

**From:** Pearl Marchioni

**Sent:** April-15-11 11:28 AM

**To:** Chong.MLA, Ida

**Cc:** Christy Clark, BC Liberal Party; Cadieux.MLA, Stephanie; Simons.MLA, Nicholas;  
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**Subject:**

Dear Minister Cadieux

Congratulations on your appointment.

I am a property owner of South Trail Island and we are currently working with Gambier Island Trust and designated Planners to develop new bylaws for the islands.

I have read the letter dated Jan 7, 2011 that Sheila Malcolmson sent you. *"An Ipsos Reid poll (enclosed), conducted on our 30th anniversary, indicates an extremely high level of support among the BC public for continued protection of the Islands Trust Area."* This simply is not true, at least amongst property owners on these Islands. While it is important for all British Columbians to protect the land on which we live, the Island's Trust has taken it upon themselves to strip us of rights we had upon purchasing our property and that are reasonable expectations. The people of this Province have become increasingly disenchanted with Government as we clearly can not depend on the truth or transparency.

It has been said the Trustees are providing a sustainable environment for the future of the islands. It does not appear they have considered the sustainable future of the people who own and live on these islands, who pay the provincial tax for this property and, I guarantee, the Trustees will never take better care of my piece of paradise than I will. Islands Trust is forgetting that people are part of the environment, and the best stewards of the land are those with a close personal stake in it. They are ignoring Section 6 of the Islands Trust Act, which requires Trustees to represent the electors, not the environmental. I do agree that there needs to be a practice in place that will protect the Islands from exploitation of some, possibly even Government themselves, if you honestly look at what is going on in the Alberta Tar Sands. That is not disputed by Islanders, however, we take direct issue when our rights to participate in the economy are stripped unreasonably.

The new proposed Gambier Island Trust Bylaw indicates we will not be allowed to park our personal watercraft at the island. How are we expected to get there? What would we do with the watercraft once there? This makes no sense yet Trustees he have failed to amend this portion of the bylaw, even when both the Trustees and Planner admitted they were confused by this section of the bylaw. Should I start the 35 foot boat to go into Sechelt for groceries, would this not cause a far greater carbon footprint than a smaller vessel? This is the type of nonsense we are working with. Unreasonable.

Islands Trust is proposing bylaws that would killed tourism to the area and destroy a financially sustainable future for British Columbians on these rural islands by way of home business, eco tours and vacation rentals. I was surprised, with Christy Clark proposing a bright future for rural communities, that we are being stripped of these very rights. While I continue to support Christy Clark as our new leader of this Province, I believe she may not be aware of these actions as I do not feel she would support the unreasonable changes that are being inflicted upon rural communities and, to the contrary, appear to receive no Government supported at all.

The fact that Islands Trust are proposing bylaws that would deter youth and families in these rural communities is non-sense. I have four children that are part of my developing Eco tour business as well as the assistance I receive from my senior parents, yet Islands Trust strives to destroy the

future livelihood and existence of youth and families in these communities. Again, I refer to Christy Clark's "Families First" initiative. This bylaw and Official Community Plan does not even remotely support families of these rural islands and I feel it is important that she is aware of decisions being made to the detriment of these communities.

4. Now our water rights will be tampered with? Is Government trying to cut us off completely and drive us off these islands? I will make reference to a letter sent to Sheila Malcolmson from Minister Murray Coell stating "*I acknowledge the urgent water issues in the Islands Trust area. Ground water regulation is one of the seven key policy directions described in the policy proposal, and an important component of the overall framework.*" I am frightened! Perhaps the Trustees and Government should be reminded that any regulation of ground water on private land would be contrary to English law, received in British Columbia on November 19, 1858, and never changed. Water under private land is the property of the land owner, yet government seeks to prevent us from using what gives us life, gives our animals life and gives our plants life to provide us a food source. At a time when food prices are rising, government intends to prevent us from sustaining ourselves with our own gardens by proposing water restrictions. Perhaps this is an issue that requires much more exposure to the public as if government plans to strip us of access to our own water on the islands, it is only a matter of time before this policy will be pushed on the rest of the citizens of this Province and this Country.

These are only a few of the examples that there is something seriously wrong with this body of Government. A review is in immediate order. We have not asked for factories or hotel chains, we have asked for seasonal, low impact rentals and eco tours. We are not looking to have cruise ships stop by for a day at the island, we need to be able to keep our watercraft and source of access to and from the islands available to us, to be able to access near by communities for food and supplies not to mention safety issues that may arise if we are left with out vessels. This is a reasonable request we expect to be included in the bylaw. Many of these islands have environmentally low impact, low carbon footprint communities that care about where we live, we are not trying to create cities but get away from them, planning for our families' futures and our retirement years, yet Government would prefer we struggle with financial sustainability? This makes little sense, putting aside any concern for the people, when considering that taxes are created by these businesses, property tax generated from the owners of these islands and that vibrant communities in British Columbia are being wiped out. A travesty for sure for the people, clearly driven by a need to prove or provide levels of government with a bunch of numbers to impress upon senior government how environmentally progressive BC is, yet nothing but a hypocrisy when Feds and Provincial government are proposing to bring oil tankers through BC waters to supply China with a fuel source. Our carbon imprint is minut in comparison. It appears we have lost sight of what is important, Our People in Our Country to be given Our Rights. What makes our rights any less important than those afforded to the rest of Canadians?

If legitimate concern for the environment is what drives this change to LUB then perhaps consideration is in order for subsidy and tax breaks for green options such as solar and wind power generated power on these remote locations and for all Canadians.

Sincerely,

Pearl

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