

From: Islands2050
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Islands Trust Policy changes - no community consultation

From: Speirs, John [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2021 1:07 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Russ Hotsenpiller <rhotsenpiller@islandstrust.bc.ca>; directorsgi@crd.bc.ca; gholman@crd.bc.ca
Subject: Islands Trust Policy changes - no community consultation

I am writing as a concerned resident of Saltspring Island. It has recently come to light at the last Trust meeting on June 15th, 2021 that the Islands Trust is proposing the most significant rewrite of its guiding principles – the Trust Policy Statement – in the Trust’s 47 year history.

The proposed revisions include:

- Centralization to more regionally-based land use planning, a reduction in Local Trust Committee discretion, and elimination of the uniqueness of each island.
- Removal of residents, local economy and community health and well-being as planning considerations on the Islands.
- Removal of agriculture and forestry as traditional and valuable activities on the Islands.
- Prohibition of all private docks, seawalls and other hard shoreline activity. - A ban on desalination as a means of providing potable water.

The Trust is urgently moving this bylaw to 1st Reading on July 8th with neither adequate transparency nor meaningful consultation with residents. Normal process is to have community consultation before 1st Reading, after which the Policy is referred to as many as 200 organizations (governmental, indigenous, and special interest) for review and comment.

Trustees have not openly consulted on their Islands. The Trust asserts they have consulted widely for the past 18 months although very few if anyone on Saltspring has heard of the proposed changes much less been engaged in discussion. The process is being pushed very hard by Staff and some Trustees. Why is it possible for the Trust to move with such speed when, for almost every other imaginable application or request of the Trust, it takes months to years to process and respond? To rush this to First Reading without community consultation and transparency is an apparent abuse of process.

I would urge you to act to ensure that the all the stakeholders on the islands have a chance for meaningful consultation and input before 1st reading of the Trust policy statement.

Regards,

Jack Speirs