

Questions for North and South Pender Islands Trustee candidates and CRD Director candidates

From: Pender Island Recycling Society (PIRS)

We request that you reply with you answers by e-mail by Tuesday, November 11

1. Do you believe that developing a Solid Waste Management Plan for the Penders is primarily the responsibility of the CRD?

No. I believe it is a shared responsibility between the CRD, who is responsible for the delivery of services, and the Islands Trust, who makes land use decisions. These two agencies need to work together and with our community to determine the nature, location, and implementation of an effective and sustainable solid waste strategy for the Pender Islands. I believe that this is absolutely doable but requires elected officials that are willing and able to work with each other.

2. Would you instead support the creation of a Pender Islands Solid Waste Management Plan (involving recyclables, food scraps, and garbage) that is locally designed and to specifically meet the needs of the Pender Islands?

I don't see this as an either or choice. I would absolutely support the development of a comprehensive approach, particularly if it is developed as a strategy – that is, an approach that has some built in flexibility – a kind of living document - so that can be updated and adapted to meet changing needs and an emerging regulatory environment.

3. Can you provide us with details as to how a Penders-driven Solid Waste Management Plan would be developed, by whom, and how high a priority this project would be on your to-do list, as you start your term in office?

This is a very high priority item for me, and one that I would begin working on immediately. I would start by meeting with staff to understand the situation and by meeting with the Regional Director and folks like yourselves as well as current commercial operators and those potentially impacted by the current situation. Any process would require the input of these key players as well as interested and affected members of the community. I would also see this involving Trustees and community members from South Pender. I would also be interested in discussing the issue with adjacent islands as I expect this issue is not unique to us. We could likely learn from others or at least help each other out particularly with dealing with the new recycling “regime.”

4. Can you explain what specific role(s) the CRD Director, CRD staff, North and South Pender Island Trustees, Trust staff, and a new Solid Waste Management Plan planning team would play in developing this islands-tailored plan?

Possibly as facilitators, co-conveners, and supporters (resources and information), though I think it is premature to identify particular roles. I definitely see your organization and

potentially others as well as the community as having a central role in the development of any process. I would see these roles and the roles of others not yet identified, determined by those involved with the development of the Solid Waste Management Strategy process. Again, this process should involve the local community and may eventually involve other Southern Gulf Islands beyond the Penders as well as other agencies and interest groups. Considerable attention, thought and support should be given to the design of this process so that it has a successful outcome and brings us together as an island community and potentially as an archipelago.

5. Do you agree that a Pender-initiated Solid Waste Management Plan should engage the community in an open and transparent process in developing the plan and finding the best location for waste management facilities on the Penders?

Absolutely! This is absolutely critical for success – not only for buy-in and support – but the process is one of us achieving a better collective understanding and appreciation of the situation, perhaps addressing old wounds and history, and encouraging participation, innovation and creativity. The more people we can get excited, connected, and involved with this challenge, the better.

6. Do you have any ideas how to fund the creation of a locally-initiated Solid Waste Management Plan for the Penders?

I think there will be more opportunities for accessing outside funding if the project increases local sustainability, reduces CO2 emissions, is innovative, collaborative and addresses issues that other rural and island communities are facing. The CRD is an obvious source of funding but depending on the nature of the project there may be other funds and grants available. I expect that community-based financial institutions like VanCity and Island Savings will be interested, as would private, local investors. Given the need to retain build and retain organic matter on our island coupled with the closure of the Hartland landfill to organic wastes there may be opportunities for revenue generation. Funding will be a key element for consideration during the strategy development process. A good process will include the identification and development of a number of innovative funding approaches.

7. Do you support the creation of a Penders-driven Solid Waste Management Plan, involving wide community consultation, prior to approving any bylaw applications relevant to waste management currently before or forthcoming to the Islands Trust?

Yes. Given what has and is happening with recent applications, I think we need to consider this kind of approach. Perhaps this would give our community the time, understanding and space to find a way to move forward on this issue. I first suggested this kind of approach almost 8 years ago as a member of the North Pender Island APC when the first TUP was being contemplated for a waste drop-off facility. I think we have been negligent in not considering this issue in a systematic way and coming up with an

approach that makes sense for our community and helps guide future waste-related decision-making.