



Executive Committee Addendum

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

Pages

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Executive/Trust Council

9.1.1 AVICC Attendance/Review - Discussion

9.1.2 Rural Islands Economic Partnership Forum April 25-27 - Discussion

9.1.3 Assistant Deputy Minister, T. Faganello re: Islands Trust Grant letter dated March 24, 2023

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9.1.4 Galiano Conservancy Letter of Support Request

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Draft for consideration.



March 24, 2023

Russ Hotsenpiller (*sent via email only*)
Chief Administrative Officer
Islands Trust
200 - 1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

Dear Russ Hotsenpiller:

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to advise you that a grant has been approved in the amount of \$150,000 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. The Ministry's representative for this funding will be Marijke Edmondson, Strategic Advisor, Local Government Division, (778) 698-3227.

In the event that the funding cannot be used in its entirety for the intended purpose, please notify the Ministry as soon as possible. I look forward to receiving within the first year, an overview of the Islands Trust's plans for engagement with First Nations on potential protocols or other agreements about working together, and to receiving an annual summary of progress by March 31st until the funds are fully expended.


Islands Trust agrees to acknowledge the Ministry's assistance on written materials, where appropriate. The following acknowledgement may be used:

"We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs."

We are pleased to support the important work you do and wish you success in building effective and collaborative working relationships with the First Nations in whose territories the Islands Trust operates.

Funds will be electronically deposited into your bank account.

Sincerely,

 Marijke Edmondson
on behalf of

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division

cc: Birgit Schmidt, Director, Operations and Client Relations Unit
Marijke Edmondson, Strategic Advisor
Local Government Division



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April 13, 2023

File No.: 6000-30-10 & 0110-20

Via email to: Galiano Conservancy Association
c/o: chessi.miltner@galianoconservancy.ca

TO: Barb von Sacken & Habitat Acquisition Grant Administrators
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)

Re: Letter of Support for Galiano Conservancy Association's "Mid-Island Protected Areas Network Expansion & Habitat Enhancement Project"

On behalf of Islands Trust Council, I wish to extend our support to the Galiano Conservancy Association's "Mid-Island Protected Areas Network Expansion & Habitat Enhancement Project". The Mid-Island Protected Area Network (MIPAN) is a 320 ha contiguous network of conservation lands that span mid-Galiano Island, from the Strait of Georgia to the Trincomali Channel, and within the treaty and territorial area of Penelakut First Nation and Coast Salish Peoples. The goal of this project is to expand the MIPAN by securing the 46.77 ha Quadra Hill property, as well as to perform restoration treatments and enhanced forest management on disturbed ecosystems. The project outcomes include improved wetland and forest habitat, increased carbon storage and heightened ecosystem connectivity on Galiano Island, which is located in the Islands Trust Area.

Islands Trust is a special purpose government mandated to preserve and protect over 450 islands in the Salish Sea. The Islands Trust Area is located in Coast Salish Territory, within the treaty lands and territories of a number of First Nations. These lands and waters have been the homelands of Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. Islands Trust recognizes the vital role we must all play in preserving and protecting the incredibly rich Indigenous cultural and spiritual heritage of the region. In 1974, the Government of British Columbia enacted the Islands Trust Act in recognition of the unique needs of these biodiverse and ecologically sensitive islands and their vulnerability to development pressures from neighbouring urban centres. Located within the Coastal Douglas-fir and Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zones, the Trust Area is home to an exceptionally high biodiversity of rare and culturally significant species, including over 100 federally-listed and over 300 provincially-listed species at risk.

The Islands Trust Conservancy holds title to a neighbouring 40.5 ha property, the Vanilla Leaf Nature Reserve, that was purchased with help from the Galiano Conservancy in 2013 to create a contiguous corridor of conservation land across Galiano Island. However, the existing corridor is only 160 m wide at its narrowest point. Protecting the Quadra Hill property will remove this bottleneck and expand the protected corridor to over a kilometre wide across much of the island, greatly improving ecosystem connectivity. Much of the Quadra Hill property is part of the same watershed that drains through the adjacent Vanilla Leaf and Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserves. Any logging or development on the Quadra Hill property has the

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

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

potential to negatively impact these existing protected areas. Should Quadra Hill not be protected, and logging activity commences as allowed under current property zoning, ecosystems in neighbouring protected areas are likely to be degraded by runoff, erosion, and fragmentation.

This project is important not only because it will protect and restore the threatened ecosystems found on the Quadra Hill property, ensuring that they continue to store and sequester carbon, but also because of Quadra Hill's strategic location within the MIPAN. Protecting Quadra Hill will help insulate neighbouring protected areas from the spillover impacts of logging.

This project has the potential to have a very positive impact on forests and wetlands across the Mid-Island Protected Area Network of Galiano, helping to ensure these ecosystems continue to act as carbon sinks. The proposed project also supports Islands Trust's goals of establishing networks of protected areas that serve to preserve, protect, and restore local carbon sinks, biodiversity hotspots, species migration corridors, and contiguous forest habitat across the Islands Trust Area.

Islands Trust Council strongly supports the Galiano Conservancy Association's project proposal and urges you to fully fund this project. We look forward to future collaboration with the Galiano Conservancy Association on this and other initiatives that support **habitat conservation and** climate resilience in the Islands Trust Area.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca