



Islands Trust

Proposed Budget 2018–2019



The Islands Trust is a unique federation of local governments serving islands in the Salish Sea. We are responsible for preserving and protecting the islands' unique amenities and environment.

We are pleased to present highlights from the Islands Trust Council's proposed 2018–2019 budget.

As a stakeholder in the Trust, we're interested in your feedback on the proposed budget, and invite you to respond before **February 12, 2018**.

For details and a link to our survey, visit islandstrust.bc.ca/budget.

What happens to your feedback

Your feedback will be provided to the Islands Trust's Financial Planning Committee which will consider your input when developing budget recommendations to the Islands Trust Council. Trust Council will approve the final budget at its quarterly meeting, March 13–15, 2018 on Salt Spring Island.

How you can give feedback

 **By completing a short survey via**
islandstrust.bc.ca/budget

 **By email**
budget@islandstrust.bc.ca

 **By mail**
200–1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

 **In person** at the
Islands Trust Council's
March 13–15 meeting on
Salt Spring Island
See our website for details

Please note: Proposed budget numbers in this document are subject to change before final approval by Trust Council in March 2018.

All feedback is considered public and will be included in public documents (subject to *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy* legislation) and posted to the website.

Please note that this consultation is for feedback related specifically to the proposed 2018–2019 budget. If you would like to give feedback related to the work of the Islands Trust or the Islands Trust Fund, please visit: islandstrust.bc.ca/connect/share-your-ideas/ or islandstrustfund.bc.ca/contact-us.aspx

Thank you

Highlights of the 2018–2019 budget proposal:

- A 2% increase in revenue from property taxes, except from Bowen Island Municipality (see below)
- A \$7.86 million operating budget (more details on the operating budget [available online](#))
- Maintain or improve service levels from 2017–2018
- A proposed 1.3% increase in expenses (\$100,000) over 2017–2018 budget
- Continue to develop projects the Islands Trust Council identified in its 2014–2018 Strategic Plan

Annual increases in Islands Trust revenues from property taxes since 2012 (excluding Bowen Island Municipality)

2012	0%	2015	0%
2013	1.3%	2016	0%
2014	0%	2017	0%

The Islands Trust Council has a policy that allows it to use its General Revenue Surplus Fund to cover unexpected or significant expenses (such as an election). If Trust Council approves a transfer of \$450,000 from the surplus fund for the 2018–2019 budget, it will leave a balance in the surplus fund of nearly \$2 million. This represents 106% of the recommended minimum level.



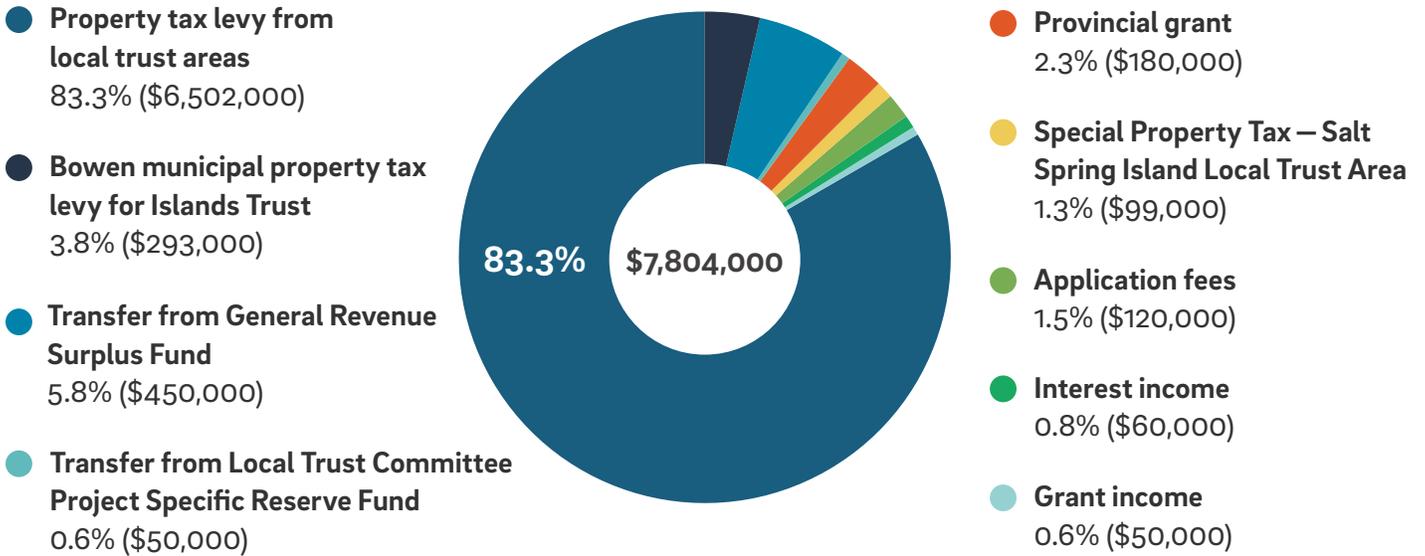
Bowen Island's requisition

Before Bowen Island's incorporation as an island municipality, the province included a formula in the *Islands Trust Act* (sec. 47 (6)) to calculate the amount to be requisitioned from an island municipality for the cost of operations of Trust Council and the Trust Fund Board.

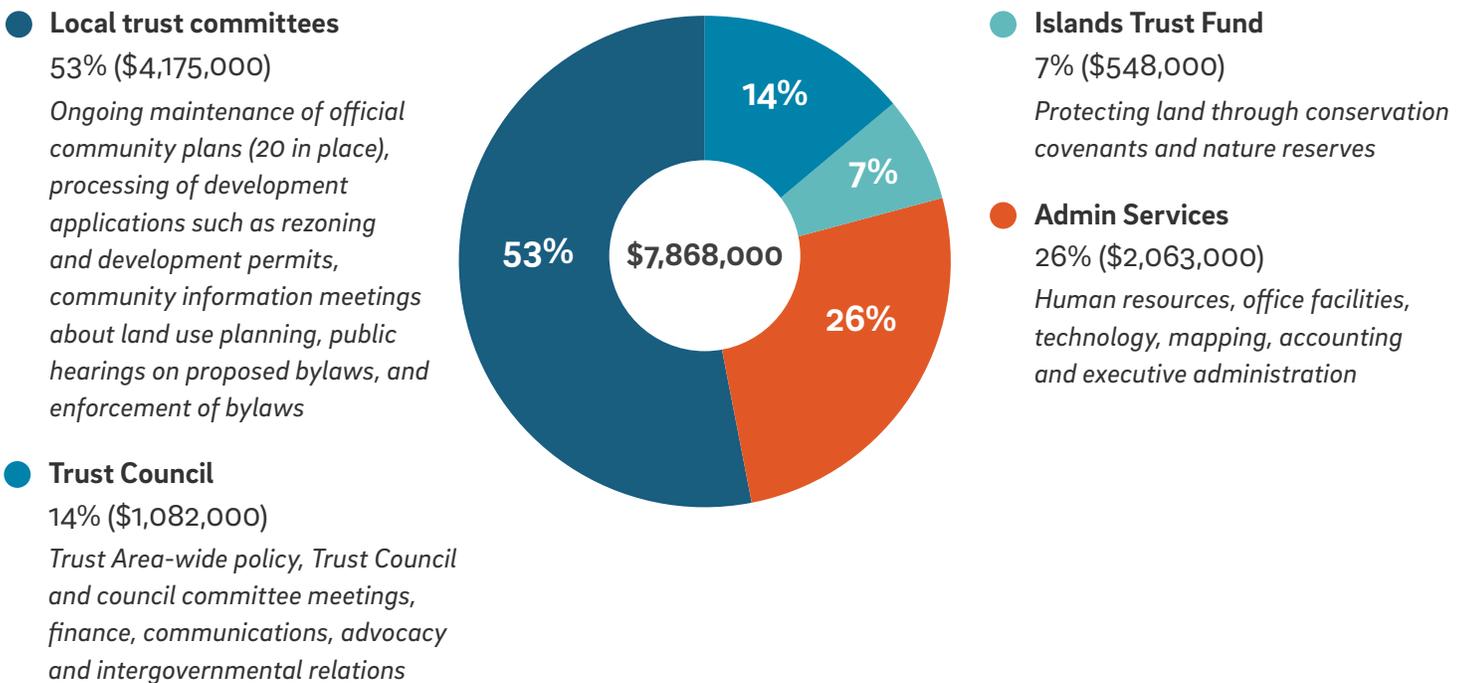
The proposed budget would result in a Bowen Island Municipality tax contribution of \$293,463, an increase of \$50,783 (17.3%).

Bowen Island's contribution this year is primarily affected by proposed funding for a new program coordinator position, and a proposed reduction from last year in the amount Trust Council will withdraw from the surplus fund to cover expenses.

Revenue – where the funding will come from in 2018–2019



Expenses – where your dollars will be spent in 2018–2019



The Islands Trust Council sets priorities and policies, manages finances and provides oversight. Trust Council also provides a unified voice to advocate for the interests of islanders and island ecosystems to other levels of government and industry.

In addition to funding routine operations and non-discretionary cost increases due to inflation and wage increases negotiated under the BCGEU collective agreement, the proposed 2018-2019 budget will support important activities such as:

- Local government elections administration (non-discretionary): \$130,000
- MS Office systems upgrade: \$43,000
- Victoria office renovations \$100,000
- Laptops for trustees: \$30,000



In September 2015, following an extensive review and public input process, the Islands Trust Council adopted its Strategic Plan for 2014–2018.

Proposed Strategic Plan projects for 2018–2019	Funding
Update sections of the Islands Trust Policy Statement through engagement with First Nations, communities, and other levels of government	\$35,000
Continued focus on First Nations Engagement strategies	\$85,000
Research and advocacy on various topics, including inter-island transportation	\$25,000
Land use planning toolkit for protecting Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems	\$25,000
Participation in the Coast Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference	\$14,000
Islands Trust Fund Management Plans	\$30,000
Completion of Records Classification Project – electronic documents management	\$14,000
Total cost of proposed Strategic Plan projects	\$228,000

The proposed budget also includes funding for a new program coordinator position that will enable continued advancement of work on significant advocacy, intergovernmental and communication initiatives, as well as continued funding for a temporary freshwater specialist position.

The Islands Trust will continue to support local trust committee initiatives; however, those projects will no longer be identified in advance of the adoption of Trust Council's budget. Initiatives will instead be funded through a Local Trust Committee Projects Specific Reserve Fund that Trust Council will establish for this purpose in 2018–2019. The proposed budget includes \$50,000 for contribution to this fund.