



# 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

January 24, 2014

2014-02-IT

## Islands Trust Seeks Input on Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

VICTORIA — The Islands Trust is seeking public input on its proposed budget for 2014-2015. The Financial Planning Committee is currently recommending that the Islands Trust Council adopt a budget of \$7.1 million for 2014-2015. There is no tax increase associated with this budget except for the special requisition for Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area taxpayers requested by the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee for watershed management.

“We have worked hard to hold the line on taxes,” said Sheila Malcolmson, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “At the same time we are trying to respond to our constituents’ requests to address issues that are important to islanders. We want to know what people think of this year’s budget proposal, and whether we have found the right balance.”

The proposed budget includes an increase of \$165,426 in expenditures, which includes the cost of the 2014 local government election. The proposed budget will also enable the Islands Trust to maintain its core functions and continue its work on the following strategic priorities:

- Compliance with provincial requirements under the *Riparian Areas Regulation*. This provincial regulation requires local governments to ensure that potential fish habitat within their jurisdiction is protected to specific standards. Funding to continue the work to bring the Islands Trust Area into compliance includes public consultation to develop necessary bylaws and mapping streams where the regulation would apply.
- A modest increase in planning staff hours to benefit service delivery for Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, Saturna and South Pender work programs.
- Continuation of the Trust Fund Board eelgrass bed mapping project.
- Continuation of the Grants Manager position but with service reduced from three days to two per week.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is requesting a Special Property Tax Requisition of \$110,000 (in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area **only**) for coordination of watershed management on Salt Spring Island. The funds are being requested to support management of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority (SSIWPA), and enable a coordinated, inter-jurisdictional response to the protection and management of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island. If approved, the amount requested will result in a tax of \$3.38 per \$100,000 of assessed property value in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area. [Click here](#) for more information, questions, or to give your input on the SSIWPA requisition.

“Before proposing this budget, Trust Council’s Financial Planning Committee carefully considered the options for providing the many projects islanders asked for as well as meeting mandatory legal obligations as a local government,” Malcolmson added. “The proposed budget represents many hours of discussion, debate and difficult decisions. Now we need to hear from islanders.”

Budget details are available from the Islands Trust website [here](#) or directly from the following Islands Trust offices:

1-500 Lower Ganges Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
Phone: 250.537.9144

700 North Road  
Gabriola Island, BC  
250.247.2063

200-1627 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC  
250.405.5151

The Islands Trust welcomes comments from the public on the proposed budget.

- More -

---

Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

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

---

### Deadlines

<b>NOON Tuesday, February 11</b>	The Financial Planning Committee will consider your submission as part of its budget recommendation to Trust Council and include it in the public Trust Council meeting package which is posted to the website.
<b>NOON Thursday, February 13</b>	Your submission will be in the public Trust Council meeting agenda package which is posted to the website. (Your submission will not be considered by the Financial Planning Committee).
<b>NOON Friday, February 28</b>	Your submission will be delivered to Trust Council on March 4. (Your submission will not be posted on our website as part of the agenda package.)

The Islands Trust Council will make a final budget decision at its March 4-6, 2014 meeting on Hornby Island.

Please send comments to: Islands Trust Council, Attention: Treasurer at #200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8; by fax: 250.405.5155 or by e-mail to: [budget2014@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:budget2014@islandstrust.bc.ca).

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 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.

### CONTACT

Sheila Malcolmson  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
250.247.8078

Cindy Shelest  
Director Administrative Services  
250.405.5150 Cell 250 896.1882