

**George Grams' reply to the Chair of Gulf Islands Alliance,
Misty MacDuffee's letter in the Gulf Islands Driftwood, July 20th, 2011,
[Statements Incorrectly Attributed](#), online only.**

The letter in your 20 July edition by the current chair of the Gulf Islands Alliance, Misty MacDuffee, invites a response. On the main page of Gulf Islands Alliance web site is a heading: 'GIA's Positions'. Click on those 'positions' and one is transported to the articles from which I quoted. These are not, as Misty MacDuffee would have us believe, third party 'opinions'. They are unequivocally declared 'GIA Positions'. At no time did I claim Christine Torgrimson penned these 'positions' but she was chair of GIA when they were adopted by the organization. 'Positions' adopted by an organization conventionally reflect policy and are accepted as the views of the organization and its board regardless of who within the organization authored them.

I would reaffirm that the quotes were lifted direct from the GIA web site under the heading 'GIA's Positions'. Christine Torgrimson, as founder and former chair of GIA, claimed ownership of 'GIA's positions' when she adopted them for front page identification on GIA's web site. If she now wishes to revoke her belief in these statements, let her do so publicly, not by proxy through Misty MacDuffee. Trustee Torgrimson might also provide an explanation why such people hostile, antidemocratic position statements were ever adopted in the first place. They express an attitude towards island residents and a contempt for their democratic rights that are incompatible with the duties of an elected official towards those who placed her in office.

As an island voter who robustly endorses the Trust mandate of 'preserve and protect', I will most certainly cast my vote in November for those candidates who place a high value on environmental protection. But I will also be seeking to elect trustees who have an earnest commitment to restore the balanced judgment that is currently absent from local governance. Environmental protection is critical. Trustees must prize their environmental stewardship role. But there is also a desperate need to reinvest as a community in the traditional values of transparency and accountability in governance, the democratic right to be represented, our economic health, our social cohesion and our cultural wellbeing. Only by doing so can the very deep divisions that have been opened in this community these past three years begin to be healed.