

From: Laura Patrick
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 12:31 PM
To: Maple Hung; Kim Stockdill; Islands2050
Subject: FW: Pender Island Farmers' Institute re: Islands Trust Policy Statement

From: Barbara Johnstone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Deb Morrison; Benjamin McConchie
Cc: Laura Patrick
Subject: Pender Island Farmers' Institute re: Islands Trust Policy Statement

Dear Trustees,

The Pender Island Farmers' Institute recently became aware of significant changes to the Islands Trust Policy Statement that we believe will impact agriculture and our ability to farm in the Trust Area. We would like to bring this matter to your attention, especially since there has been a lack of consultation with those of us who reside and farm in the Trust area.

The new Islands Trust Policy Statement has removed the clause that agriculture is a traditional and valuable activity and has also stated that the Trust will no longer support the inclusion of land into the ALR. The Trust Policy Statement also discourages the drainage of agricultural land.

The Trust Policy Statement is a guiding document that provides overarching policy to inform our Official Community Plans and Land Use Bylaws.

We are particularly concerned because our North Pender Agriculture Advisory Planning Commission has recently been reviewing the current Land Use Bylaws for agriculture and was not aware of the impending changes despite working with the Trust, and we see that these significant changes will have an impact on both our OCP and our LUB.

The Trust has called a special meeting of the Islands Trust Council on July 8, 2021, for the purpose of giving the amended Policy Statement First Reading, yet we have not had the opportunity to review or comment on this document. The Trust has recently added a two-hour Town Hall to allow for public comment on July 7, which is not adequate consultation given that the notice did not include a link to the document which has not been seen by most residents, and many residents do not subscribe to Trust email notices.

Plus, this time of year is the busiest time for the farm community.

We are asking for the process to be stopped and for First Reading to be deferred so that the residents and farming community can be properly engaged and consulted.

We understand that the proposed changes are to update the Trust Policy Statement to include essential components such as First Nations Reconciliation and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. We have no objection to that, and as we have witnessed recently, both topics need special attention. We do have a problem with the disconnect with the community which has been ongoing, partly due to COVID. We would like to understand the reasoning behind the changes to the TPS and be given the opportunity to review, understand, and discuss this as a community.

Agriculture is a big part of our community and our Farmers' Institute and other food organizations on our islands have been working hard to grow our farm businesses and provide local food to our communities.

We are all looking forward to when there are in-person meetings and less stress in the community. We recognize how hard you all work, and it would be great if we could all work together to ensure lasting, positive change.

Sincerely yours,



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The Pender Islands Farmers Institute

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