

To those running the Islands Trust 2050 public engagement process:

I have been a homeowner and part-time resident on Salt Spring Island for over 20 years. I am writing to object to the recently published timeline for adopting a revised Islands Trust Policy Statement. Like many island citizens, I found parts of the draft new Policy Statement extremely problematic in terms of their overreach and lack of mandate. I should clarify that as a part-timer who doesn't work my land and who has employment elsewhere, I don't directly have a "dog in this fight" in the sense that my personal livelihood is not threatened, but I was nevertheless shocked and dismayed at the utter disregard reflected in the draft Policy Statement for the need of working islanders to be able to manage their own properties and earn their livings. I also do not believe that the lip service paid to reconciliation in the draft Policy Statement is of any actual service to, let alone endorsed by, local indigenous residents. It is essential that any amended policy statement NOT be rushed to adoption before the 2022 fall elections. An attempt to do so is in violation of basic democratic principles. When voters elected the current slate of Trustees, they could not have anticipated and certainly did not mandate such a drastic shift in Trust policy.

Thank you,

Salt Spring Island

Dated February 10th/22