

From: Peter Kukielski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 2:43 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Opposition to the Draft Policy Statement

As a stakeholder and a resident of the Southern Gulf Islands, I submit the following in strong opposition to the Draft Policy Statement proposed by the Executive Committee.

The mandate to have a Policy Statement is adequately met as there is one in place, and it has served the Islands Trust Area well. There is no need for such a severe and complete revision.

I and almost all others to whom I have spoken believe strongly that the Islands Trust Policy Statement should remain as is, as it reflects a GENERAL statement of policies that serve the mandate to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment for the benefit of RESIDENTS OF THE TRUST AREA and BC in general.

I believe strongly that the Policy Statement should reflect the values and needs of property owners and residents of the area as the policies affect them directly, whether through severe limitations, or through increased taxes. The Policy Statement provides a GENERAL strategy for community and land use planning. The draft policy statement presented is far too broad and far-reaching. It moves from stewardship of the islands to control over aspects of the area that are already under the purview of other governmental agencies and bodies. Developing regulatory policies which overlap other levels of government is not good governance. The increase of the breadth and depth of policy regulations is far too expansive.

The policy should continue to strive for a harmonized regional approach, and DETAILED AND LOCALLY APPROPRIATE tools and strategies should be left to the local trust committees, as it stands now. As each local trust community is unique, there should remain the ability to make decisions for themselves. The local trust communities and committees should maintain stewardship of the land use of their own islands in order to keep their unique characteristics and to reflect the needs of owners and residents.

In areas such as shoreline, fishing, docks, tree cutting and forestry, water, wildfire risk management, mitigation strategies for climate change, housing, building limits, and agriculture, each local trust and its community should have the ability to address these aspects with the guidance of existing governmental ministries. There are guidelines, and procedures already in place that govern these areas within the Islands Trust. There is no need to add duplicative policies to further regulate these areas.

I strongly disagree with the proposal to expand the mandate to include management of the Islands Marine Shoreline. As noted above, this would be duplicating the oversight already managed under Federal and Provincial government agencies such as Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations', Fish and Wildlife Branch, which is responsible for ecosystems, ecological reports, and conservation. Various agencies also already protect fishing and shell fishing rights of First Nations in all of Canada.

According to the Policy Approaches Handbook, by the Better Regulations team of BC, policy making requires working IN CONJUNCTION with those to whom you are accountable, most notably tax payers and the public, and to the Minister for Municipal Affairs. Citizen participation should be fluid, ongoing, and guided by a timeline but not cemented to it.

Any policy change should reflect DECISIONS made in a cooperative and collaborative environment and with the support of ALL stakeholders. Policies should have the least amount of regulation or government intervention while achieving a goal. They should not be thrust upon stakeholders in an autocratic and condescending manner.

I do agree that consulting and engaging with First Nations is important. Acknowledging and respecting the many peoples, their presence in the islands, their lands, traditions, and treaties, enriches the special amenities of the Islands. Preserving and protecting village sites, objects and artifacts, ancestral resting places, etc., should be in cooperation with the Coast Salish People. Educating residents and visitors of their importance in the area is especially significant and should be fostered and encouraged.

The draft statement was provided TO the residents and general public almost as a fait accompli - in other words, in an autocratic and condescending manner. I hope that the Islands Trust will accept these comments as a constructive but strong objection to the Draft Policy Statement and Policies therein as it is currently written. I look forward to the question and answer meeting scheduled in March, 2022, and I hope that the Honourable Josie Osborne will both listen to and hear stakeholders' objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kukielski