



News Release

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Islands Trust Council Approves 2016-2017 Budget

Hornby Island - The Islands Trust Council approved a budget of \$7.2 million for 2016-2017 at its March 23rd meeting on Hornby Island. The approved budget includes creating a temporary intergovernmental policy advisor position to focus on protecting the marine environment and build relationships with First Nations. Details of the approved budget are available on the Islands Trust [website](#).

"We are happy to be able to maintain our core functions while increasing our capacity to protect marine areas and improving our ability to engage with First Nations," said Peter Luckham, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. "Recent consultation with the islanders we serve confirmed the importance of protecting marine areas – a goal we share with First Nations."

Luckham continued that, "after hearing from the public, meeting with trustees and receiving staff advice, we are pleased to announce the creation of a new temporary position for a senior intergovernmental policy advisor. The new position will provide expertise for our work with First Nations, federal and provincial governments to protect archaeological sites, shorelines and marine areas within the Islands Trust Area. In 2017, we will evaluate the results before determining our continued need for support in this area."

The approved budget includes an increase of \$102,563 in expenses over 2015-2016, which will be entirely covered by taxation on new development. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will receive a third Special Property Tax Requisition of \$110,500 to continue co-ordination of watershed management on the island. More information about the Salt Spring Island tax requisition is available on the Islands Trust [website](#). Property owners within the Bowen Island Municipality will contribute nearly \$223,000, an increase of about \$9,000 over last year. As residents within the Islands Trust Area, Bowen Island taxpayers contribute a proportionate share of the operating costs of Trust Council and the Trust Fund Board as defined by the provincial *Islands Trust Act* and by a provincially legislated formula based on property assessments.

The Islands Trust Council is a federation of 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 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 islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

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