

**From:** Karen Ross [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 2:22 PM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please don't remove housing and community from your mandate

I sent this letter to Sue Ellen Fast, and she recommended sending it to Islands2050:

I cannot commit to taking time to become involved in the Trust 2050 work, and really commend those of you who are working so hard on it. I would specifically compliment yourself, in my observations you pride yourself on informed decisions. So, thank you.

Of course, I do have opinions, and will use this email to share some of them, as you were so kind as to write to me directly.

It is my opinion that the 1994 amendment to include the importance of sustainable communities should not be removed. The mandate, and realistic work to be done, is much more than "preserve and protect" the natural environment.

I personally would like to see the Trust come out more strongly in favour of sustainable communities, and innovative and modern approaches, for instance:

- Taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint. An electric transit system, Trust wide would be a total win!

We have been endeavouring to do that on Hornby, and some of the other Islands, and have found that BC Transit is resistant to taking on servicing the Islands. The Trust Council could lobby BC Transit to service the Islands, and to use them as model examples of a low impact public transit system. This cross government collaboration would be very useful.

- It is often said that we do not have a fresh water shortage, we have storage issues. Yet we continue to see the writings, and dialogue, as though we do have a shortage. We get lots of rain, and some Regional District's are offering incentives for rainwater harvesting, rain barrel storage, etc. The Trust has a role here. They control new siting and use permits. Providing storage could be mandatory for all new developments (residential, commercial, agricultural.....all). There is also a role for lobbying the government to add to aquifer storage, by diverting run-off, digging lakes, etc. Plus there are a lot of new technologies regarding condensation for water recovery, etc. Public demonstration projects could inspire private actions.

- The heaviest users of water are for agriculture/gardening. (Hence the FLRNRO requirement for gardens, over a certain size, having to have a water license.) Are there Trust policy statements regarding this conflict? I see the Trust targeting Vacation Rentals, and their potential impact on the ground water supplies, yet being very quiet on the heavy use of water for agriculture. Again solutions regarding management of agricultural use of water could be incorporated into Trust Policy Statements.

- Does preserve and protect include the skies? I have been surprised by the lack of comment, by Island Trust, on the new Low Earth Orbit satellite constellations and their impact on the night skies. Surely this is an issue of our times?

- On the subject, the modern human desire for good internet, and it's impact on our natural world, the Trusts' recent support for the Connected Coast land-based fibre optic infrastructure project is awesome!

So, finishing on a note of thanks,

Karen Ross

Hornby Island

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