



Trust Council Chair Statement

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Islands Trust Council Chair Responds to Salt Spring Island Studies

VICTORIA - Peter Luckham, Chair of Islands Trust Council made the following statement regarding the Minister of Community, Sports and Cultural Development's [announcement of funding](#) towards an incorporation study for Salt Spring Island. Not mentioned in the announcement was the completion of an earlier report about how Salt Spring Island's possible incorporation could affect the Islands Trust.

"The Islands Trust Council respects the Salt Spring Island community's autonomy and efforts to review its governance structure within the Islands Trust. We appreciate the Minister's commitment to giving Salt Spring islanders the information they need to make a decision about governance.

"We appreciate the Ministry's sponsorship of the independent Islands Trust Impact Analysis (ITIA) report. The Islands Trust Impact Analysis equips Trust Council with the objective information we need to successfully adapt to changes that may arise from Salt Spring Island's review of its governance options.

"The Islands Trust Impact Analysis offers a range of options for the Islands Trust Council to consider as Salt Spring Island's path becomes clear. If the community of Salt Spring Island decides to incorporate as a municipality, Islands Trust would need to focus on maintaining fiscal stability while adapting as an organization. For example, we could keep property taxes low and reduce service levels, increase taxes and maintain service levels or find a balance between the two options. Either way, our priority is to uphold democratic principles and adapt as an organization, while continuing to uphold our provincial mandate to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents of the trust area and of the province generally."

The ITIA report and related information is available on the Islands Trust website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ssistudy.

Salt Spring Island community members can get more information from their local trustees and the CRD Electoral Area representative, who will be forming a community-based committee to manage the project.

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. 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
