



News Release

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Islands Trust Council Adopts Strategic Plan

VICTORIA — Following public consultation earlier this year, the Islands Trust Council has now adopted a strategic plan for the 2011-2014 term of office. In addition to a traditional focus on protecting the natural environment, resource stewardship, and continual improvements to the organization, the adopted plan places a new focus on the importance of community economic sustainability and security, and relationships with First Nations. A copy of the adopted plan is available on the Islands Trust website at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/strategicplan>.

Trust Council initially identified a 'long list' of ten potential objectives, prior to seeking public advice about priorities in July and August. Public input included over 1300 website visits; with about 150 people from 12 islands and throughout BC completing a survey, making comments or sending letters and e-mails.

"We really appreciate the time islanders put into this process and the many thoughtful comments we received," said Sheila Malcolmson, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. "Trustees carefully reviewed all the submissions and took them into account as our strategic plan took shape at our September meeting. As always, we can accomplish more if we focus our work on a few objectives and we were glad to hear which ones mattered most to the islanders who wrote to us."

The six objectives included in Trust Council's adopted plan are based on the three primary goals in the Islands Trust Policy Statement: 1) ecosystem preservation and protection; 2) stewardship of island resources; 3) sustain island character and healthy communities; and the overarching goal 4) to do this work in cooperation with others.

The six objectives included in the plan (in no particular order of priority) are:

- Protect the natural environment of islands
- Protect coastal and marine ecosystems
- Protect the quality and quantity of water resources
- Enhance community economic sustainability and security
- Strengthen relations with First Nations
- Improve organizational cost and operational effectiveness

The adopted strategic plan will provide a focus for work programs throughout the Islands Trust and will form a basis for budget preparations for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

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.

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Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

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