

DYSFUNCTIONAL ISLANDS TRUST GOVERNANCE.

From: BRIAN MILNE

Subject: DYSFUNCTIONAL ISLANDS TRUST GOVERNANCE.

Date: March 22, 2022 at 1:06:

To: nathan.cullen.MLA@leg.bc.ca, Russ Hotsenpiller <rhotsenpiller@islandstrust.bc.ca>, dmorrison <dmorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca>, sfast <sfast@islandstrust.bc.ca>, mkaile@islandstrust.bc.ca, lbusheikin <lbusheikin@islandstrust.bc.ca>, dcritchley@islandstrust.bc.ca, scolbourne@islandstrust.bc.ca, klangereis@islandstrust.bc.ca, drogers <drogers@islandstrust.bc.ca>, trockafella <trockafella@islandstrust.bc.ca>, jwolverton@islandstrust.bc.ca, kstamford <kstamford@islandstrust.bc.ca>, aallen@islandstrust.bc.ca, gscott@islandstrust.bc.ca, pjohnston@islandstrust.bc.ca, tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca, pluckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>, jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca, dmaude@islandstrust.bc.ca, bemconchie@islandstrust.bc.ca, lpatrick <lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca>, pgrove <pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca>, lmiddleton@islandstrust.bc.ca, Paul Brent <pbrent@islandstrust.bc.ca>, stwright@islandstrust.bc.ca, cthorn@islandstrust.bc.ca, dfenton@islandstrust.bc.ca

March 22, 2022

To: The Honourable Nathan Cullen Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Russel Hotsenpiller CAO Islands Trust.

Mr. D Morrison Chair Trust Program Committee.

cc. Islands Trustees

Dear Mr. Cullen, Mr. Hotsenpiller, and Mr. Morrison,

The purpose of this letter is to provide further support to the significant amount of correspondence expressing concern that you and the previous Honourable Minister have received, alerting you and your government to the Islands Trust becoming a dysfunctional governing system with a leadership deficit. The description of the Island Trust as dysfunctional is drawn from the recent Islands Trust Governance Review.

Management and the Islands Trust Council, despite this independent assessment, continue their dysfunctional behaviour exemplified by Islands Trust Council at the urging of the CAO passing an increment in budget that 80% of Islands Trust property owners had rejected in an independent survey.

Another immediate problem is the Islands 2050 Policy Statement, a document developed without meaningful public consultation. Approval of the 2050 Policy Statement is still being fast-tracked despite opposition from those in the Islands population who have become aware of the document. The document is a verbose extrapolation of bureaucratic overreach at the public expense.

The recent attempt to gain public input in the form of the “islands 2050 survey” is difficult to access on the internet; the pickup of a hard copy requires internet access. The survey should have been mailed to all affected by the policy update. On March 21, 2022, I attempted to pick up a hard copy of the survey at the Islands Trust Ganges Office. None were available and despite a copy of the one page 2050 mail-out being on the counter, the person attempting to process my request was not aware of the availability of the hard copy or pick up locations.

The timeframe for participating or responding to the survey is approximately one month – a minimal timeframe for a document that threatens the livelihood and personal freedoms of all island inhabitants.

Implementation of the present Islands Trust policies is marred by continual breach of the policies despite the abuses being reported to the CAO. The Islands Trust inspection and enforcement activities are sadly in obedience of policy controls and management controls. It is my understanding that Islands Trust personnel are not allowed to hear critique of bylaw enforcement.

When in the Ganges Office, I noticed two publications:

The first is titled “Islands Trust Policy Statement”. The document claims a high level of public engagement over a two-year period. It is claimed that the document is formulated and based on the values, hopes and concerns expressed by the public which greatly assisted Council in its formulation of goals and policies. This claim is not reflected as demonstrated by the shock and despair of the Island's public on discovering the policy document existed.

The second publication describes the history of **Indigenous People** on Salt Spring, alerting the public to the Islands Trust's awareness that the Indigenous people exist. The Islands Trust however did not see fit to consult with this important segment of the population in formulation of the 2050 Policy Statement.

Honourable Minister, an independent report commissioned by the Islands Trust on policies, practices, and procedures concluded the Trust to be dysfunctional. The CAO has the authority to manage the Trust within the policy regime and has failed in that role.

Ministerial involvement is required to rectify this mismanagement. I expect steps to rectify this mismanagement will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Brian Milne
Salt Spring Island