



Islands Trust

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October 3, 2007

File Number: PG/05-1

Honourable Pat Bell  
Minister of Agriculture and Lands  
PO Box 9043 STN. PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bell:

**Re: Inadequate Abattoir Facilities Within the Islands Trust Area**

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council, I am writing to express Council's continued concern about the inadequate abattoir facilities available to farmers within the Islands Trust Area. We have attached our previous letters on this topic for additional information.

At its quarterly business meeting in September 2007, the Islands Trust Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

*That the Islands Trust Council request the Chair to write to the BC Minister of Agriculture and Lands expressing the Trust's concern that inadequate slaughter facilities exist to service farmers within the Islands Trust Area, and that the Trust encourages the Ministry to maintain its support of community initiatives to establish appropriate local facilities to service the Trust Area.*

The September 30 implementation date of the new *Meat Inspection Regulation* has created additional burdens for farmers, particularly those living in the Islands Trust Area where transportation via BC Ferries and increasing ferry fares have created additional financial pressure on residents. The combined lack of abattoirs and increasing transportation costs threaten the financial viability and long-term sustainability of our island agricultural sector.

The Islands Trust Council remains concerned about the ongoing health of the agricultural sector and the potential long-term impacts on land-use patterns within the Islands Trust Area. Support for the local agriculture sector is also consistent with the provincial government's interest in addressing climate change by encouraging local food production and distribution.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Benson  
Chair, Islands Trust Council

pc: Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Health  
Islands Trust Executive Committee  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Website

Attach. January 19, 2006 letter to Ministers of Health and Agriculture and Lands  
May 3, 2006 letter to Minister of Agriculture and Lands  
May 10, 2006 letter to Minister of Health

*Preserving Island communities, culture and environment*

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