

**From:** Executive Admin  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 3:06 PM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed new Trust Policy Statement

**From:** Helen Shilladay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:07 PM  
**To:** Scott Colbourne <[scolbourne@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:scolbourne@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Executive Admin <[execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed new Trust Policy Statement

Hello Scott.

I am Gabriola resident.

I want to express in the strongest terms my opposition to the First Reading of the proposed new Islands Trust policy, slated for July 7th.

While I share your desire to protect trees and sensitive habitat on the islands, and agree with many points within the draft document, I take very strong issue with the poor level of consultation and engagement with the islands residents.

There have been no Town Hall meetings for residents to discuss the proposed new policy and question Trustees about it.

No effective attempts have been made to bring the proposed changes to residents' notice, nor to gather meaningful, representative feedback and comment.

Now Trustees are rushing to a First Reading of a document that the vast majority of Gulf Islands residents have been neither informed nor consulted about, much less agreed on.

This is absolutely unacceptable.

Every Trustee has an obligation to ensure that residents are given the time and means to be fully informed about this proposed new policy, along with sufficient time and opportunity to make their views known.

That has not happened in this case.

A Facebook group has gathered more commenters and reached more residents in a handful of days than the IT survey. That is a damning indictment of the lack of concern for public engagement shown in this process.

If you have not yet seen the strength of feeling, the concern, and the disapproval that is being expressed at the IT's handling of this - which you, as a Trustee, must bear part of the responsibility for - I recommend that you appraise yourself of it urgently.

Trust in the role of Trustee and the entire Islands Trust organisation has been seriously undermined by the lack of transparency, and lack of concern for public knowledge and approval of the Draft Policy.

Many Gabriola residents are commenting, and not positively.  
Your personal vote to push ahead with this deeply flawed process, despite calls for a pause to correct the lack of public engagement, is not appreciated.

This is not what residents want from their Trustees.

You, and the other Trustees who voted to continue, are acting without a mandate from the island residents.

That is unconscionable for elected representatives.

I remind you to fulfil your duty to Gabriola residents as a Trustee by working with your Trustee colleagues to postpone the First Reading until Town Hall meetings have been held, meaningful engagement with Gabriola residents has been carried out, and you receive a mandate from residents for the draft.

Democratic principles demand it.

I look forward to receiving your reply in a timely fashion, given the short time until the meeting.

I reserve the right to share this letter, along with your response, in the public arena.

Sincerely,  
Helen Shilladay

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