

# Our Way of Life is at Serious Risk!

I have been trying to pinpoint the reason why I'm running for Islands Trust (IT) Trustee for Lasqueti. Well, here it is: **To Stop Government Overreach.**

Some candidates want to be part of government to rely on the salary, and augment it further by joining other Committees, including the Executive Committee (everyone on the Executive makes >\$40,000/year). This only helps government expand...nobody joins these Committees to shrink Government!

I will never join another IT committee. If elected, I will only be part of our Local Trust Committee. Why? Because just like Chrystia Freeland being Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Canada as well as a Board Member of the World Economic Forum, it is an inherent conflict of interest. Who is she representing when she crafts the Canadian budget? I want there to be zero doubt about who I represent for every decision that I am part of: **Lasquetians first and Lasquetians only.**

Being a local Trustee requires one to be part of Trust Council as well. By only being part of our Local Trust

Committee, my voice at Trust Council will **ONLY** reflect what our Community wants. It won't represent the Executive Council, the Financial Planning or any of the other Committees because anyone on those Committees must try to represent all of the people of BC, just like all 3 Trustees stated when I asked them who they represented at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting this year. I was so shocked and surprised by their answers, which at first was met with scorn (that's such an obvious question, is it even worthy of an answer?). But then all 3 Trustees said the same thing: they represent the residents and property owners of Lasqueti as well as ALL British Columbians, including those "who have never heard of Lasqueti."

I believe their answers. What I will do, if elected, is ensure that I don't expand my role at all and maintain the focus that I am committing to in this campaign, which is to **ONLY** represent the residents and property owners of Lasqueti. And that means reporting back to you about **ANYTHING** that affects us or could affect our independence and autonomy.

**You have my pledge and heartfelt promise.**

## Can You Trust Dave Olsen?

The last two-plus years have been challenging in many ways for everyone. I have never seen such division in our Community. This is not an accident.

Although some may try to blame me for some or all of that division, my record is very clear, consistent and in print: I have always stood for Free and Open discussion of ANY topic by any and everyone concerned. Despite the less than neighbourly ways of trying to ostracize me, I have held firm in my belief that Free and Open Discus-

sion is a foundational principle of any healthy society. No amount of coercion will change that. And that, my friends, is why **you can trust Dave Olsen.**

I don't tell anyone what to do, but I do share information and viewpoints, even those I don't agree with. Freedom of Speech, Association and Assembly are critical and I will always do my utmost to uphold them all, regardless of whether I'm an elected official, or not.

**VOTE!**  
Oct 5 or 15

## What is Important to YOU?

**VOTE!**  
Oct 5 or 15

If elected, I'll be organizing regular Community meetings to hear from you directly. In the meantime, I want to know what's important to you. Even if it's not an Islands Trust area, it's important and I'll make sure that we talk about it as a Community. Here are some ideas and feel free to add anything else that's important to you! Simply cut this portion off and drop it off at our Post Office. Thank you for all that you contribute!

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6 Do you want the Islands Trust to have control over what trees we can cut?

Hell NO---|---|---| Don't Care |---|---|---|100%

7 Do you want fewer Local Trust Committee meetings (I propose 2/yr) and more Community meetings (4/yr)?

NO---|---|---| Don't Care |---|---|---|100%

3 Do you want our OCP Review to be completed?

NO---|---|---| Don't Care |---|---|---|100%

8 Do you want to be able to approve every bylaw that is passed by the Local Trust Committee (LTC)?

NO---|---|---| Don't Care |---|---|---|100%

5 Do you want all LTC meetings to be held in person?

NO---|---|---| Don't Care |---|---|---|100%

9 Do you want to meet as a Community before any future lockdowns are agreed to?

NO---|---|---| Don't Care |---|---|---|100%

# This is Serious: Our Way of Life is at Risk

I don't know anyone that chooses to live on Lasqueti because they want to be told what to do and how to do it. We're an eclectic mix of independent souls that value our freedoms and the inconvenient life-styles that living off grid without a car ferry offers.

The last few years, our Trustees have been asleep at the wheel while the Islands Trust (IT) positions itself to expand significantly. The 2050 IT Policy Statement has many areas of new and expanded jurisdiction, including tree cutting, desalination plants and docks. Stopping this expansion of government is the main reason why I'm running to be one of your two Trustees.

I am firmly against ANY expansion of local government. In fact, 49% of residents in the Islands Trust that answered an Islands Trust survey this past Spring want a DECREASE in local government, and **80% of us want no expansion at all**. But what did the Islands

Trust do, with the support of our two current Trustees? They voted to increase the Islands Trust budget by over \$200,000, a 2.3% increase. This is unacceptable.

Our Trustees **MUST** represent the wishes of the people that elect them. If we want less government, government needs to scale down.

I can guarantee you that I will do everything I can to shrink the Islands Trust back to where it was last year and I pledge to shrink it even further.

This is why our way of life is at risk. If we allow government to continue to grow, they will tell us how to live by bringing in more regulations and enforcement. It has happened for decades everywhere else, and you can bet they have Lasqueti in their sights. We are a beacon of hope for people looking to take back their lives and freedoms and **we need Trustees that recognize what we have and are willing to fight to maintain and enhance it.**

## Dave Olsen's Experience

Two of our seven Candidates (7-yay!) have served as local Trustees, while the other four have no experience at the Trust level.

I took minutes for the Local Trust Committee for 6.5 years. I attended every meeting and worked with the staff and Trustees on many issues. Part of my job was to read every page of the lengthy agenda packages so that I would be prepared for any motions or decisions that could be made at upcoming meetings. I can't say that I was the only one that read those agenda packages from start to finish, but some meetings it sure seemed like it.

I believe that Trustees direct staff, not the other way around, and although getting more information at times is very important, Trustees need to be able to make de-



cisions that reflect our Community's values without wasting expensive staff time, since that comes directly out of our taxes. A recent example of this is the inability of the Local Trust Committee to stand up to staff and retain the six Advocacy Policies in our OCP that the Province wants removed.

If elected, I will retain these policies and all the other recommendations of the LCA's OCP Review Steering Committee, who spent two long years working amazingly hard on compiling our Community's thoughts and desires. I will not allow the Province or the Islands Trust staff to disappear any of this work. **The OCP is our Community's document that describes what we want and I will ensure that the final revision does exactly that.**

Below, add any other issues that are important to you and drop it off at the Post Office. If you include your name and contact, I will contact you. If you want to talk to me, call/text 604.216.6700 or email [bike@lasqueti.ca](mailto:bike@lasqueti.ca). Most importantly, **Vote on either Wed, Oct 5th or Sat, Oct 15th at our Community Hall (between 8am & 8pm).**

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