



April 28, 2025

Reference: 185578

Laura Patrick
Chair,
Islands Trust Council
200 - 1627 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8R 1H8
Email: information@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dear Chair Laura Patrick:

I am writing to acknowledge correspondence from Peter Luckham of March 4, 2025, prior to his resignation as Chair, in which he requested a meeting between myself and the members of the Islands Trust Executive Committee to discuss the request for a review of the Islands Trust that was sent to the former Minister of Municipal Affairs during the last provincial election.

During this time of extraordinary change and uncertainty, our government is focusing on the services and choices that make an immediate and material difference while managing within our means. We will have to make difficult choices about the order in which we commit to new initiatives, like a review as sweeping as that laid out in the letter to Minister Kang. I am therefore not in a position to consider a review of the *Islands Trust Act* prior to the next general local elections.

Land use planning to preserve and protect the Trust area and its unique amenities and environment is the core responsibility of the Islands Trust. This reflects the ecological mandate of the Trust, the toolkit deliberately supplied by government, and that island communities have a role to play in local environmental stewardship. It is my expectation that the Trust Council recognizes that this requires careful deliberation and consideration of perspectives to manage expectations of growth, development and local economies without exceeding the carrying capacity of local ecosystems and preserving unspoiled natural amenities.

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Over the balance of their term of office, I will need the Trust Council to take particular care to ensure that engagement with the public and First Nations on the bylaws put before me for approval, including amendments to Official Community Plans and the Trust Policy Statement, are undertaken in a manner that demonstrates mutual respect and builds towards consensus.

The established Trust Policy Statement is the current touchstone which aids in the interpretation of the organization's mandate. The development of the next iteration requires care to result in a Policy Statement in which all involved can all have confidence.

Along similar lines, before returning with another request for provincial review I will expect the Trust Council to ensure that it has engaged in a meaningful way with the agencies and governments that would be expected to participate in or be impacted by such a review. These include the First Nations in whose territories the Trust are stewards through its land use authorities and the local governments who share constituents with the Local Trustees, and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board.

The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs will continue to support the Islands Trust in its work at the staff level. I understand that a strong working relationship has been established between your staff and the Land Use, Planning, and Regional Impacts Branch. Your team can continue to reach out to the Ministry through Marijke Edmondson, Executive Director, and Kris Nichols, Manager Planning Advice and Approvals, for support on the Trust Policy Statement and the progress of Official Community Plan bylaws that require my approval. Ms. Edmondson can be reached at: marijke.edmondson@gov.bc.ca or 778-698-3227 and Mr. Nichols can be reached at: kris.nichols@gov.bc.ca or 778-698-3450.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ravi Kahlon', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

CC: Rob Botterell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands
Rueben Bronee, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust