

From: Sue Hutchen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Policy Directions Islands 2050...

To whom it may concern,

I would like to echo the concerns as stated in the following letter from Claire Dineen. I don't wish to sound unsympathetic to the very real housing crisis in BC but the unfortunate truth is that the delicate eco systems of the smaller Gulf Islands make it impossible for us to be part of the short term solution. What we can do is protect and preserve the natural environment for the benefit of all, now and for generations to come.

Regards,
Sue Hutchen Lay

"Regarding: Policy Directions Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area January 2021

My understanding is the Islands Trust was formed as a means of ensuring the protection of the fragile ecosystems of the Gulf Islands in the face of increasing development, deforestation, pressures on ground water and issues related to marine ecology. Some years later the mandate was amended to include 'island culture and community' and more recently there has been a focus on affordable housing.

The Islands Trust is in the unique position of having its focus and primary constituent as the environment. Unfortunately Nature doesn't vote and increasingly the emphasis is on wants and the needs of the human population. Whenever there are policies that attempt to 'balance' the requirements of the ecosystem and people, the former tends to lose out. The environment, but virtue of the Trust's own mandate, must take precedence.

I recognize that there is a need for affordable housing here and elsewhere, but we can't build our way out of this crisis. I urge the Islands Trust to return to their original mandate to preserve and protect the environment and make your policy decisions through that lens. If not, we will be victim to increasing densification, and human demands on the natural resources and ferry services. We are at very real risk of destroying the attributes about the Gulf Islands and the reason why many of us moved here. Once gone, it can't be restored."

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