



STAFF REPORT

May 17, 2010

File No.: NP-OCP-2009.2

To: North Pender Island Local Trust Committee
For Meeting of May 27, 2010

From: Robert Kojima
Island Planner
Local Planning Services

CC: Andrea Pickard, Island Planner
David Marlor, RPM

Re: Associated Islands OCP - Bill 27 Amendment

BACKGROUND

Amendment of all OCPs to include greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets, policies and actions is a legislative requirement, a Trust Council recommendation, and a top priority on the LTC's work program. While, the LTC has recently considered a detailed amendment for the North Pender OCP, consideration should also be given to amending the Associated Islands OCP (Bylaw No. 147) to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act*. Staff had included a request in the 2010-11 budget to undertake a small-scale review of the Associated Islands OCP this year, this review would have considered a number of amendments to that document, including meeting the requirements of Bill 27 (the OCP was adopted in 2003). However, because no funding for this project was approved for this fiscal year, staff are now recommending that a minimal amendment be made to this OCP to include a climate change section and a target for GHG reduction. Specific policies and actions would be included in a future review and update of the OCP.

DRAFT OCP AMENDMENT

Staff have prepared a draft amendment to the Associated Islands OCP that minimally meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act* by creating a new section in the OCP, includes a target for GHG emission reductions, and states that specific policies and actions will be considered during a future review of the plan (please see draft Bylaw No. 183 attached). This is the approach taken for other Associated Island OCPs in the Trust Area (except for the Gambier Associated Islands, where development of an OCP is underway).

The potential amendments included in the draft bylaw are summarized as follows:

- A new section would be added to the OCP which act as a placeholder section for future policies and actions related to emission reduction and efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- The background would include wording consistent with that used in other amendments. This wording could be refined or expanded upon in future updates to include specific references to the Associated Islands development pattern.
- The proposed target would be to achieve per capita emissions of 50% or less of national per capita emissions by 2020 and 2050. This target would be same as that proposed for two other associated island bylaws (Mudge and De Courcy), and attempts to account for the nature of many of the smaller islands (no power, limited on-island transportation, no services or amenities, and no baseline inventories).
- The proposed objectives are generally consistent with those suggested for the other associated island OCPs; again, these would be further amended or refined as part of an overall OCP update.
- The sole policy in the proposed bylaw would indicate that specific policies would be developed during a future review and update of the OCP.

STAFF COMMENTS

As outlined above, the LTC should consider an amendment to the Associated Islands OCP to support reductions in GHG emissions. The draft bylaw would essentially create a placeholder in that OCP while minimally meeting the requirements of the *Local Government Act* and the recommendation of Trust Council to amend all OCPs.

In terms of next steps, if the LTC gives the bylaw first reading, staff would circulate the proposed bylaw to agencies and to Associated Island owners for comment, followed by scheduling of a public hearing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Draft Bylaw No. 183 cited as "North Pender Associated Islands Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 147, 2002, Amendment No. 1, 2010", be given First Reading.
2. THAT the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to schedule a public hearing on proposed Bylaw No. 183.

Prepared and Submitted by:



May 17, 2010

Robert Kojima

Date

Concurred in by:

David Marlor, MCIP
Regional Planning Manager

May 17, 2010
Date

Attachment: Draft Bylaw No. 183

APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT this
day of 2010

ADOPTED this day of 2010

SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON

NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
BYLAW No. 183
SCHEDULE 1

Part 5 (General Objectives and Policies) of Schedule B (Goals, Objectives and Policies) of North Pender Associated Islands Official Community Plan No. 147, 2002 is amended by adding the following as a new Section 508:

“508 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Background

Climate change results from the increasing concentration of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as the result of human activities - primarily the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. The rise in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations has in turn triggered an increase in the average temperatures of near-surface air and ocean water, with temperatures projected to rise over the next century. Although seemingly slight, these temperature changes could have potentially dramatic and negative impacts on ecological systems around the globe.

The *Local Government Act* now requires that all local governments include in their Official Community Plans targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and policies and actions to achieve these targets.

The following target is set as the first step in ensuring that the reduction of GHG emissions specifically, and the impact of climate change in general, become part of the planning process for the Associated Islands area. Future amendments will establish policies and actions to achieve the target and objectives.

Target

This plan supports a target of achieving per capita emission levels of 50% or less of the Canadian per capita average emissions by 2020 and 2050. Emission reductions within the area may result from individual and community initiatives, the actions of other levels of government, technological changes, and changes to land use policies and regulations.

Climate Change Objectives

- Objective 1 To establish climate change as a central factor in land use decision-making.
- Objective 2 To undertake and support actions to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Objective 3 To recognize the role that natural areas play in storing carbon.
- Objective 4 To undertake and support actions to help islands adapt to the impacts of climate change and declining fossil fuel availability.

Climate Change Policies

- Policy 1 Specific polices and actions with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation will be considered as part of a future review of this Plan and incorporated into the Plan as it is amended.”