



History of the Islands Trust Policy Statement - Reviews and Amendments

1989

The *Islands Trust Act* was amended to require the Islands Trust Council to adopt a Policy Statement.

1993-1996 Trust Council term:

After an extensive consultation program and receipt of 400 public submissions, Trust Council gave three readings to the first Islands Trust Policy Statement in October 1993. After it had received ministerial approval, Trust Council gave the Policy Statement a fourth reading and adopted it in June 1994.

Trust Council established the Trust Policy Committee, a standing committee to review the Policy Statement on an on-going basis and to provide recommendations on amendments.

During this term, Trust Council amended the Policy Statement with respect to environmentally sensitive areas, agriculture, coastal zone management, roads, local government structure and information to support land use planning.

1996-1999 Trust Council term:

Trust Council merged its Trust Policy Committee with its Environmental Planning Committee to form the Trust Programs Committee which took over some responsibilities for addressing the Policy Statement. Trust Council left the Executive Committee with overall responsibility for bringing forward proposals for amendments to the Policy Statement.

During this term, Trust Council made amendments to the Policy Statement with respect to forests, in conjunction with the Trust Program Committee's overall work on that topic. It also made amendments with respect to gaming facilities, road system impacts on agricultural land, wetlands and the Islands Trust object.

1999-2002 Trust Council term:

The Chair of Trust Council appointed a Policy Statement Task Force from the members of Trust Council. This Task Force brought suggestions to Council for strengthening the wording of the Policy Statement, but Council did not support this approach. The Task Force then provided recommendations for changes to the text of the Policy Statement to provide more clarity without changing intent.

Trust Council gave three readings to a bylaw to amend the Policy Statement to incorporate these changes and adopted the changes at the first meeting of the following term.

2002-2005 Trust Council term:

The Trust Programs Committee, acting upon a referral from Trust Council, prepared a recommendation to amend policy 4.4.2 (which addresses water supply) to provide more flexibility. The recommendation was rejected by Trust Council.

The only change made to the Policy Statement during this term was the inclusion of an interpretation note with respect to artificial reefs. The [2003 consolidated version](#) is the current Policy Statement.

2005-2008 Trust Council term:

At its September 2006 meeting Trust Council reviewed its Strategic Plan and unanimously resolved to direct staff *“not to proceed with amendments to the Policy Statement at this time due to fiscal constraints and other significant Council initiatives such as the governance review.”*

Later that term, for the first time in Islands Trust history, a local trust committee sought Trust Council’s consideration of approval of a proposed bylaw that had been returned by the Executive Committee. Consideration of approval included discussion of the intent and applicability of Policy Statement policies, particularly policy 5.3.5 (which addresses the impact of road location, design, construction and systems). The local trust committee had spent a considerable amount of time and resources developing bylaws that local trustees, staff and Islands Trust legal counsel understood to be consistent with the Policy Statement. The Executive Committee and Trust Council ultimately decided the bylaws did not conform with the Policy Statement.

2008-2011 Trust Council term:

March 2010: Trust Council established a task force to conduct a preliminary assessment of the Policy Statement and make recommendations regarding further actions.

June 2010 and May 2011: The [Policy Statement Assessment Task Force](#) met 13 times and developed a 45 page final report with nine recommendations.

March 2011: Trust Council endorsed in principle a document outlining two Policy Statement review options to be advanced in a Gas Tax funding application and requested the Executive Committee to oversee the funding application.

April 2011: Executive Committee endorsed a Gas Tax Fund Application to enable a review of the Policy Statement using Integrated Sustainability Planning principles.

June 2011: Trust Council received the Task Force’s report [“Review and Amendment of the Islands Trust Policy Statement: A Preliminary Assessment”](#) and directed staff to distribute it to the new Trust Council in December 2011 and to report on Policy Statement review options and implications in time for Trust Council’s next strategic planning session. The Task Force consulted with Islands Trust and Bowen Municipality staff and trustees and thoroughly assessed the need for a review of the Policy Statement. In their final report, the task force recommended that “the next Trust Council review the Policy Statement and its accompanying policies.”

November 2011: Executive Committee decided not to overload new trustees with the full report of the Policy Statement Assessment Task Force. It directed staff to instead provide a short briefing about Policy Statement review activities in December and distribute the full task force report to trustees in early 2012 for consideration at the March 2012 Trust Council meeting.

2011-2014 Trust Council term:

December 2011: Trust Council received a briefing about Policy Statement Assessment Task Force final report and the Islands Trust request for \$250,000 in Gas Tax funding to support a process to review and update the Policy Statement.

January, 2012: Financial Planning Committee passed a resolution requesting staff to ensure budget communications discuss the Islands Trust Policy Statement Review in a manner that indicates that the Financial Planning Committee does not recommend a tax increase if Trust Council proceeds with the review.

January, 2012: Canada’s Gas Tax fund partners announce that Trust Council will be offered up to [\\$250,000 from the Gas Tax Innovations Fund](#) to undertake a public review of its Policy Statement.

March 2012: Trust Council receives a 124 page Request for Decision document about a proposed Policy Statement review process and votes to:

- not proceed with a comprehensive review of the Policy Statement in the 2011-14 term,
- not accept the offer of funding from Canada's Gas Tax Fund, and
- request the Executive Committee and Trust Programs Committee to prepare options for consideration at Trust Council's June 2012 meeting for implementing existing Council policies 1.2.i, 1.3.i and 1.3.ii relating to the Policy Statement within the Strategic Plan for the current term.

June 2012: Trust Council directs the Trust Programs Committee to review Trust Council policies 1.2.i (amendment), 1.3.i (implementation) and 1.3.ii (topic review) and recommend amendments to Trust Council (per recommendation #7 in the 2011 Policy Statement Assessment Task Force final report) and to consider addressing Council Policy 1.3.i as a priority. (TPC never undertook this work).

September 2012: Trust Council adds 'the preservation and protection of the seabed' and 'policies to address potential impacts on the Trust Area from projects sited outside the Trust boundaries' to the Topic Review Inventory.

2014-2018 Trust Council term (as of October 2015):

March 2015: Trust Council requests the Trust Programs Committee to include the topic of "The Public Trust Doctrine" (as described in a presentation provided by the Gulf Island Alliance at the March 2015 Trust Council Meeting) in the Topic Review Inventory. (staff added the topic directly to Topic Review Inventory).

August 2015: Trust Programs Committee adds the Right to a Healthy Environment topic to the Islands Trust Council's Policy Statement Topic Review Inventory, and requests that staff add a notation in the Topic Review Inventory that the Executive Committee should seek early legal advice prior to adding the principles of the Blue Dot movement (right to a healthy environment) to the Islands Trust Council's Policy Statement.

September 2015: Trust Council adopts its 2014-2018 Strategic Plan with the strategy of reviewing the Policy Statement through the following activities:

- Amend policies administering the Islands Trust Policy Statement (2015/16) (T.9.1.1)
- Develop a project charter and budget request regarding a targeted update of the Islands Trust Policy Statement (2015/16) (T.9.1.2)
- Implement project charter regarding the targeted update of the Policy Statement (subject to funding in 2017/18) (T.9.1.3)
- Develop a project charter and budget requests regarding creation of a vision statement for the Islands Trust Area through community engagement (2016/17) (T.9.1.4)
- Implement project charter for development of a vision statement for the Islands Trust Area, through community engagement (subject to funding in 2017/18) (T.9.1.5)
- Adopt a vision statement for the Islands Trust Area (2017/18) (T.9.1.6)