

On Oct 5, 2024, at 8:12 AM, Ben McConchie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Tobi (Chair Elliot),

Thanks for your thoughtful response. I really appreciate you taking the time to respond - I assumed that my correspondence would be added to the public when I wrote it - thank you for formally asking.

Please add any other correspondence as well as my reply to this email added to the public record as well:

You wrote: "*The decision of the LTC on its major project was decided - in large part I believe - to improve processes and transparency with the community.*"

There have been several inferences that the previous SPLTC term was not "transparent" - which is a commonly-used argument when someone does not agree with a particular point of view. To argue that the SPLTC was not transparent during the previous term is beyond ridiculous.

I would like to remind the current SPLTC that during the last term, in an effort to improve transparency, Trust Council voted to:

- 1) Establish a budget to video and audio record all meetings in the Trust Area
- 2) Hire communication specialists including a social media manager/communications support staff member
- 3) Restructure the Trust website to make finding minutes/meeting documents easier (work still needs to be done)
- 4) Establish a budget to livestream meetings for community members to be able to attend/watch meetings in the Trust Area
- 5) Review the effectiveness and pros/cons of online communications/technological challenges for staff

The South Pender Local Trust Committee (Trustee Steve Wright, Trustee Cameron Thornn) all voted in favour of these measures to improve transparency and process. In addition to the numerous SPLTC meetings, the NPLTC and SPLTC organized - together - numerous community meetings to discuss issues relating to the Islands Trust where we heard from the community, their concerns and questions.

I would also like to remind the current SPLTC that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee hosted the SPLTC on three occasions to discuss house size regulations.

Improving transparency and process is always an aspect of governance that requires attention, however, to argue in favour of reviewing an already passed bylaw because there wasn't 'transparency' or correct 'process' both inaccurate and an unfortunate, misguided waste of time for our island community.

-Ben McConchie
North Pender Trustee (2018-2022)

On Oct 3, 2024, at 6:58 PM, Ben McConchie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Dag -

I think you may have missed my point(s):

1) I don't agree that the SPLTC is using its time effectively on this project. You do. That's fine, but my point is that it's turned out to be a gigantic waste of time - in my opinion, and further divided the community. You probably disagree - oh well.

2) "I always welcome diverse and opposing opinions, but they have to be based in reality." This sure reads like - "I don't agree with you and so therefore you have a poor grasp of reality". What a bizarre thing to say Dag - who's the angry one here?

3) just because someone disagrees with you does not make them "angry". As I write this, I have a big smile on my face and feel quite happy. I, however am certainly disappointed in the SPLTCs direction this term.

4) I did not say anything about the ALR - you should definitely follow up with staff to ensure you are educated about your abilities as trustee. As a trustee you can ask staff to review agricultural land use bylaws to see if they are benefiting folks who farm. Also, you should be advocating the ministry to remove PMFL from the island in our last hope of protecting this place.

Thanks! -Ben

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ben McConchie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: October 3, 2024 11:56 AM
To: South Pender Island Local Trust Committee; SouthInfo
Subject: Bylaw 122 / 123 Amendments

Hello South Pender Local Trust Committee -

As a former Trustee, I have been reluctant to speak up or write about issues pertaining to local trust issues, preferring to trust the democratically elected officials to work hard to preserve and protect these islands.

However - as we reach the halfway point of the term - it has become too difficult now to watch from the sidelines, for what has been shaping up to be one of the biggest failures of local government leadership in recent years.

With climate change, the cost of living, failing highway infrastructure, developmental pressures on the islands, lack of a current South Pender Farm Plan, lack of a South Pender Forestry Plan - just to name a few - here we have the South Pender Local Trust Committee spending its time, and taxpayers money, to debate whether a property owner should have the 'right' to build a gigantic home right next to the water.

Can one think of a more tone-deaf local government? This is how you're choosing to spend your time in government? Like, huh? Are you kidding me? The South Pender Local Trust Committee has morphed into a condo strata council where the big picture issues have been lost. Think of the community division and wasted time and energy you've been spending on this elitist, privileged debate.

One day, when the history books of the islands are written about this period of time, when the wells will have dried up, the precipitation decreasing, sea levels risen, and the natural ecosystems forever altered, the book will say "the South Pender Local Government spent considerable time and energy debating whether property owners have the right to a gigantic house".

You still have time to salvage this term and accomplish something positive for the next generation - get to work.

-Ben McConchie
North Pender Trustee (2018-2022)

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South Pender Island

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