

From: Marjorie Gang [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 8:47 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: corrected letter (small edits) to replace one sent to Executive Committee
Attachments: Thoughts about public engagement.docx

sfast@islandstrust.bc.ca, drogers@islandstrust.bc.ca, pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca, patrick@islandstrust.bc.ca,
Trustee Peter Luckham and Colleagues on the Executive Committee,

Thoughts about public engagement:

Some things should be done in advance of public engagement: The Islands' Trust sent out over 100 of referral requests. Most of these were ignored, but 40 were returned.

Most of the ones returned had suggestions for amendments, and several of these came from Provincial Ministries, Regional Districts, and Improvement Districts, so won't the IT be obliged to make at least some of the changes suggested before Minister Josie Osborne rubber stamps the policy, if that's how it works?

If all those changes are made, Islands 2050 will be quite a different document. I asked one of our trustees whether a modified policy document would be available to the public before public engagement starts, and he responded that that's "unknowable." This could be important though, because the document that's now available is so confoundingly dense that many of the people you represent aren't likely to read it through, so any public reaction to it might be based on a biased interpretation from the trustees and Islands' Trust staff. I understand you're all going to get training in advance of the public engagement to ensure that you all give a consistent public response.

One of the first useful things the public engagement contractor should do is a survey to determine what proportion of island residents have actually read some / all / almost all /only the IT "consistent response" about the Islands 2050 document.

Some amended form of the document should be available to the public before we're asked for input, and the suggestions from the referral responses should be attached to the public document, so that they'll be equally available. Or at least, we should know whether any revisions are currently underway, and how the IT intends to deal with the referral responses. Most of the Local Trust Committees responded that they wouldn't comment until after public engagement was completed. Does the Islands' Trust plan to ask them again, and consider alterations based on responses received? The referral response from the Province stated that they want to see the amended document before commenting. Will your constituents get to do this too?

The referral request was sent to 29 First Nations groups, and 5 treaty groups. No responses were publicly accessible. Given the large role assigned to First Nations in the new policy, will the public get to know anything about how the First Nations are reacting to the initiative? Shouldn't that precede public engagement?

The public engagement period might still be ongoing when the report of the Select Committee on Government and Management becomes public, but it will have been ongoing for a few months up to that time. If releasing this report substantially changes public response to the IT initiative, will the PE contractor be able to comment on this as part of their report?

Thanks in advance for your attention. A response would be appreciated.

Margie Gang
Denman Island
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