

From: Chris Bowers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Executive Admin
Cc: Sue Ellen Fast; Michael Kaile; Laura Busheikin; David Critchley; Scott Colbourne; Kees Langereis; Dan Rogers; Tahirih Rockafella; Jane Wolverton; Kate-Louise Stamford; Alex Allen; Grant Scott; Peter Johnston; Timothy Peterson; Peter Luckham; Jeanine Dodds; David Maude; Benjamin McConchie; Deb Morrison; Laura Patrick; Peter Grove; Paul Brent; Lee Middleton; Cameron Thorn; Steve Wright; Doug Fenton; Steve Wright; Doug Fenton
Subject: TPS review process

Dear Trust Council,

I have added my signature to the letter from a number of Gabriolans – whom I have BCCed in this email – which is below my first signature block.

I also want to respond to the form letter sent to me by Chair Dan Rogers in response to my previous letter to all of you.

But before I do so Mr. Rogers, I want you to know that while I sent my first letter to the trustees in support of Trustistas who have not given up, I'd pretty much stepped back from trying to protect my beloved island for future generations that seem not to have the same sense of obligation.

But the rudeness and assumption of my lack of intelligence in your letter irked me.

I accused no one, Mr. Rogers, of voting “against” the environment.

I did thank those who voted *for* it in voting for Trustee Steve Wright's motion to make the environment the 'paramount

objective' of the Trust.

You say that those trustees who voted against this motion believe "they could support more than one priority for the Trust".

One would certainly hope that folks elected to preserve and protect the islands *would* have the capability of considering more than one important value at a time.

But those who believe that situations *don't* occur in which they are required to decide whether they are going to privilege humans or the natural environment really *do* need to be paying closer attention to what has been happening on this planet.

You then proceed to use the same logic you said those to whom you sent your letter used, by suggesting we think the environment should be "... **the only** priority or "paramount" ..." priority.

Surely you are aware those are not the same thing. Humans *do* have the human ability to rank things.

As for your suggestions that those who care about the environment should leave the islands, or that Trustistas who have built here are hypocritical to have done so, your own comments show that you know better.

As you note, the Trust was instituted after far too much subdivision had been established. The original Object recognised that islanders would have to try to protect our islands despite those preconditions.

So, as you are aware that the Trust *began* fighting a “rearguard action”, it’s hard to understand why you would take issue with actually fighting that fight.

The final reason why I have taken umbrage with your form letter is that you seem unaware that you are not the only person who knows the history of the Trust and its various iterations.

I do hope that if you argue with constituents in the future, you will do so more politely, and use better logic.

Gabriolan letter follows.

For Peace, Truth, and Justice,
And for Generation 8

Chris Bowers

[REDACTED]

Gabriola Island, BC

V0R 1X1

[REDACTED]

May 21, 2021

To the Islands Trust Executive, Trust Council and All Trustees:

As residents of Gabriola, we request that the Trust Council and the Trustees think very carefully about how they are proceeding with the review of the Trust Policy Statement (TPS). This document is critical to protecting our precious island ecosystems. The Gulf Islands are currently under great pressure from development according to the recent Trust press release and island residents observe this with alarm.

The inclination of a majority of Trustees in the current TPS review process to give community needs such as housing and transportation the same importance as the protection of the environment due to strident community lobbies is a grievous error. This approach will inevitably result in disaster for the environment as there will always be

ways to justify our destructive human footprint on the land and water if human needs are considered to be of equal importance.

Satisfying human needs was never the mandate of the Trust at its inception and there is even more onus on the Trust now with the declared climate crisis to stand up for the environment above all.

You heard from the islanders in the public engagement process Islands 2050. And yet their overall and overwhelming concern for the environment and the rural nature of the islands is not being heard it appears by many Trustees, as reflected in the motions that were voted on at the last Trust Council meeting in March where the efforts of Pender Trustee Wright and Denman Trustee Critchley's motions to reaffirm that the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is preservation and protection of the natural environment were defeated.

Without this affirmation, present and future Trustees will not have any firm ground to stand on when it comes to land use decisions. We are already witnessing this on Gabriola where little discussion or examination of environmental impact accompanies rezoning for higher density. We know this to be the case on other islands as well.

Extreme caution must be exercised when it comes to forests, water resources, wetlands, wildlife habitat, wildfire risk etc. on our islands. And Trustees must be given clear Trust Policy Directives to guide their decision-making. That should be the primary focus of this Policy Statement Review, not muddying the waters with inclusion of "community needs, healthy communities, inclusivity" and so on. Promoting residential land use and solving social problems is NOT the legislated object of the Trust. Surely we have learned that human need will always overwhelm the environment's ability to support it.

Prior to the upcoming June Trust Council meeting, we ask all Trustees to carefully reflect on the charge they have before them in the review of the ITPS. It is "to preserve and protect the Trust area and its unique amenities and the environment" above all else. We ask you to not allow a few strong but misguided voices among you and within your constituents to distract you from this mandate. The future of the Trust area depends on you.

Chris Bowers

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