



News Release

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January 22, 2016

2016-02-IT

ISLANDS TRUST WELCOMES COMMENTS ON ITS 2016-2017 BUDGET PROPOSAL

VICTORIA - The Islands Trust Council wants to hear from the public about its \$7.2 million proposed budget for 2016-2017. There is no increase from last year in the tax requisition associated with the proposed budget, except for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area and Bowen Island Municipality.

“The proposed budget supports the Islands Trust in working to fulfil its mandate to preserve the communities, culture and the environment in the islands within the Salish Sea,” said Peter Luckham, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “The budget process is an opportunity for taxpayers to let us know how we are doing at carrying out our collective vision for the islands we care about.”

While the Trust Council is proposing the same tax requisition as last year, it also proposes an increase of \$26,230 in expenses over 2015-2016. That increase will enable the Islands Trust to maintain its core functions. The budget proposal also includes a number of projects identified in the Trust Council's 2014-2018 [Strategic Plan](#).

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has again requested a Special Property Tax Requisition of \$110,000 to continue co-ordination of watershed management on the island. It will only be collected within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area. More information about the Salt Spring Island tax requisition is available on the Islands Trust [website](#).

As members of the Islands Trust, Bowen Island municipality taxpayers contribute a proportionate share of the cost of operations of the Trust Council and the Trust Fund Board as defined by the provincial *Islands Trust Act*. If the proposed budget is approved, property owners within the Bowen Island Municipality would contribute nearly \$234,000, an increase of about \$20,000 over what they contributed in 2015. Bowen Island's contribution is determined by a provincially legislated formula that compares property assessments throughout the Islands Trust area.

Public comments received by February 17th will go to the Islands Trust Council's Financial Planning Committee (FPC). The FPC will consider all feedback received by the deadline and make its budget recommendation to the Trust Council, who will also receive all the feedback and approve the final budget at its quarterly meeting March 22-24, 2016 on Hornby Island.

This year the Islands Trust is offering a short online survey as well as traditional contact methods. The budget proposal and link to the survey are available at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/budget. Comments can also be emailed to budget@islandstrust.bc.ca; mailed to #200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8 or faxed to: 250.405.5155.

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 5,200 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
