

ISLANDS TRUST CANDIDATE: DAVE OLSEN

The following words and photo were submitted to *Our Isle & Times* by the Candidate

Many people who know the Islands Trust have told me that nobody knows the Islands Trust as well as I do. I started attending Islands Trust Local Trust Committee (LTC) meetings in 2014 and worked as the LTC's minute-taker from 2015 until 2022. Since 2015, I have read every agenda package cover-to-cover. I have attended and spoken at multiple Trust Council meetings (where both Trustees from 13 islands all meet). I spend dozens of hours every month researching the Islands Trust to try to inform the public about what the Islands Trust is doing and how it could affect us.

If we are going to Preserve and Protect our Community and Ways of Life, we absolutely need TWO Trustees that have the knowledge and experience to control the bureaucracy and prevent the off-island Chair of our LTC from continuing to override our Community's wishes.

THESE 5 ISSUES WILL BE THE MAIN FOCUS OF MY WORK AS A TRUSTEE:

1) Reduce the Islands Trust (IT) budget and ballooning bureaucracy.

Right now, the average annual cost per resident in the Islands Trust is \$387, paid in property taxes, for the land use planning service that the Islands Trust provides. This is the only service that the Islands Trust is legally mandated to provide.

According to the qathet Regional District (qRD), if the qRD provided the same land use planning service for Lasqueti, the average cost per Lasqueti resident would only be \$20 per year!

The IT budget has gone up 66% in the last 12 years, with inflation accounting for only half of this increase. If I can find 13 other Trustees that agree (out of 25), we will have a majority on Trust Council and can reduce the IT budget every year over the next 4 years. Our first step will be stopping the salary increase for Trustees that is scheduled for April 1st, 2027.

2) Hold Four Community Meetings Every Year.

I will host 4 Community Meetings each year about a week in advance of the quarterly Trust

Council Meetings, so we can discuss how you want Lasqueti represented at those meetings, as well as talk about anything else that the people of Lasqueti want to discuss.

3) Add a Second Town Hall to regular LTC meetings and allow people to speak freely.

Three years ago, the current Trustees made it much more difficult to speak to the LTC; I will undo what they've done.

4) Stop the Islands Trust's new Policy Statement.

Their new Policy Statement will override our Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB). The result will be the loss of the freedom to use our properties as we wish and it will give control over decisions about our island to people who do not live here.

5) Protect Our OCP and LUB from "Standardization" or Worse...

The Islands Trust has recently centralized in order to standardize how they update OCPs. That makes

having TWO local Trustees that can work well together more critical than ever. During the last term, the off-island Chair often overruled what our Community wanted and in the next term, the stakes will be even higher for our Community.

Nobody moved here or is choosing to stay here for more government regulations. If we don't make a clear change in our Trustees, the off-island Chair of our LTC will bring many more regulations to impose on us.

Our current Trustees have made secret protocols and met in secret 6 or more times.

If elected, I will ensure that the LTC is fully transparent and I will keep our Community fully informed (as I have the past 5+ years) I've been fighting hard to protect our Community's Autonomy and Ways of Life and I will only fight harder if I am elected as your Trustee.

Please VOTE for a Change on October 7th or 17th or by mail.

