



**GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING NOTES  
HORNBY ISLAND MEETING CONSULTATION  
Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.  
Hornby Island Community Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Kim Benson, Chair, Islands Trust Council  
Ron Emerson, Hornby Island Local Trustee  
Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
Gillian Saxby, Policy Analyst  
Reina LeBaron, Recorder

There were approximately 28 members of the public present.

Kim Benson and Linda Adams made a presentation on potential changes to the Trust Governance system with particular emphasis on how to address the anomaly of Saltspring Island.

At 4:20 p.m. Gillian Saxby facilitated the public feedback.

Tony Law noted that one Governance meeting will be held to get feedback from both North and South Pender Islands. He asked if there has been any thought given to the idea of combining the North and South Pender Trust areas. *(The option was discussed but Trustees did not want to reduce representation for the Pender Islands in order to increase it for Saltspring.)*

Tony also asked what increase in costs (honoraria, travel expenses, etc.) would be associated with options that increase the overall number of Trustees. *(Current expenses are approximately \$16-17,000 per Trustee.)*

Tony cautioned Trust Council about increasing the number of Trustees in the Council as there may be unexpected and unintended consequences. He pointed out that all Trustees would still need to be familiar with all issues so the reduction in work-load would only be regarding discretionary meetings of local groups.

John Grayson read the consultant's report and noted that "acceptability to island residents" wasn't a criteria that was considered by the consultant.

John felt that for the \$264,000 that Hornby islanders pay in taxes to the Trust, the residents do not receive much in the way of services. He suggested that Hornby, at least, consider arranging for land use planning services and building inspection through the Regional District.

Dean Ellis did not understand the relevance to Hornby of Saltspring Island's issues. He commented that the planner assigned to Hornby spends more time on holidays and traveling between islands than he does actually on Hornby.

Dan Bruiger said that the public consultation should have taken place at the beginning of the process to ask what residents felt the issues were. The process currently reflects a top-down hierarchy with local government connected directly to the provincial government.

Ron Sitter said that it is important for Trust Council to maintain equal representation for all island areas. He said it makes sense to have more Trustees for areas as they grow larger in population. He

suggested either 3 or 4 Trustees for more populated areas but only 2 at a time sitting at Trust Council (although they need not be the same 2 every time.)

Jan Bevan asked how the Trustees are controlling who gives feedback. Specifically, she wondered if it were possible for someone to fill in the survey many times. *(The online survey may only be filled in once from any given computer.)*

Jan asked how much a Trustee's honorarium is. *(The honoraria are based on a sliding scale from \$7,000 to \$12,500 per year based on the population tax base.)*

Jan suggested dividing Saltspring Island into two trust areas. *(The idea was considered but seemed that it would make governance more complicated.)*

Carol Quin said that it seemed Hornby would not gain from changes regarding the number of Trustees per area. She suggested that Saltspring become a municipality.

Carol also suggested that Trust Council should ask for changes to legislation to give it more power to carry out the Trust mandate.

Carol would like to see more coordination with Regional Districts. Hornby has already been considering how to improve local governance.

Quote: "Regulation without enforcement is little more than good advice."

Fred Hunt said that the issue seems to be specific to Saltspring Island's governance and is not a Trust-wide issue. He suggested that it is not necessary to change the model, simply find ways for Saltspring islanders to better support their Trustees. *(Trust Council is trying to establish a level of governance between the status quo and municipal status.)*

Tony Quin said that due to the big work-load, he can see the need for an interim measure of Saltspring having 4 Trustees. He said that governance is a continuum and that he anticipates a time when each island will have an independent, sustainable government that is responsible for its own land use planning. He sees the Trust's bureaucratic "umbrella" getting smaller but still providing a regional view and evaluation of local policies with regard to the larger Trust-wide area.

Cathy Howard wondered how supportive the Provincial Government is and whether they even care about Islands Trust issues. *(The Province does seem to be supportive and interested in the Governance study. They are willing to give grants for specific projects but not so willing to give unconditional funds. Since it takes time to match up projects with available grants and apply for and supervise the grant monies, this is a potential new position for Islands Trust staff.)*

Cathy asked about a comparison between planning services for Saltspring Island versus the smaller islands and the cost per capita of the planning services. She said Hornby needs more access to planning services. She suggested a Trust-wide building code specific to the Trust area.

Cathy said that Trust Council should still consist of 2 Trustees per area.

Tony Law commented that if water levels rise due to global climate change, maybe Saltspring will become three islands.

Jan Bevan said that it was excellent to see a book with collaboration between the Islands Trust and the San Juan islands to address island issues across borders.

Dan Bruiger asked how to submit additional information. *(Written submissions can be sent by e-mail or regular mail.)*

George Buvyer said it is logical to tie the number of Trustees to the population base of each area but that each area should have equal representation on Trust Council. He asked if there was a gradient option which would allow an increase of one Trustee at certain population levels.

George noted that people from other areas have come to Hornby to consider not having building inspection.

The meeting closed at 5:15 p.m.