



Islands Trust

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For the attention of Hon. Ida Chong
Minister for Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Room 323, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

REQUEST FOR A GOVERNANCE STUDY

Thank you for the courtesy extended to our delegation during our meeting yesterday, and for allowing us to present our request for a provincially sponsored governance study for Salt Spring island.

Over a decade has elapsed since the last study and in our letter yesterday, we listed what we believe are a number of compelling reasons in support of an updated study. The most salient reason is that this now seems to be the reflected wish of the majority who cast their vote at the last election. Recent indicators, such as the Driftwood online poll last September, suggest a sizable majority in favor of a change in governance although, of course, the only way of being sure is to test that premise in a referendum. The island's economic difficulties, and the limits on our ability to effect an improvement under the current governance structure, also strongly underlie the request for the study.

We understand that incorporation is not a silver bullet in terms of resolving all of Salt Spring's local government issues and we appreciate that once the full picture is laid before the island in an impartial and objective manner, the majority will might be for the status quo. In that unlikely scenario, it would leave some of the issues pertaining to the absence of population proportional representation unanswered and perhaps there is some prospect that these could be addressed through revision of the Islands Trust Act.

Thank you again for giving up your valuable time to hear our petition and for agreeing to examine the issue. We await your decision.

Sincerely,

George Grams

Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

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