

MEMO

To: Islands Trust Governance Task Force
From: Ken White, Passage Island
Date: April 9, 2006

It was good to hear that Islands Trust has a new governance committee. I think everyone hopes that this issue will finally get proper attention and one can only hope that it will be more successful than previous efforts.

However, it is disturbing to see that this committee only includes elected politicians and no members of the public and none from the Have-Not islands.

I have been a participant in the proceedings of 3 past governance studies:

- a) GVRD - UBC Area
- b) GVRD - Bowen Island
- c) SCR D - Gibsons and Area E/F

In all 3 cases the governance committee included members from many different stakeholder groups and in fact, the elected politicians on the committee often had a secondary role. The chair of the committee was not one of the elected politicians from the area in each case.

The very nature of a governance study should ensure that all stakeholders have a role. By restricting membership to the currently elected politicians, Islands Trust seems to have adopted the "Fox Guarding the Henhouse" approach. This is especially troublesome given the unfair nature of Islands Trust elections in the past which have not provided proper voting opportunities for the Have-Not Islands.

In the previous governance study, Islands Trust contracted consultants who also ignored the Have-Not Islands. It seems they only made attempts to look at the needs of the Have Islands.

I have 4 key questions:

- 1) will the committee include members from the public so that all stakeholders are represented?
- 2) will the Chair of the Committee be an elected Islands Trust Council member or a member of the Public?
- 3) what are the budget details of the Governance Committee?
- 4) when will the committee hold public meetings on the Have-Not Islands?