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Islands Trust actively promotes regional collaboration

Lək̓ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust Council has launched a new program to promote regional cooperation and collaboration in the Islands Trust Area, the region between the British Columbia Mainland and southern Vancouver Island. Through the new program, the Islands Trust is formalizing its commitment to provide administrative support to coordination groups comprised of First Nations, organizations and/or stakeholders that meet to share information and collaborate, or to determine, implement or carry out First Nation, regional district, improvement district, or government of British Columbia policies in the Trust Area.

The Islands Trust is mandated through the provincial Islands Trust Act to “preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.” In response to a desire to more actively promote inter-jurisdictional relationship-building and dialogue, Trust Council has allocated budget and staff time to support the administrative needs of cooperation groups and has adopted a new [Secretariat Services policy](#).

“The Islands Trust Policy Statement, approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, describes that cooperative actions are required of other agencies, organizations, and individuals to ensure that activities in the Trust Area are carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of Trust Area ecosystems and communities,” said Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “With the many challenges facing the region, it has never been more important to help people and governments come together regularly to coordinate their efforts to preserve and protect the Trust Area and to build the relationships needed to address the opportunities of the future.”

Quick Facts

Secretariat services includes professional services such as administrative support, meeting organization, meeting administration, public notices, recording and distribution of meeting notes or minutes, and website hosting and updating.

The Trust Programs Committee has approved secretariat support to the following coordination groups:

2020/21

- \$5,000 plus staff time and resources – Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum
- \$3,800 – to support the Howe Sound (Atl'ka7tsem) Community Forum
- \$3,000 – to start the Southern Gulf Islands Regional Forum
- \$800 – to support the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership

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

2019/20

- \$2,900 – to support the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum
- \$3,000 – to support the Howe Sound (Atl'ka7tsem) Community Forum and related task forces

2018/19

- \$6,000 plus staff time and resources – to start the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum

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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 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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