

May 2, 2024

To Executive Committee and Trust Council of the Islands Trust

As former Islands Trust trustees from various islands in the Trust Area, we are writing to inform you of our concerns regarding Trust Council's intention to broaden the meaning of the words 'unique amenities' in Section 3 of the Islands Trust Act (the Object). The spirit and intent of those words seem unmistakable in light of the 1986 Ministry of Municipal Affairs/Islands Trust "Position Paper; The Object of the Islands Trust: Renewing the Consensus", that specified a combination of many natural factors.

Following an in-camera meeting on September 26, 2023, it was reported that Trust Council had come to a "consensus" on how Section 3 of the Act that created the Islands Trust would (not 'should') be interpreted. What those conclusions were and how they had been agreed upon was not revealed. A silence, lasting almost four months, followed before the "[Islands Trust Council Highlights](#)" with a link to "[Trust Council's consensus statement](#)" was officially released on January 18, 2024.

It was then that the details of Trust Council's conclusion were revealed to the general public. 'Unique amenities' were to include, "but not be limited to, housing, infrastructure, livelihoods, and tourism". How and by whom these four categories were identified and selected for inclusion is not mentioned.

Apart from consideration of legal opinions, we question the propriety of holding this discussion during an in-camera meeting. We have heard different explanations of how Council's decision was arrived at - from staff, the Executive Committee, and from trustees. These contradictory responses are problematic and confusing. There is no evidence of a motion being passed by Council which would provide a record of Trust Council's approval for the addition of these items under the umbrella of 'unique amenities', or how individual trustees voted. It would have been helpful knowing whether this "consensus" was reached by referring to the 1986 Ministry of Municipal Affairs/Islands Trust "[Position Paper; The Object of the Islands Trust: Renewing the Consensus](#)" and the 2021 "[Discussion Paper: The Islands Trust Object: Past, Present and Future](#)".

These additional categories, now identified as 'unique amenities', are not unique to the Trust Area. Further, housing, infrastructure, livelihoods, and tourism are services provided by regional districts and government agencies. More alarming, this expansion and interpretation of 'unique amenities' has the potential of influencing or compromising environmental policies. The Trust is limited to regulating land use in

order to preserve and protect the natural environment and rural character of the Trust Area for all residents of BC, a duty specific to its intended purpose and function as a "trust".

How will this new interpretation of 'unique amenities' influence Trust Council as it embarks upon a review of the Trust Policy Statement? Will this decision result in environmental policies being compromised or excluded to facilitate development?

Pertinent and fundamental questions have been raised by numerous individuals and groups regarding both the process and the conclusions of that process over the course of the past six months and, as of this date, none have been addressed by the Chair of the Islands Trust Council.

We believe the credibility of the Islands Trust's promise of a transparent and open public process has been hurt by the manner in which this decision was reached, the lack of a rationale for this decision, and the lack of information provided.

We ask, therefore, that the Chair make a public statement with full disclosure of why the interpretation was not made in an open meeting, how a "consensus", unanimous or not, was arrived at, the reasoning used to arrive at this interpretation of the words 'unique amenities' and how this interpretation will influence the Trust Policy Statement review.

Sincerely,

- Nerys Poole, 2008-2011 (Bowen Island) [REDACTED]
- John Rich, 1976-1984 (Bowen Island) [REDACTED]
- Kim Benson 1993-2008 (Gambier Island) [REDACTED]
- Harlene Holm, 1978-1984 (Denman Island) [REDACTED]
- Roxanna Mandryk 1992-1996 (Denman Island) [REDACTED]
- David Critchley 2014-2022 (Denman Island) [REDACTED]
- Deb Ferens 2011-2014 (Gabriola Island) [REDACTED]
- Gisele Rudischer 1996 to 2008, 2011-2014 (Gabriola Island) [REDACTED]
- Kees Langereis 2018-2022 (Gabriola Island) [REDACTED]
- Debbie Holmes 1996-99, 1999-2002 (Galiano Island) [REDACTED]
- Tahirah Rockafella 2018-2022 (Galiano Island) [REDACTED]
- Sheila Anderson 2002-2005 (Galiano Island) [REDACTED]
- Sandy Pottle 2008-2018 (Galiano Island) [REDACTED]
- Tony Law 1996-2005, 2007-2018 (Hornby Island) [REDACTED]

Barry Kurland 1986-1990 (Lasqueti Island) [REDACTED]  
Peter Johnston 2011-2015, 2018-2022 (Lasqueti Island) [REDACTED]  
Tom Weinerth 1999-2002 (Lasqueti Island) [REDACTED]  
Jen Gobby 2008-2011 (Lasqueti Island) [REDACTED]  
John Barrett 1982-1986 (Lasqueti Island) [REDACTED]  
George Ravenscroft 1996-1999 (North Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Ben McConchie 2018-2022 (North Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Christine Torgrimson 2008-2011 (Salt Spring Island) [REDACTED]  
Peter Lamb 2005-2008 (Salt Spring Island) [REDACTED]  
David Borrowman 1996-2002 (Salt Spring Island) [REDACTED]  
Elaine Jacobsen 1986-1996 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
David Greer 2008-2011 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Wendy Scholefield 2014-2018 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Wendy Munroe 1984-1988 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
John Rumble 1996-2000 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Cameron Thorn 2018-2022 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Bruce McConchie 2014-2018 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Liz Montague 2011-2014 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Steve Wright 1982-1990, 1996-2000, 2018-2022 (South Pender Island) [REDACTED]  
Doug Fenton 2018-2022 (Thetis Island) [REDACTED]

c.c. The Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs