

Title: Afar-reaching document with profound but currently unclear consequences, which has been developed largely in secret.

2050 letter

"Dear Sir/Madam

Acknowledging that I write as a settler on the unceded ancestral territories of the Coast and Straits Salish Nations, I write to comment on the Islands Trust (IT) DRAFT Policy Statement. I understand that today is the deadline to have this input included in the agenda package for the next IT meeting.

This is a far-reaching document with profound but currently unclear consequences, which has been developed largely in secret, in a way which gives no room for open and constructive dialogue - and I was one of those souls who attended a 2050 Open House event. It is being rammed through in a way which is at best undemocratic, at worst egregiously so. The IT has a mandate to "preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents". Your current approach, particularly the timescale, seems to be incompatible with that mandate.

There is much which is good in the document, but there is also much which is contentious. It disempowers and centralizes decision-making, and appears to be undemocratic. At the least, the process should comprise meetings and consultation with every major island population WITH Indigenous input to those meetings.

Your own Administrative Fairness Principles document states (1.3) that you will conduct "decision making processes which are reasonably fair". I respectfully submit that this fails that test.

Given the timescale, I have no alternative but to request that the process for such a major change is halted until proper consultation can take place.

Regards

Martin Wale"