

# Island <sup>Reprint</sup> Tides

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## Documents galore in Galiano's review

Three documents have now emerged from the *Phase I* meetings of Galiano's OCP Forest Policies Review. The 6-week long *Phase I*, presided over by a facilitator paid by the provincial government, was created to design the discussion process for *Phase II*—the actual substance of the review.

However *Phase I* ended with no warning on July 9 while community members in attendance were still working on a third draft of their report document. At the end of that meeting facilitator Gordon Sloane announced that there would be no more meetings and that he would complete and submit a 'Draft 3' to the Local Trust Committee.

A second big surprise greeted community members at a special LTC meeting on July 20. 'Draft 3' was accepted by Trustees Roy Smith and Michael Sharp as the Final Report document. However at that meeting the trustees, while allowing no further community discussion, introduced new ideas for the governance of *Phase II* and instructed planner Brodie Porter to create a new report, reflecting these ideas, with which to govern *Phase II*.

The new document was presented to trustees, but not adopted, at an August 2 LTC meeting. The document, which had more than doubled in length, subsequently came in for a good deal of community criticism.

At the outset of the next LTC meeting on August 16, Porter re-presented his report but acknowledged at the outset that it was flawed. Later in the meeting, after hearing public comment, he suggested that LTC members abandon it, said that the original 'Draft 3' document should be the one used to guide the new facilitator for *Phase II* meetings.

### 'The People's Report'

Meanwhile, between July 20 and August 11, a group of participants of *Phase I* meetings worked on 'Draft 3' to produce what they consider to be a true Final Report reflecting the public's ideas and input throughout *Phase I's* meetings.

This document is now being dubbed 'The People's Report.'

It was formally submitted to LTC members for their consideration a few days prior to the August 16 meeting. Two essential community preconditions for engaging in the review were reiterated in the preamble to 'The People's Report': that the timeline be controlled by the community and that the process could be rolled over into next spring's full OCP Review. Participants at the August 16 meeting emphasized that these preconditions must be maintained. 'The People's Report' document was mentioned by several members of the public at the August 16 meeting but not discussed by the LTC.

### *Phase I—Good or Bad*

At the meeting, attendees praised *Phase I*. Although it 'took a while to get going' because 'people came with misunderstandings,' but 'trust was built up' and 'it had showed the community that productive debate was possible,' they said.

Trustee Smith on the other hand commented that *Phase I*, had 'gone colossally wrong' and that it had 'appalled the daylights out of me.' This, he said, had led to its abrupt close down. He wanted more controls on *Phase II*.

Attendees urged LTC members to respect the public process and to ensure that *Phase II* was not curtailed before a fruitful conclusion had been reached, even if the money provided by the provincial government proved to be insufficient. Attendees asked that a contingency plan for continuation be put in place. Trustee Smith replied that he was concerned about the possibility of filibuster (presumably delaying outcomes until next spring's full OCP Review process). LTC Chair Gisele Rudischer commented that intervention in the process which presupposed filibuster and failure was unnecessary, and, that there was value in the process itself.

Meanwhile, Porter went away to write another document to ensure ministry funding and to hire a second facilitator. This document, he says, is not under the control of the LTC, or the community, but he has arranged to have trustees view it.

*Ed's Note: 'The People's Report' can be viewed at [www.islandtides.com](http://www.islandtides.com) in our 'Trust Matters' archive.*

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