

From: Islands2050
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Trust Policy Statement Rewrite

From: George Leroux [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Benjamin McConchie; Deb Morrison; Laura Patrick
Cc: Peter Luckham; adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca; directorsgi@crd.bc.ca
Subject: Trust Policy Statement Rewrite

Hi Laura, Deb & Ben

Thanks for taking a few minutes to consider my observations concerning Trust processes related to the Trust Policy Statement rewrite. The job of a Trustee is thankless, friendship breaking, and challenging as you attempt to balance many development and land use pressures on our Islands. Your community service is admirable.

The NPLTC is currently in consultation with the community regarding changes to the LUB. These discussions have been ongoing for some time and it would appear that people in the community have been engaged in consultation. First reading of a draft bylaw is still ahead of us.

The situation seems quite different with the proposed revision to the Trust Policy Statement. Consultation in the community, despite the representations of Trust Staff, has been woefully inadequate and lacking in transparency. Notably, there is a very large gap between the Island 2050 marketing and outreach campaign and the detailed policies, directives and advocacy intentions set down in the draft TPS.

Unfortunately, this draft TPS, upon seeing the light of day, has released a lot of pent up frustration with the Trust. Being a land use planner is not for the faint of heart or soft skinned folks. It is not an easy job. It is hard to be popular when you must adjudicate land use issues. Hence the need for clear policies, applied fairly and equitably. I have no doubt the folks involved in the TPS revision are well meaning and proceeding with good intentions. However, the community needs to be respected and given the chance to be listened to, and heard, prior to this draft going to 1st Reading.

The Trust suffers from a serious lack of goodwill in the community. I might go so far as to say the Trust is quickly losing its social license to deliver the services it is intended to deliver for residents. This has been exacerbated by the restrictions on movement and assembly resulting from the pandemic.

The apparent rush to get this draft to 1st Reading is compounding the situation for the Trust. Trust Staff and some Trustees may feel the process has not been rushed, and that they have consulted extensively. They likely feel misunderstood and wrongly criticized. The rush to 1st Reading may also have unintended consequences. There may be a surge of tree cutting and permit applications to get development started before the new TPS is enacted.

This is a terrible situation for our communities and the environment. The Trust is not trusted. There are serious issues that need to be tackled, and the process concerns with this revision have overtaken the content.

In my view, the 1st Reading must be set aside. LTCs should take the draft to their communities and have meaningful discussions about the content of the TPS. Residents should not have to resort to such extreme means as we are presently witnessing in the community to get the process stopped so they can be heard.

The Trust may or may not have time to recover. If you pass 1st Reading the Trust may be perceived to be showing a certain disdain for the residents of these islands. I am confident that is not your intent. As Trustees you work very hard with good intentions serving our community. We may or may not agree on substance, but we need a fair, inclusive, informed consultative process in the community.

Yes, there will be consultation after 1st Reading. But, frankly, most people feel the fix is in once it gets past 1st Reading. And, history would generally support this feeling.

I urge you to show respect for our communities and the many people taking the time to reach out to you, other Trustees and provincial officials asking that there be fulsome consultation prior to 1st Reading.

Thank you

George Leroux
Raven Rock Farm