



200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8
Telephone (250) 405-5151 Fax (250) 405-5155
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660-2421. Elsewhere in BC 1.800.663.7867
Email information@islandstrust.bc.ca
Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

June 1, 2010

File Number: PG/10-1

Honourable Bill Bennett
Minister of Community and Rural Development
PO Box 9056, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bennett:

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council, I am writing to commemorate the significant occasion of amending sixteen Official Community Plans throughout the Islands Trust Area to include targets, policies and actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We have recently delivered the final set of bylaws that will achieve these amendments by the May 31 deadline set by Bill 27 (Green Communities).

The process of introducing new targets, policies and actions into sixteen Official Community Plans was a significant achievement for our small local government in a very short time-period. It is a testament to the commitment of island people to meeting ambitious environmental goals.

Even without Bill 27, the *Islands Trust Act* and its provincial mandate to "preserve and protect" British Columbia's southern Gulf Islands gives us all the motivation we need to take greenhouse gas emission-reductions very seriously.

Residents and property-owners of our thirteen major island groups became fully engaged in the OCP-review process and came up with many innovative ideas to reduce our community footprints, both for implementation by local government and by grass-roots groups. Each OCP now sets ambitious targets for emissions reduction and developed policies and actions related to transportation, energy efficient buildings, sustainable energy systems, local food production and protection of forest lands. Our elected officials overcame controversy and opposition from vocal minorities to ensure that this area of the province can be proud of its contribution to achieving BC's climate action strategy.

We have three more greenhouse gas OCP reviews to complete in due course, one almost complete for Saturna Island and two on remote island groups with very small populations.

We trust that the province will make us proud by continuing to set examples and taking innovative and courageous action on this urgent climate change issue.

Sincerely,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

pc: Trust Areas MLAs
Dale Wall, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Rural Development
Islands Trust web-site

Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis