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Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2026 4:47 PM
To: Susan Yates <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; Laura Patrick <[REDACTED]>
Cc: northinfo <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Additional Cultural Heritage Protections?

Good morning, all.

Hmm. As far as I can tell, the main source of revenue for the Islands Trust is property taxes levied from local trust areas. In other words my tax dollars help fund your organization.

And democracy dictates that taxation requires representation. Property owners' representation — or at the very least, consultation — on issues that will materially affect our properties on Gabriola.

Well, there has been none regarding the "Additional Cultural Heritage Protection" and the "two-hundred-metre shoreline buffer". Not only here has been a lack of consultation with the electorate, but also what can only be described as secrecy and willful prevarication surrounding these changes. In sharp contrast, you have had numerous, in-depth discussions with, and input from, First Nations. (From what I can gather from the enormous section on your website entitled "Engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies".)

On top of this misrepresentation by population, from what I have been able to glean, it appears that while the Islands Trust has no authority over any of the First Nations reserves on the islands, it is proposing to give the First Nations, who pay NO property taxes on Gabriola, some sort of control over what happens on private property on Gabriola. Seriously? This one-sidedness adds insult to injury, and is also, obviously, wholly inconsistent with democracy as it is practised all over the civilized world.

Worst still, in the much-too-late-in-the-process meetings you have convened, the Islands Trust has been unwilling to give a straight, simple answer as to what these new

“protections” actually mean for property owners. (One is left to assume they amount to another layer of bureaucracy on top of the endless red tape already being endlessly unrolled by the Islands Trust.)

So let me be crystal clear. I paid north of \$1 million for my property, That sum was most of my life savings, so there is zero chance I will not be spending whatever is required of the remaining time and money I have left in my retired life getting to the bottom of this, publicizing what I find out, and helping to safeguard property values on this island.

Maybe you can help me start this journey by telling me, in very simple jargon-free terms, what you think these new protections and buffers will actually mean for me, and so many other Gabriolans with shoreline properties?

Charles Blackwell