



News Release

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Islands Trust Council Approves Transition Plan for Potential Incorporation of Salt Spring Island

Victoria – At its September 14th meeting, the Islands Trust Council approved a plan for how the Islands Trust would adapt in the first six months after a possible “Yes” vote to incorporate Salt Spring Island. The [Transition Plan](#) addresses questions that Salt Spring Island and Trust Area residents have been asking about how the Islands Trust would adapt to an estimated annual budget shortfall of \$540,000 in the event Salt Spring Island incorporates.

Peter Luckham, Chair of the Islands Trust Council said: “the Transition Plan will help Trust Council prepare for and define the future of the Islands Trust in the event of a Salt Spring Island incorporation. We also hope the Transition Plan will help Salt Spring Island voters understand and consider the impacts of their vote on the organization’s function and services.”

The current municipal incorporation process began in 2012 when Salt Spring Island’s elected officials requested a second governance study from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (MCSCD). In April 2015, MCSCD announced funding to support a community-led incorporation study of the financial, governance and service implications of municipal incorporation.

“Salt Spring Island is a major contributor to both the population and tax base of the Trust Area, and its potential incorporation will significantly affect Islands Trust operations,” said Islands Trust Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hotsenpiller. “The Transition Plan prepares us for the long-term implications of incorporation. It also demonstrates that Islands Trust is a resilient organization that will continue to explore creative ways to deliver its important mandate.”

The Islands Trust has referred the Transition Plan to the MCSCD and will request funding from the ministry to help implement the action items identified. The [Incorporation Study Committee](#) is now approaching the November 2016 deadline to present its final report and recommendation to MCSCD.

The Transition Plan is available at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ssitransition and email comments are welcome to transition@islandstrust.bc.ca.

The Islands Trust 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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