



News Release

200 - 1627 Fort Street Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Telephone **250.405.5151** FAX: 250.405.5155

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**

information@islandstrust.bc.ca www.islandstrust.bc.ca

June 19, 2012

2012-13-IT

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL OPPOSES NEW PIPELINE PROJECTS

VICTORIA — The Islands Trust Council has voted to oppose in principle oil pipeline projects that will expand oil export by barge and tanker from Canada's West Coast.

"Our communities are deeply concerned about the risk of oil spills that could irrevocably damage coastal environments, economies, and communities," said Sheila Malcolmson, Chair of Islands Trust Council.

"Islanders have been vocal about their desire to see Trust Council take a stand against new oil pipelines leading to British Columbia's coast. Islands Trust Council feels strongly that the proposed expansion in oil tanker and barge traffic poses an unacceptable risk to our quality of life and the incredible diversity of life in our waters."

"Concern about tanker traffic and oil spills is not new for the Islands Trust Council," continued Malcolmson. "As early as 1983, the Islands Trust Policy Statement included a policy to oppose increased oil tanker traffic in and adjacent to Trust waters and to support measures to reduce such traffic."

In a related decision, Trust Council asked the Chair to write to the federal Minister of Natural Resources to support the phasing out of crude oil export from Canada's West Coast by tanker and barge as part of a national energy strategy. The letter will build on a June 2011 Trust Council request that the provincial and federal governments consider developing a low-carbon energy strategy that strengthens both Canada's environment and economy.

During discussion about whether to oppose the Kinder Morgan Canada's Trans Mountain Pipeline twinning project and Enbridge's Northern Gateway project, Trust Council members expressed concerns about peak oil and climate change. They felt Canada should focus on renewable energies and domestic energy security instead of shipping unrefined oil products while importing refined oils.

At its June meeting, Trust Council also directed the Islands Trust Executive Committee to represent the Islands Trust legislated mandate to preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area during Kinder Morgan public engagement processes related to the proposed Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion. If approved by the federal government, this pipeline expansion would increase oil and bitumen shipments from Burrard Inlet through the Salish Sea from 69 tankers in 2010 to 300 tankers by 2017. Trust Council also authorized the Trust Council Chair to speak to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project Joint Review Panel to outline the Islands Trust Council's past shipping safety advocacy actions and outcomes.

During the meeting, San Juan County Council members from Washington State, attending as part of an annual trans-boundary liaison session between the two Salish Sea island governments, presented concerns about the cumulative risks posed by increasing vessel traffic. Current proposals that could lead to increases in vessel traffic in the region include the expansion of the Port of Metro Vancouver as part of the federal/provincial Asia-Pacific Gateway initiatives, the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal coal export facility at Cherry Point south of the BP refinery in Washington State, and the Kinder Morgan Canada pipeline twinning proposal which terminates at a dock in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

The Islands Trust Council is a federation of local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

- 30 -

CONTACT

Linda Adams
Chief Administrative Officer
cell. 250.882.0555

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council
250.247.8078 cell. 250.713.1957

NOTES:

- Details of Islands Trust's past shipping safety and oil spill advocacy actions are available at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/poi/marine.cfm> (click on marine shipping safety).
- A full description of the human and marine environments of the southern Salish Sea is on pages 233-243 of [*The Stakeholder Workgroup Review of Planning and Response Capabilities for a Marine Oil Spill on the U.S./Canadian Transboundary Areas of the Pacific Coast Project Report*](#), sponsored by the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, April 2011.
- Map of the Islands Trust Area is available in JPG format at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/pdf/IslandsTrustArea.jpg>

