

April 13, 2023 – for immediate release

2023-04-IT

Islands Trust Receives Provincial Grant to Support Engagement with First Nations

Lək'wəḡən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust will be continuing its work to develop stronger relationships with First Nations in the Islands Trust Area through protocol agreements and regular engagement, supported by a grant from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Province of British Columbia.

"We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs," said Islands Trust Council Chair Peter Luckham. "It is so important that we all work together to preserve and protect the islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea. We welcome this financial boost as we strive to build meaningful relationships and foster opportunities for knowledge-sharing during this new term of office."

The Province of British Columbia has approved a \$150,000 grant to Islands Trust for the general purpose of developing protocol agreements and engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area, to be used over the course of the next five years.

In 2021, the Province of British Columbia amended the Islands Trust Act to include a specific reference to First Nations in the Trust's Object statement to recognize its ongoing relationship and reconciliation efforts with First Nations.

In March 2023, the Islands Trust Council approved a protocol agreement with Snaw-naw-as First Nation and referred it to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for approval. The Islands Trust has existing protocol agreements with Lyackson First Nation and Snuneymuxw First Nation.

The Islands Trust Area is located in the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scəwəθən, səliwətał, SEMYOME, shishálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', SẂÁUTW, Stz'uminus, łəʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, W JOŁŁP, W SIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwa, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəyəm First Nations.

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Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to many Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique amenities and environment through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies. The Islands Trust 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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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
