

From: Holly Schofield <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 6:40 PM
To: Islands2050; Peter Luckham; Jane Wolverton; Tahirih Rockafella; Dan Rogers
Subject: Draft Policy Statement for Islands Trust

Categories:

To Chair Luckham, Co-Chair Rogers, Trustee Wolverton, and Trustee Rockafella,

Please do not give first reading to Policy 2.0. It is extremely flawed.

In trying to keep the policies and language as flexible as possible for the planning services, many of the policies have been weakened or rendered meaningless.

When considering the “natural environment”; groundwater and recharge areas; unique and fragile island ecosystems; the words “Shall strive to” or “will strive to”, and so on, is not sufficient. Instead, “duty of care”, “makes certain” or “will keep safe” would strengthen the accuracy and effectiveness of the policy: also, assures, ensures, guarantees, or secures.

The 2.0 policy amendment is based upon the presumption that the environment is not the Trusts “first principle” and “priority”; and there is no differentiation between “built” and “natural” environment throughout. This presumption is incorrect.

“Carrying capacity” has been removed from this document. Please ensure it is retained. We need a measure to combat population pressure and urbanization of the Islands. The lack of measurability, and more specifically, of policies allow the planners and LTC’s to continue to follow a developer-centric course. Their decisions have consequences that in time result in the depletion of limited island resources and the destruction of the natural environment and rural life. Any revised Policy Statement should include a cap on population, restrictions on density, and a realization that sustainability cannot be achieved by endless development.

Co-chair Dan Rogers would like to omit two sections from 4.2.7: “the freshwater quality is maintained”, and that, “Islands are self sufficient in their supply of freshwater”. Please don’t allow this section to be amended like that. We need more water and resource protection, not less. The islands must preserve their resource autonomy and be self-sufficient for water.

I would like to see a pledge made by staff and Trustees to make all decisions with a duty of care and priority given to the natural environment following the "preserve and protect" mandate. Then and only then, should this policy be reviewed and the amendments made in keeping with that objective. When surveyed in 2021(Driftwood, 2050, Housing First)76- 86% of the people wanted the Trust to make the environment a priority.

Not making the environment a foremost concern is beyond irresponsible.

Sincerely,

Holly Schofield

Galiano, BC