

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
ACTION SHEET

DATE: August 27, 2025
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Official Community Plan Amendments – Islands Trust

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to provide feedback on the Islands Trust Policy Statement to include support for family housing to support enrolment in existing schools.

Background:

Administrative Procedure 702 – Participation in Regional Growth and Planning, provides the process by which the Board engages with Local Governments with respect to planning and development initiatives.

The district has received a request from the Islands Trust for comments on their proposed amendments to their Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Discussion:

Overall, staff do not have concerns with the document, it is progressive and well thought out. However, there appears to be a potential opportunity for the document to be more proactive in supporting families and therefore enrolment.

Specifically, the documents states (at 3.4.4):

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

Community Facilities and Services

Ensure that each community and local Indigenous communities', current and projected long-term needs for educational, institutional, community, health, cultural, recreational facilities and services, and outdoor recreation are considered and planned for.

This language envisions to proactively plan for social services. However, it may be preferable to explicitly mention the need for additional family housing located near existing educational institutions. Specifically, Gabriola Elementary is one of the district's most under enrolled schools. While given the isolated nature of the facility, there is no intention of reviewing its continued operations a healthy population not only supports opportunities for students, it ensures the long term viability of the facility in the event of changes in government policy with respect to underenrolled schools.