



## News Release

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### Islands Trust Announces New Director of Planning Services

*Lək'wəḡən*, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Stefan Cermak as the new Director of Planning Services.

“After a comprehensive, competitive process, I’m delighted to announce that Stefan Cermak will be joining our management team in this key role”, said Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer of the Islands Trust. “Stefan knows the Islands Trust Area well and is respected for his leadership, energy, and a strong personal commitment to sustainable community planning principles. New leadership for our planning unit will be a significant part of the transformation of planning services we are undertaking to uphold our mandate to preserve and protect this special area.”

During his seven years as the Islands Trust’s Regional Planning Manager for Salt Spring Island, Stefan led progress on a number of strategic initiatives including housing, climate change, and sensitive ecosystem protection.

“I am very excited to take on the role of Director of Planning Services. I am passionate about the Islands Trust mandate and I look forward to working with elected officials, First Nations, the public and staff from across the Islands Trust Area to preserve and protect this region,” said Cermak. “Living and working on Salt Spring Island, and travel throughout the Islands Trust Area, has given me insight into the unique needs of the region.”

Stefan will finish up his current position as Manager of Development Services at the Cowichan Valley Regional District and will begin as Director of Planning Services on August 15, 2022.

The Director of Planning Services role became vacant in March 2022 when David Marlor, the former Director of Planning Services moved into the role of Director of Legislative Services.

The Islands Trust is in the process of transforming how it delivers planning services. In 2018, Islands Trust undertook an internal review of application processing and planning service delivery. The results of the review led Islands Trust to reorganize the planning department into teams focused upon proactive long-range planning and applications. In June, Trust Council adopted an amended policy on Best Management Practices for Delivery of Local Planning Services to Local Trust Committees to support better sequencing and budgeting for projects and updates to official community plans and land use bylaws. The Trust is also undertaking a two-year program to review its development application processing approach and replace the in-house property information system with a new system that provides more reporting options and includes an online application portal for the public to make and track their applications.

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#### About Islands Trust

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

**Press Assets:** High resolution images have been made available for download to support this news release. You can [access these assets here](#).

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