



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

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December Islands Trust Council Program Announced

VICTORIA - The Islands Trust Council will hold its next quarterly business meeting December 6-8, 2016 on Salt Spring Island at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Road, and invites members of the public to participate and observe.

Trust Council invites members of the public to participate in a town hall session, a regular forum to promote dialogue between islanders and trustees, between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7. The public is invited to speak to Council and make suggestions about its work.

Persons or organizations wishing to reserve time to make a formal delegation to Islands Trust Council must send their request in writing at least three (3) weeks prior to the Trust Council meeting. Trust Council practice is to allow 10 minutes per delegate. All requests must include the topic you wish to address, the speaker's name and contact information. Please send this to Jas Chonk (email: jchonk@islandstrust.bc.ca; fax: 250.405.5155) by Wednesday, November 16. Guidelines for presentations to Council can be viewed at <http://islandstrust.bc.ca/talktocouncil>. Presentation materials must be received either by email or other electronic means in advance of the meeting to ensure that the appropriate technology is in place to facilitate a successful presentation to Council. Microsoft PowerPoint or PDF slideshows are the preferred format; late presentations brought directly to the meeting cannot be accommodated.

The quarterly business meeting starts Tuesday, December 6 at 1:45 p.m. and is expected to finish by 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 8. The meeting agenda package will be posted on the Islands Trust website calendar by November 28. The full three-day "program" will be posted to the [Council meeting page](#) when finalized.

Trust Council Sessions are anticipated to include:

Regular Agenda Items – Trust Council fulfils its core decision-making function during these sessions through consideration and deliberation of Islands Trust business. It will review key advocacy and policy positions on a variety of topics, consider progress on strategic priorities and will review recommendations from Local Planning Committee, Trust Programs Committee and Financial Planning Committee regarding proposed work programs for the coming quarter.

2017-2018 Draft Budget Session – On Wednesday, December 7, the Financial Planning Committee will present a draft budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and discuss the budget process and implications for the [Strategic Plan](#). Public consultation about a proposed budget is planned to begin in February 2017, in advance of budget approval at the end of March 2017.

Visioning Follow Up Session – At its September meeting in Sidney, Trust Council engaged in a visioning session to discuss key issues and identify priorities for the future. At the follow up session in December trustees will review the material that was generated, including a graphic illustration of the visioning process, and discuss how the ideas raised relate to the Strategic Plan and the Policy Statement amendment process.

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First Nations Legal Seminar – Trust Council will review and discuss recent important legal decisions that relate to Aboriginal rights and title, the obligations and practices of consultation and opportunities for reconciliation with Islands Trust Area First Nations communities.

Trustee Roundtable – The informal Trustee Roundtable is an opportunity for trustees to exchange ideas about common island topics.

Delegations and Town Hall – From 2 – 3 p.m., on Wednesday, December 7, Trust Council will invite members of the public to present their federation-wide concerns to trustees. The public is invited to ask questions and make suggestions about the work of Islands Trust Council.

Closed Sessions – In closed sessions, trustees will review and consider various matters related to litigation and personnel.

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, co-operation 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 5,200 square kilometres.

The 26-member Council makes decisions about overall policy and financial management for the Islands Trust and has broad responsibilities to uphold the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect the islands. Islands Trust Council does not make local land use decisions, which are the responsibility of the local trustees within their respective local trust areas.

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Contact:	Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council	250.210.2553
	Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer	250.405.5160