

July 7th, 2021

To Islands Trust Trustees

Thank you to the current Trustees for giving the Islanders a chance to put forward an assessment of aspects of Island Living that are in need of being considered and addressed at this time:

Re Transparency with Island Trust Property Taxes:

Going back as far as far as 1974 when the Province of B.C. created the Preserve and Protect Mandate to preserve the Gulf Islands uniquely fragile and rarified environment and eco system in order that all British Columbians could benefit it was not long before the province gave the responsibility to the Gulf Islanders with only a modicum of fiscal responsibility coming from the Provincial Government. Two elected Trustees per island were given the responsibility to run the Islands Trust at that time and primarily with only a token of remuneration if any and ever more moving through to current day it would seem that there does not appear to be much transparency regarding the incremental increases for Trust planning costs, and upgrades to Trustee salaries which appear to have escalated, in some cases as high as \$132% in present day.

In some years there was an uptick of population growth as low as .08% with a continuing escalation of property tax increases which in many respects becomes burdensome for the islanders. Since it is clear that the islanders are carrying the costs for all British Columbians to enjoy the resources of the Gulf Islands it would appear that the idea of limiting the lucrative resources of tourism in a draconian fashion and as well now a proposed move to exploit or halt home based businesses either being eliminated or taxed more heavily along with a continuing expansion of Trust Planning Activities 74% (it doesn't appear there are details provided for how many staff or what their salaries are) of a now 9.1 million dollar budget, up to 130% upgrade for Trustees salaries and a 12% cut for the Trust Conservancy is beginning to wear thin financially as It doesn't appear that there is any responsibility for referendums or the like when making a call on a limited public purse.

To conclude, it is difficult to ascertain that any organization, whose costs climb at a rate of six or seven times inflation is clearly not cost effective nor fiscally well managed. The Islands Trust displays a profound lack of accountability toward the tax payer while other public agencies have had to increase productivity, the Islands Trust has become more fiscally inefficient and less productive, more arrogant in its indifference to the islanders who have come to the islands to enjoy this beautiful lifestyle rather than suffer from the over reach of petti bureaucrats who enjoy a sense of entitlement that is surprising and in all very expensive for islanders of all walks of life.

Please note some partial quotes have emanated from many different years regarding Property tax information regarding the accountability of the Islands Trust.

Respectfully,

Georgia Taylor