

# Trustee Elliott Notebook

## Fall 2024 Activities

### Union of BC Municipalities Convention

#### Vancouver September 16 - 20, 2024

<https://www.ubcm.ca/convention-resolutions/2024-convention/program>

Province Wide Community-to-Community Forum. (See separate report for notes from the full day C2C Forum) Final agenda: [https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2024-09/PC2C%20Final%20Agenda%20Sept%2016%202024\\_0.pdf](https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2024-09/PC2C%20Final%20Agenda%20Sept%2016%202024_0.pdf)

I attended 5 meetings with Ministry Staff:

1. **Ministry of Forests** re: Wildfire planning. Locally-produced wildfire exposure maps, prepared by Capital Regional District show the high risk of wildfire. This starkly contradicts BC Wildfire Service's maps as there is so much private land in coastal/Gulf Island areas marked "no data" or "private managed forest lands" on BC Wildfire Service's Fuel Type maps.
  1. Can the Province support a 'Whole of Society' (private landowners and multiple levels of gov't jurisdictions) approach to raise awareness to wildfire hazards and develop active management solutions that are nature friendly?
2. **Director, Building Safety & Standards Branch (Virtual Meeting)**  
Tiny homes and compliance with BC Building Code
3. **Ministry of Housing** + BC Housing to request supports for rural housing funding stream in provincial granting. What can be done to enable housing solutions specific to rural islands in the Islands Trust Area, including ways to remove legislative barriers, and provide stable, secure, and ongoing funding?
4. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff and Senior Policy Analysts**  
re: engagement with First Nations, alignment of Islands Trust Act with DRIPA, and potential for more capacity funding to engage with Nations, especially for the Conservancy
5. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff and Senior Policy Analysts**  
re: Request for Provincial Review of the Islands Trust Act, for alignment with DRIPA, and advice on how to proceed.

**UBCM Islands Trust Resolution** to request Ministry of Health amend the Manual on Composting Toilets and Greywater practice "THAT UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Health to review the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice to update the onsite application criteria for residuals based on current scientific knowledge; and provide funding for demonstration projects and for practitioners' professional development on composting toilets and greywater practices."

**Passed**

**Trust Council Quarterly Meeting September 24-26, 2024 (Nanaimo)**  
<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/trust-council-quarterly-meeting-2-2/>

- Request for Provincial Review of the Islands Trust Act engendered much debate.
- Resulted in Council deciding to request the Province “undertake a review of the Islands Trust’s mandate, governance model, and structure.” (Read news release [here](#)).
- The vote was 14-10. I did not support sending the letter because of the timing (during the interregnum during which time there is no government), nor the manner in which the letter was drafted. There was no consultation or engagement with other agencies that the Islands Trust has agreements with (such as Bowen Island Municipality, the Conservancy, and First Nations).
- Council had intended to re-engage in debate on the interpretation of unique amenities, but did not. Instead Council requested an updated legal opinion on any potential implications due to the Interpretation Act.
- I chaired a Committee of the Whole discussion on Draft Policy Statement Amendment Objective 3
- Council voted to endorse a focus on Tiny homes for affordable housing in the Strategic Plan (2024-2025) and allocate \$20,000 to support technical roundtables and work with inter-agency regional partners to develop a regulatory framework for tiny homes. Regional Planning Committee meets November 8 to determine the project’s pathway.
- *Workplace Safety Concerns*: subsequent to Trust Council, Executive Committee decided to remove the video recording of the meeting from the website, and out of concerns for workplace safety. There also may have been breaches of Trustee conduct. Out of an abundance of caution, and in line with its responsibility to adhere to Provincial legislation around Bullying and Harassment and Safe Workplaces, EC felt the videos should be removed. Note that video recordings of the public meetings are *not* legislatively required; but as they are a public record, they have not been destroyed, just removed from the public realm.

After 6 months of a thorough search and interview process, the **CAO Hiring Committee** recommended Trust Council select **Rueben Bronee as the Islands Trust’s Chief Administrative Officer**. “Bronee brings more than 15 years of public sector leadership experience. Most recently, Bronee was the Assistant Deputy Minister for Communications, Learning and Engagement with the BC Public Service Agency. Prior to that role, Bronee held the role of Assistant Deputy Minister/Executive Lead for Policy, Innovation and Engagement with the BC Public Service Agency. He has also held executive roles in the Ministries of Advanced Education, Education, and Citizens’ Services, and in the Office of the Premier.” Read news release [here](#).

**Conservancy ITC Board** - welcomed new provincial appointee Tanner Timothy. Approved a new NAPTEP covenant on Koontz property (Gabriola Island).

Participated in a virtual **Global Civility Summit**, with over 420 civic leaders from hundreds of cities worldwide (including City of Nanaimo Local Government Mayor Leonard Krog). They shared strategies for tackling the rising tide of incivility and cultivating a culture of Respect, unity, and collaboration.

- After 2 years serving as an elected leader in local government, I am discouraged by the tone of debate and disrespect around our Council table. Service is what local government is supposed to be about.
- Respect for different ways of being and knowing are not yet enshrined as cultural values, so we are still a ways off from creating culturally safe places in our colonial structures of governance.
- If we are to advance reconciliation in meaningful ways with First Nations and work toward collaborative governance in the Trust Area, we must first create strong civic cultures of respect, mutual regard and cultural safety.

Attended **Salish Sea Regional Conservation forum**, hosted by the **Galiano Conservancy, Oct 18**.

- Discussions on Restoring Degraded Forests, Marine Conservation, managing Hyper-Abundant Deer, ReconciliAction approaches such as Indigenous Protected and Conserved areas (Mary Hill IPCA <http://www.scianewtribalpark.ca/>).
- Fabulous presentation by Dr. Tara Martin (of Salt Spring Island) who leads the Conservation Decisions Lab <https://www.taramartin.org/research/> illuminating how baselines for ecology are shifting because of our cumulative impacts on the land. A great cross section of conservancy professionals, scientists and leaders talking about where science and Indigenous knowledge holders are telling us to go.
- Thank you to Galiano Conservancy for putting this together and hosting such a great event! Sponsored by Islands Trust Conservancy and Island Coastal Economic Trust. Stayed with Risa Smith.

**Culturally Committed** hosted the last Community Call with the Indigenous Mentors. It was a very small group. I have really valued the insight, input, knowledge and the time of our mentors over the last year. I am looking forward to building on this valuable cultural training with the Reconciliation Learning Group over the coming year.

Attended **Mayne Island Housing Forum/community workshop, Oct 28**, with multiple stakeholders (Islands Trust, Capital Regional District, Habitat for Humanity, local non-profit housing society, Mayne Teacherage). The Forum featured community and government housing options and potential solutions for our rural communities.

- The different gov jurisdictions, landholders and non-profits all have just a piece of the puzzle, so we must work together.
- This community has been working to open up housing options through zoning with a Flex Zoning model the last few years.
- Working with the Islands Trust's Housing Toolkit, CRD's Rural Housing Program Pilot.

Organized "***Snuneymuxw xexe (haha) Tumuxw***", a cultural reconciliation event on **November 2**

- Featured panel discussion with respected SFN Elders Geraldine Manson C'tasi:a, and three other Siiem Sulxween (respected Elders) to share cultural knowledge and teachings about Snuneymuxw sacred areas and ancestors.
- Well attended, over 100 people came on a Saturday morning.
- Jointly supported and organized by [Gabriola Arts Council](#)'s Breaking Bannock program, the [Gabriola Historical and Museum Society](#), and the [Islands Trust](#).
- Screening of the film "Dust n. Bones" (available on YouTube) featuring Harold C. Joe, a Cowichan Tribe member and cultural knowledge holder.

**Remembrance Day Ceremonies** I attended and was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of Islands Trust, at the Gabriola Cairn.