



News Release

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Islands Trust launches public engagement on draft Policy Statement

Lək'wəḡən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Today, Islands Trust launched a six-month public engagement period to gather community feedback on the Islands Trust draft Policy Statement. This phase of public engagement follows Islands Trust Council’s decision to give the draft Policy Statement first reading at its July 29, 2025 meeting.

Feedback on the draft Policy Statement is being collected through an online survey, with postage-paid paper copies soon to be available at select locations around the Islands Trust Area. The public can also submit comments by email or phone, directly to Islands Trust Council in writing, or by speaking at public input sessions during the September or December 2025 Trust Council meetings. Local trust committees will host local engagement opportunities to help inform their recommendations to Trust Council and members of the public are encouraged to attend a virtual Town Hall on September 10, 2025, to learn more and ask questions.

“The draft Policy Statement reflects input from island communities, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and referral agencies gathered in earlier rounds of engagement,” said Laura Patrick, Chair of Islands Trust Council. “Now we’re asking, *have we got this right?* Trust Council looks forward to hearing from the community in this next phase.”

The Islands 2050 process — a multi-year initiative to update the Policy Statement — marks the first comprehensive review in over 30 years. The Policy Statement sets out the overarching vision, principles, and policies governing land use within the Islands Trust Area and guides how Islands Trust fulfils its preserve and protect mandate. It guides the content of official community plans and regulatory bylaws, and plays a pivotal role in Trust Council's strategic planning.

At the same time as public engagement, Islands Trust will continue to engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies and conduct inter-agency referrals on a government-to-government basis. These discussions will help inform Islands Trust Council’s ongoing consideration of the draft Policy Statement.

Find the online survey and other project information on the Islands 2050 webpage:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>. Stay informed on the process and future public engagement opportunities by signing up for Islands 2050 updates: (<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/>).

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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

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 kilometers.

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