



News Release

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ISLANDS TRUST OFFERED FUNDS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF POLICY STATEMENT

VICTORIA — The Islands Trust has been offered up to \$250,000 from Canada's Gas Tax Fund to undertake a public review of its [Policy Statement](#), a document which lays the foundation for all the principles, decisions and policies for preserving and protecting the unique amenities and environment of the Islands Trust Area.

"We are delighted with the offer but Trust Council needs to decide at its next quarterly meeting whether to accept the funding and proceed with the review project," said Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer of the Islands Trust. "This would be a substantial undertaking requiring significant commitment from trustees, staff and islanders. The process would involve extensive community consultation and is expected to take up to three years to complete."

Adams added that staff will present a range of costs and ways of doing the review for Trust Council's consideration at its March 6-8 meeting on Gabriola Island, in concert with its deliberations on the 2012-2013 budget.

The [Policy Statement](#) was adopted in 1994 and there have been few changes since then. It spells out policies under three main goals: environmental protection, resource stewardship and sustainable communities. Bylaws adopted by local trust committees and island municipalities must be consistent with the Policy Statement.

"Since the [Policy Statement](#) was adopted, communities have changed, new issues and challenges have emerged and a review of the Policy Statement is overdue," said Sheila Malcolmson, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. "The previous Trust Council applied for the funding to help with the high cost of going to every local trust area to hear from today's islanders about what it means to "preserve and protect." We knew when we applied for the funding that it was up to the new Trust Council to decide whether to proceed."

Canada's Gas Tax Fund supports a range of local infrastructure priorities, including projects that help communities develop Integrated Community Sustainability Plans. The Islands Trust is among 22 local and regional governments in British Columbia awarded Gas Tax funding for strategic planning projects.

The Islands Trust is a federation of local government bodies representing some 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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See attached press release and backgrounder from the Government of Canada



Canada's Gas Tax Fund Provides Boost to BC Communities

January 26, 2012

Victoria, British Columbia – Over \$3.7 million from Canada's Gas Tax Fund will be provided to 22 communities throughout British Columbia to support long-term infrastructure planning.

"Our Government is proud to deliver permanent annual infrastructure funding for municipalities through Canada's Gas Tax Fund," said the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. "Investing in local infrastructure creates local jobs and economic growth, and the Gas Tax Fund delivers stable, predictable funding that provides communities with flexibility to choose their own infrastructure priorities. By providing greater certainty for long-term planning and local infrastructure renewal, the Gas Tax Fund is helping to strengthen communities across British Columbia and lay the foundation for a bright and prosperous future in Canada."

The projects supported through this funding will address a broad range of strategic priorities, including growth management, community energy planning, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Local governments across B.C. have a strong foundation in planning, and this component of the Gas Tax Fund provides the opportunity to advance sustainability as it pertains to environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions," said Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

Canada's Gas Tax Fund provides stable, long-term funding to local governments and other organizations to help them build and revitalize public infrastructure. This Infrastructure Canada program primarily supports capital projects such as local roads, public transit, energy systems and waste management infrastructure that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) administers the Gas Tax Fund in BC in collaboration with Canada and British Columbia. On December 15, 2011, the Government of Canada passed legislation to make the Gas Tax Fund a permanent annual investment of \$2 billion.

"There have been significant advancements to sustainable planning practices in recent years," said Heath Slee, President of UBCM. "The Gas Tax Fund is helping communities to take advantage of these improved tools as they design the communities in which we live."

A list of recipient communities and funding amounts is provided in the attached background.

For further information on the Government of Canada's infrastructure investments in British Columbia, visit www.infrastructure.gc.ca. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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Backgrounder

Canada's Gas Tax Fund supports a range of local infrastructure priorities, including projects that help communities develop Integrated Community Sustainability (ICS) Plans. Based on local needs, these strategic projects help communities build long-term plans to manage local infrastructure renewal and achieve positive environmental results.

The following communities in British Columbia will use funding from the Gas Tax Fund for strategic planning projects:

Local Government	\$ Amount
Abbotsford	125,000
Campbell River	200,000
Central Okanagan	405,000
Chilliwack	22,500
Clearwater, District of	140,000
Columbia Shuswap RD	50,000
Enderby	180,000
Fernie	125,000
Fort St. John	185,000
Islands Trust	250,000
Kelowna	428,000
Ladysmith	130,000
Lake Country	250,000
Lumby	94,000
Okanagan-Similkameen RD	500,000
Peachland	36,000
Pemberton	30,000
Qualicum Beach	30,000
Quesnel	100,000
Radium Hot Springs	166,000
Revelstoke	100,000
Sun Peaks	159,800
TOTAL	3,706,300