engagement; the greater the clarity, the greater the sustainability of the Gulf Islands for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Bartley



Galiano Island, BC