

From: Mielle Chandler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 1:46 PM
To: information
Cc: Islands2050
Subject: Correspondence to Trust Council
Attachments: Letter to Trust Council.pdf

To Whom it Concerns,

Please find attached, in PDF format, and copied to 'Islands 2050', a letter to Trust Council.

Please ensure that the attached correspondence is included in both the correspondence to Trust Council and in the 'Islands 2050' public correspondence.

Thank you,
Mielle

January 14th 2022

Trust Council Trustees
cc: Islands 2050

Dear Trustees of Trust Council,

I am writing to request that the Chair and Staff refrain from further applying the label 'misinformation' to public conversations and expressions of concern regarding the proposed revised Trust Policy Statement.

Doing so disrespects public discourse and citizen engagement. It gives the impression that the Trust dismisses the concerns of residents. The allegation of 'misinformation', construed as a ploy to discredit both the public conversations on the Trust Policy Statement revision and the citizens engaged in these conversations, in turn harms the social respect due to the Islands Trust as a governing body.

We are all of us human. As such, we make errors and differ in our analyses. It is okay to make mistakes. More importantly, democracy is founded on the notion that we *should* have differing views and analyses. It is *expected* that we differ. It is also expected that we are open to changing our minds on issues through public discussion and debate.

It is concerning that the Chair, (who holds that position on Trust Council, the Executive Committee, and the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee), while quick to intervene when he suspects disrespect towards Staff, nevertheless accepts and condones the use, by Staff, of language which disrespects residents.

It is even more concerning that the Chair himself, by claiming, on numerous occasions over the past six months, that 'misinformation' is taking place, has engaged in language disrespectful to the public.

If instances of 'misinformation' arise, then by all means invite the Chair to state what that misinformation consists of, and have it corrected for the benefit of all. Further invite the Chair, after first listening openly, and attempting to hear and understand the message, to conduct the correction of information kindly and factually, without discrediting or shaming people.

Having been involved in many public conversations on the Trust Policy Statement revision over the past six months I am certainly aware of differences of opinion. I am also aware that information is always incomplete and cast through the lens of the speaker or writer—none of us are omniscient. For my part, I am not aware of any instances of intentional misinformation in these public conversations.

Sincerely,
Mielle Chandler
Salt Spring Island