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December 14, 2007

File Number: GF/T-5-7

The Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community Services
PO Box 9056, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Chong:

**Re: Islands Trust Governance Review
Requests for Legislative and Regulatory Changes**

Thank you very much for meeting on December 10 with members of the Islands Trust Executive Committee and the three elected representatives of Salt Spring Island, to follow up on our July 2007 requests for amendments to the *Islands Trust Act* and related regulations.

As promised, I am writing to confirm that members of the Islands Trust Executive Committee have met with or spoken to almost all MLAs and Electoral Area Directors in the Islands Trust Area regarding our requests. I have also spoken to NDP Leader Carole James regarding this matter.

From these discussions, it is our understanding there is broad support for all our proposals, including the proposal to increase the number of Salt Spring Island representatives from two to four, both on the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and at the Islands Trust Council table. None of the elected officials we have met has raised any objections or concerns and all have agreed readily with our proposals. We have attached a separate table showing those who indicated support at a breakfast meeting during the UBCM convention on September 27, and those who have done so at other times.

As indicated in our meeting on December 10, and as reflected in your letter to us on August 9, the Islands Trust Council has now completed extensive analysis and consultation and has worked closely with your staff to identify changes that we believe represent a small but significant improvement to governance in the Islands Trust Area. The changes would largely resolve an issue that has been of concern in the Islands Trust Area for many years. We believe that this is a singular opportunity for your ministry to move forward now with amendments that enjoy broad political and public support.

We urge you to support our request and to endeavour to have the requested changes take place in time for local elections in 2008.

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We would be pleased to meet with you or your staff further and to provide additional information or assistance regarding our requests. Our staff contact for this purpose is our Chief Administrative Officer, Linda Adams (405-5160).

Yours truly,



Kim Benson
Chair
Islands Trust Council
kbenson@islandstrust.bc.ca
(250) 405-5151

pc: **Trust Area MLAs**

Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Minister Responsible for Research and Technology, and MLA – Saanich North and the Islands;
Honourable Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts and
MLA – Comox Valley
Joan McIntyre, MLA - West Vancouver/Garibaldi
Ron Cantelon, MLA – Nanaimo/Parksville
Doug Routley, MLA – Cowichan/Ladysmith
Leonard Krog, MLA – Nanaimo
Nicholas Simons, MLA – Powell River/Sunshine Coast

Trust Area Electoral Area Directors:

Gary Holman, Capital Regional District
Susan DeGryp, Capital Regional District
Berni Sperling, Nanaimo Regional District
Carol Quin, Comox-Strathcona Regional District
Mel Dorey, Cowichan Valley Regional District
Lee Turnbull, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Gary Nohr, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Merrick Anderson, Powell River Regional District
Gary Gibson, Metro Vancouver

Carole James, NDP Leader
Islands Trust Council members
Dale Wall, ADM, Ministry of Community Services
Linda Adams, CAO, Islands Trust
Islands Trust website – Chair Correspondence

**Islands Trust
MLAs, Electoral Area Directors and Others
Indicating Support for Islands Trust Legislative and Regulatory Change Requests
of July 2007**

Those who attended Islands Trust breakfast meeting – UBCM September 27 2007

Trust Area MLAs

Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Minister Responsible
for Research and Technology, and MLA – Saanich North and the Islands;
Joan McIntyre, MLA - West Vancouver/Garibaldi
Ron Cantelon, MLA – Nanaimo/Parksville
Doug Routley, MLA – Cowichan/Ladysmith
Leonard Krog, MLA – Nanaimo
Nicholas Simons, MLA – Powell River/Sunshine Coast

Trust Area Electoral Area Directors:

Gary Holman, Capital Regional District (Salt Spring Island)
Carol Quin, Comox-Strathcona Regional District
Lee Turnbull, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Gary Nohr, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Merrick Anderson, Powell River Regional District

Those contacted separately and indicating support

Susan DeGryp, Capital Regional District (Southern Gulf Islands)
Berni Sperlring, Nanaimo Regional District
Carole James, NDP Leader
Jean Crowder, MP Nanaimo-Cowichan