

Affordable Housing in the Trust Area: Strategic Actions for Islands Trust

	Recommendation	Source	Priority	Timing	Staff Comment
ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT					
1.	Review the Islands Trust Policy statement and give consideration to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) giving affordable housing a greater profile for its role in sustainable communities b) including a reference to affordable housing in its policy direction to LTCs and municipalities 	Housing Tool Kit	High	Medium – align with policy statement review	Islands Trust Council is intending to update the Islands Trust Policy Statement. Strong direction from Trust Council to LTCs assist in interpreting the Islands Trust mandate and in defining how affordable housing fits into Trust Council’s vision for the future. Policy Statement directives shape the OCP policies and LUB regulations within local trust areas.
2.	Review the Islands Trust Policy statement to ensure that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) includes clear and well-thought out definition of ‘affordability’ b) includes clearly articulated vision, goal and objectives for affordable housing c) gives affordable housing a greater profile for its role in sustainable communities d) includes a reference to affordable housing in its policy direction to LTCs and municipalities 	Housing Tool Kit	High	Medium – align with policy statement review	As above.
3.	Consider initiating a Trust-wide Affordable Housing Strategy, with direction to LTCs to develop Local Trust Area-specific components.	Housing Tool Kit	low	Medium – align with policy statement review.	The Islands Trust Policy Statement could give LTCs such direction. Trust Council should follow the recommendations and include affordable housing in its Policy Statement review. The Policy Statement is a legislative tool and has more teeth than an Affordable Housing Strategy would.
MODEL BYLAWS					
4.	Bring forward a thorough analysis of alternative ways of measuring density and how to manage any corresponding impacts.	Housing Forum Final Report; Daniels, 2003.	Medium	Long Term	Such an analysis would support understanding and consideration of model bylaws suggested below. Should include concepts such as floor area ratio, home plate proposals (Agricultural Land Commission), and cottage housing (Daniels, 2003).

5.	Develop model bylaws that use floor area ratio as a density metric for consideration of implementation in local trust area land use bylaws.	Daniels, 2003, Tool Kit, 2010.	High	Short Term	Redefine how density is measured. Explore alternative metrics that measure building footprints and land impacts instead of dwelling units. Floor area ratio as a density metric will protect natural values while giving people more flexibility to provide different forms of housing on residential properties.
6.	Develop model density bonus bylaws for consideration of implementation in local trust area land use bylaws.	Daniels, 2003, Tool Kit, 2010.	High	Short Term	Imbed extra density allowances in land use bylaw residential zones. Extra density can only be realized in exchange for an eligible community amenity such as affordable housing, ensured with a housing agreement, or protection of ecosystems by way of a conservation covenant. Ensure rainwater catchment systems are required for any additional density.
7.	Develop model bylaws to address the use of building stratas as a tool for affordable housing.	New	High	Short Term	The Strata Property Act enables property titles to be subdivided without subdividing the land (and causing the associated impacts). This tool should be carefully considered and managed as a way to enable co-ownership of land with multiple property tiles that can each be financed separately by a conventional lender. This option could become a key strategy if land values continue to escalate.
8.	Develop model bylaws for secondary suites and cottages to be standardized across the Islands Trust Area according to best practices.	New	Medium	Short Term	Suites and cottages should be used to intentionally target needs identified in housing needs assessments. Secondary suites should be considered as an island's primary rental stock for singles, while cottages should be considered as rental or ownership family housing. Floor area limits should be able to be varied where appropriate (locate the size limits in the regulations, not the definitions, of a land use bylaw).
9.	Develop model rental housing zoning bylaw.	New	Low	Long Term	This is a new recommendation stemming from recent legislative amendments. It is considered low priority because purpose built, multi-family rental housing is not always viable in Trust Area communities. It may be more efficient to pilot

					the rental zoning powers through a development application for multi-family rental housing.
HOUSING AGREEMENTS					
10.	Continue development of a program for Islands Trust to hold and administer housing agreements on behalf of local trust committees.	Housing Tool Kit	High	Short term	Islands Trust has developed resources and capacity to administer housing agreements. This function should continue to be supported and developed.
COORDINATION					
11.	Trust Council to use coordination authority of Islands Trust Act to strike a multi-stakeholder and inter-jurisdictional affordability committee by region. Make sure to include regional districts and the health authorities. Create terms of references based on mutual cooperation and a commitment to considering affordability in application processes and regulatory requirements.	New	High	Short term	Coordinate policy across different jurisdictions to ensure different regulations are not in conflict and to ensure affordability is considered and enabled wherever possible. This committee should consult mortgage experts and representatives from the building industry to inform policy coordination with current economic realities.
ADVOCACY					
12.	Advocate other regulatory agencies find a way to permit alternative solutions for affordable housing pilot projects.	Housing Tool Kit	Medium	Long Term	This is an advocacy item that requires discussion by Trust Council. Trust Council could advocate the BC Building Code include minimum standard exemptions that ensured environmental standards are met, as are health and safety standards of buildings. It could be addressed through coordination, as noted above.
13.	Initiate an ongoing Housing Council consisting of membership from a broad range of stakeholders.	Housing Tool Kit	Low	Long Term	The Islands Trust governance structure is prescribed by the Islands Trust Act. This recommendation is best directed at community groups. A community based Housing Council could be initiated by community groups to coordinate affordable housing initiatives and speak with one voice to government agencies such as Trust Council.
14.	Advocate senior levels of government increase funding for affordable housing specifically targeting low density, rural communities.	Housing Tool Kit	High	Long Term	Affordable housing proponents need funding support which is a Provincial and Federal role.
15.	Advocate senior levels of government provide additional funding for seniors housing, support	Housing Forum Final	Medium	Long Term	Land owners and developers may need funding support to add community value to

	services, public transportation options, medical services, and for commercial establishments to upgrade with universal design standards.	Report			developments. Land use and transportation are inter-dependent and related.
TRUST FUND BOARD					
16.	Explore the potential for the creation of an affordable housing Land Trust.	Housing Tool Kit	Medium	Long Term	Trust Council could consider expanding the role of the Trust Fund Board to create an affordable housing land trust. This would be a fundamental change to the Islands Trust and should be explored in the context of the Trust Fund Board role, mandate, and legislative authority.
17.	Explore the potential for and required changes to the Trust Fund Board to allow it to hold land on an interim basis for affordable housing.	Housing Tool Kit	Low	Long Term	Trust Fund Board can own land and currently has a property acquisition role, however it may only hold land in support of furthering the mandate of Islands Trust. This is a key discussion for Trust Council in interpreting the Islands Trust mandate and the definition of unique amenities.
HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS					
18.	Continue on-going coordination and funding for Housing Needs Assessments across the Islands trust Area.	Housing Tool Kit	Medium	Long Term	Housing Needs Assessments have been completed for the Islands Trust Area. Legislation requires they be updated every five years.
19.	Support Bowen Island Municipality in updating its Housing Needs Assessment using a consistent methodological approach as done for the other regions of the Islands Trust Area.	New	High	Short term	The housing needs assessments conducted in 2018 excluded the Bowen Island Municipality. There may be opportunities for cost sharing or other coordinated supports that would assist the BIM in updating its 2008 HNA.