



## News Release

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### **Public Survey about Updating Islands Trust Policy Statement Open to February 5**

*Lək'wəḡən*, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust Council has released a report on its high-level policy direction for amending the Islands Trust Policy Statement and has launched an online survey to seek public input.

The current Islands Trust Policy Statement – the document that shapes land and marine use planning in the Islands Trust Area – was written in 1994. Much has changed in the past 27 years, from demographics to increasing industrial use of the Salish Sea, to commitments made to reconciliation, and the climate emergency. Trust Council will update the Policy Statement to be current, to be resilient to new challenges, and to be reflective of what we have learned from you.

The Policy Statement is the Islands Trust’s foundational document that sets out how the Islands Trust accomplishes its preserve and protect mandate. The document guides policy decisions about island landscapes and the waters surrounding them. It includes recommendations to other levels of government. Notably, it informs how local official community plans (OCPs) and land use bylaws are created – changes to this document could affect local OCPs.

“In the fall of 2019, we asked members of the public to respond to three questions that would help Trust Council understand people’s values, concerns, and ideas for opportunities to preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area,” said Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “We were pleased to engage more than 1,000 people. The response to that open call for opinions and ideas was carefully reviewed and summarized in the [What We Heard report](#), published in summer 2020. We have also been undertaking a parallel process of engagement with First Nations governments on the Policy Statement for the first time in the history of Islands Trust. Now that we’ve identified our policy directions, we would like to seek additional public input.”

The *Policy Directions* report and the public survey are available at: [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands2050](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands2050). **The survey will remain open from January 18 through February 5.**

Anyone who has questions about the survey or requires assistance is invited to reach out via [islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca) or 250.405.5151.

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The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish

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***Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea***

Bowen, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

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territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by 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 5,200 square kilometres.

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