

From: Wendy Burton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Trustees <Trustees@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: Islands2050 <Islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Islands Trust Policy Statement proposal for First Reading

I urge Council to give First Reading to the Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw on July 8th. I have been engaged in the 2050 project as a diligent citizen since it was announced: attended a meeting on Hornby Island, answered a survey, sent in some comments, discussed the process with my local trustees, read EVERYTHING (whew!). I read the Islands Trust Policy Statement when it was available, and I am impressed with the work evident in this document. I am particularly impressed with the effort to enact UNDRIP and TRCommissions Calls to Action.

I understand this document is a work in progress, the result of 18 months of engagement, analysis and discussion. I understand it is not the final version. I understand the steps that take place between First Reading and Third Reading.

I have been waiting for my opportunity to offer suggestions, revisions, quibbles, and perhaps a few punctuation corrections. I understand there will be four months of opportunities for responses to be submitted for consideration.

I am distressed, therefore, at the "Important Message" that came to my mailbox anonymously a few days ago. I joined the Facebook group created to "discuss" the document. Within a few hours, there were 500 participants and within two days 1200. In spite of my, and others, efforts, the moderators and strong voices insisted that "we" were opposed to the document, and the stream of misinformation, sarcasm, suspicion and just plain misrepresentation of the draft policy statement did not abate. It was plain to many of us that the purpose of the forum was not to discuss the document but attempt to force trustees not to accept it as First Reading.

The Trust put out clarifying documents. I thank you for that. These clarifications did nothing to quell the push to destroy this document.

I beseech you not to let the fury of very few override those of us who have been waiting patiently for our opportunities to discuss the document, understand it more fully, and offer suggestions for revisions, if required. The heat created by these anonymous and/or strident opposing voices is created by a serious, I would suggest deliberate, misreading of the draft as it stands. There is little light cast by their rhetoric, and any attempt to create some light is met with scorn and more misinterpretation, misinformation and outright "fake news."

I predict, if you decide not to accept this document that those fiercely opposed will disappear, not to be heard from again. Their work will be done. We will not hear from them again until another draft is put forward.

You cannot base your decision to put off First Reading of this document on the commentary I have been hearing over the past week or so.

Is this a perfect draft? No. No draft is perfect. No document that is created by community consultation is ever perfect. As you state, this is a living document.

Let it breathe.

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