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File No.: 4800-50

Via Email:

BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin) First Nation
Cowichan Tribes
Halalt First Nation
Homalco First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
K'ómoks First Nation
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lekwungen (Songhees) Nation
Lyackson First Nation
MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation
shísháłh First Nation

Snuneymuxw First Nation
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
SÁÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation
Stz'uminus First Nation
SXIMEŁEŁ (Esquimalt) Nation
Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tseil-Waututh Nation
T'Sou-ke Nation
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation
WJOLEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation
WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation
x^wməθk^wəyəm Musqueam

Re: Islands 2050 Engagement Plan and Islands Trust Policy Statement

The Islands Trust since its formation in 1974 we made missteps along the road to reconciliation and acknowledgement, and we realize that we have many things to learn and consider as we move forward. Over the last few years Islands Trust Council and Islands Trust staff began the foundational work outlined in the Trust and Reconciliation Calls to Action and UNDRIP. On March 13, 2019, Islands Trust Council unanimously passed a Reconciliation Declaration to guide the work of the Islands Trust; as well, on April 3, 2019, all staff attended a Reconciliation workshop to learn about the history of Indigenous peoples and the impacts of oppressive legislation and policies. As we move forward in this important work, we need your help to review and amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Over the next year, staff have been tasked with engaging with First Nations and the community to understand the vision for the future of the islands in the Salish Sea. Islands 2050 is an engagement plan that will help gain insight and understanding about the islands within the Salish Sea. The Salish Sea region has experienced many pressures and changes, many of which have impacted Indigenous cultural heritage, lands and waters. The Islands Trust's mandate is to preserve and protect the Trust Area (map included below) and its unique amenities and environment; however, this mandate was never informed by the First Nations communities that have called this place home since time immemorial.

Some of the important work that we must undertake is to rewrite the Islands Trust Policy Statement pre-amble to ensure that it is reflective of and inclusive of Indigenous peoples' rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embodies the area. We want to ensure that engagement is allowing for collaborative decision-making and relationship building on policies that will have meaning for generations to come.

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The Islands Trust Policy Statement includes policies, commitments, recommendations, and directives related to guiding principles, ecosystem preservation and protection (including forest, marine, freshwater, and coastal areas); along with stewardship of resources (including shorelines, soils, wildlife, vegetation, and freshwater). The Policy Statement also contains policies aimed at supporting sustainable communities, with a focus on cultural and human heritage, recreation, growth and development, along with health and well-being.

Each of these aspects of the Islands Trust Policy Statement underpins the preservation and protection of the Islands Trust Area. The Trust Area extends from the lands and waters of Denman and Hornby Island, across to Lasqueti and the Thormanby Islands, into Howe Sound, and international borders, south of the Southern Gulf Islands. Many residents and the general public are still learning about reconciliation and we feel that educating communities is an important role for the Islands Trust. Working with your Councils or knowledge holders to develop “storyboards” that are reflective of history, culture, and knowledge about the islands is central to meaningful engagement and dialogue for residents of the Islands Trust Area.

In order to develop the Islands 2050 Engagement we would like to request feedback on which of the following engagement processes are appropriate for your First Nation:

Engagement	Description	Objectives
Leadership government-to-government meetings	Leadership from Trust Council and leadership from a First Nation(s) meet to discuss core concerns. Each meeting takes place at a location convenient for the First Nation.	To build relationship and discuss core concerns. To identify if there are other preferred options/methods for engagement with your membership.
Community meetings with membership and leadership	A small to large-scale event where Islands Trust, in partnership with the Nation, provides opportunities for community members to share their core concerns, and their vision for the future.	For Islands Trust to build relationships with staff, leadership, and members of the community, create opportunity to discuss visions for the future and, if appropriate, contribute to the Islands 2050 process.
Face-to-face with staff	Meetings with staff, and/or committees to work on various topics: educational materials, visioning work as part of the Islands 2050 process as well as other core concerns and/or items of interest.	To communicate and engage with Nations in an accessible manner that is appropriate to the situation.
Survey engagement	Use social media to reach community members across the Salish Sea. Invitation to view our background materials and fill in a special survey. May also include printed material distributed through newsletters and on reserve.	To engage a range of First Nations members through online survey.
Meetings with alliances and First Nation associations	Islands Trust co-host an event with First Nation associations/alliances such as First Nations Summit, BC Treaty Commission, and/or Tribal Councils.	If appropriate, engage with them on issues of Islands 2050 and how they imagine the future.
Collaborate with Schools/ Youth Organizations	We connect with schools in community along with organizations that support youth to offer some opportunities for them to be heard and to be able to take action through various means (e.g. art work, writing, etc.).	To connect with youth, to be able to provide them with opportunities to engage in the issues that Islands 2050.

As we move forward in this work the Islands Trust commitment to reconciliation will reflect meaningful engagement that informs policies and processes into the future. Please contact Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor, at lwilcox@islandstrust.bc.ca or myself on how you would like to engage with the Islands Trust on this key work to develop policies and processes together.

Hay ch q'u (thank you)/Chen kwen mantumi (I thank you), HÍSWĶE (thank you),



Russ Hotsenpiller
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cc: Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society
Nanwakolas Council
Naut'sa mawt Tribal
Te'mexw Treaty Association
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website

Attachment: Map of Islands Trust Area

Map of Islands Trust Area

