

From: Jeff Ballou [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 6:41 PM
To: jordan.sturdy.MLA@leg.bc.ca; bim@bimbc.ca; Islands2050;
concernedssiresidents@gamil.com
Subject: Islands Trust 2050

As an elected member of the Advisory Planning Council (APC) before Bowen Island elected to become a municipality I questioned the role, let alone the budget and bureaucracy, of the Islands Trust. It appeared to be yet another level of off-island governance that was uninformed and lacked legitimacy when it came to local land use decisions. Its original premise was mistaken in that it assumed uniformity of land use issues across many diverse jurisdictions.

That said, to be fair, the original mandate of the Islands Trust had some legitimacy given the rampant and unbridled development that was occurring on the gulf islands at the time and the lack of involvement of the absentee landlord, which was the provincial government. From this perspective the provincial government 'contracted out' land use decisions to the newly formed Islands Trust.

However, as local (e.g. island based) governance matured and became more citizen-based accountable - especially as it pertains to Bowen Island electing to become a municipal government - the role and mandate of the Islands Trust has become less relevant and necessary. Bowen Island does not need off-shore governance. In fact, it is arguable that the Islands 2050 policy statement and its vision of an expanded role of the Islands Trust (including a much expanded budget and bureaucracy) is the Islands Trust own admission that its original mandate is no longer sufficient to justify its continuing presence on Bowen Island, nor its demand for an increased budget and largess.

Together, with other like-minded citizens of Bowen Island I will advocate for a referendum that would ask the Provincial Government to amend legislation and allow for the withdrawal of Bowen Island from the Islands Trust.

Sincerely

Jeff Ballou

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Bowen Island, BC V0N1G2
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