

Results of Online Public Survey re DRAFT Islands Trust 2022/23

Proposed Budget Survey

Between January 21 and February 6, 2022, the public were invited to comment on the Islands Trust draft 2022/23 budget through an online anonymous survey.

The survey was completed by 1,256 members of the public and took, on average, 11 minutes to complete with a 64% estimated completion rate.

So that some context is provided, below the full text of the survey has been included alongside the results, which also features the raw data of all responses submitted through the survey process. Where duplicate answers are provided, they were provided in different survey responses.

Survey Introductory Text

We Need Your Input!

Thank you for taking the time to complete our Budget 2022/23 survey. We value your input. Before you start, there are some things you need to know:

All correspondence and survey results on the draft budget are shared with Islands Trust's Financial Planning Committee. Financial Planning Committee considers public input when developing their budget recommendations to Islands Trust Council. Trust Council will also see all correspondence and survey results. If you would like to learn more about Islands Trust and its activities and accomplishments to date, consider reviewing our [Annual Reports](#). Please be advised that the proposed budget numbers are draft only, and are subject to change before final approval by Trust Council at its next quarterly meeting from March 8–10, 2022.

Budget Webinar:

January 27, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

Before you complete the survey you may wish to attend the webinar to hear an overview and ask questions. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance to

budget@islandstrust.bc.ca.

[Please register in advance](#). The webinar will be recorded and will be available on our website after the event.

Please [subscribe for Events and Education updates via our website](#) to get webinar updates.

Survey Closes:

Sunday, February 6th, 11:59 p.m.

Survey logistics:

The estimated time to read and complete the survey is 10 minutes.
Questions with an * at the beginning require an answer.

Anonymous Survey and Personal Information:

When you complete the survey you are anonymous.

Survey results, and any other input we get about Budget 2022/23, may be shared publicly at Islands Trust meetings, on our website, through social media, or in our publications or documents.

Any personal information gathered through this survey is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Enquiries about the collection or use of information in this survey can be directed to the Islands Trust's Legislative Services Manager at 250.405.5188.

The Islands Trust will not collect, use, or disclose personal information using this SurveyMonkey survey. Please be aware, however, that IP addresses are collected by SurveyMonkey itself.

There can be only one survey response per computer. If you share a computer with someone who also wants to respond, please work together on your response, or email your comments to us at budget@islandstrust.bc.ca.

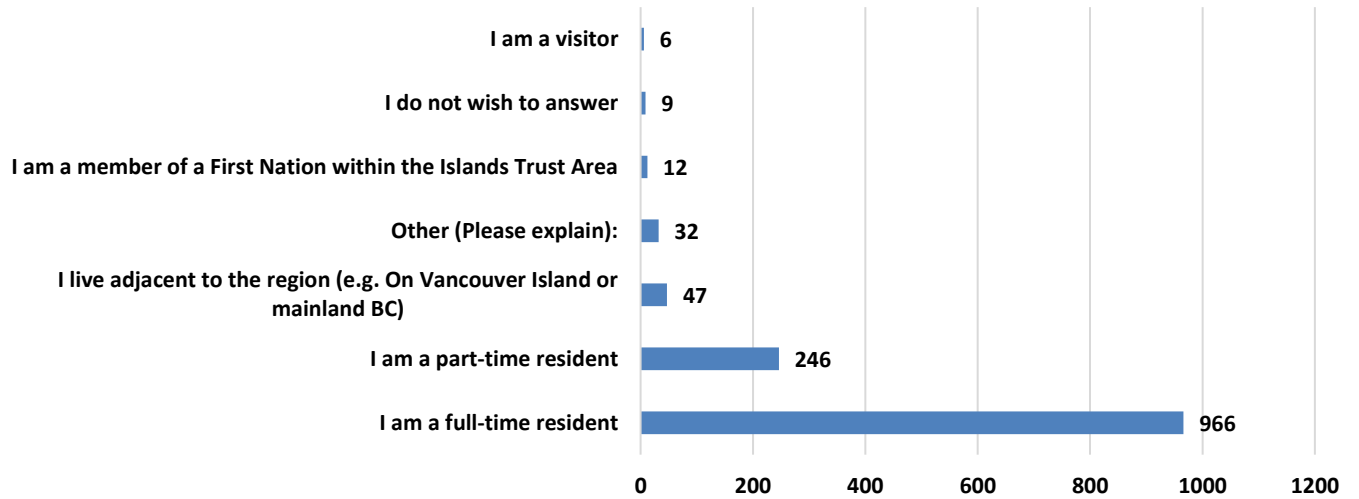
Tell us about yourself

The Islands Trust Area occupies almost 5200 square kilometres within the Salish Sea.

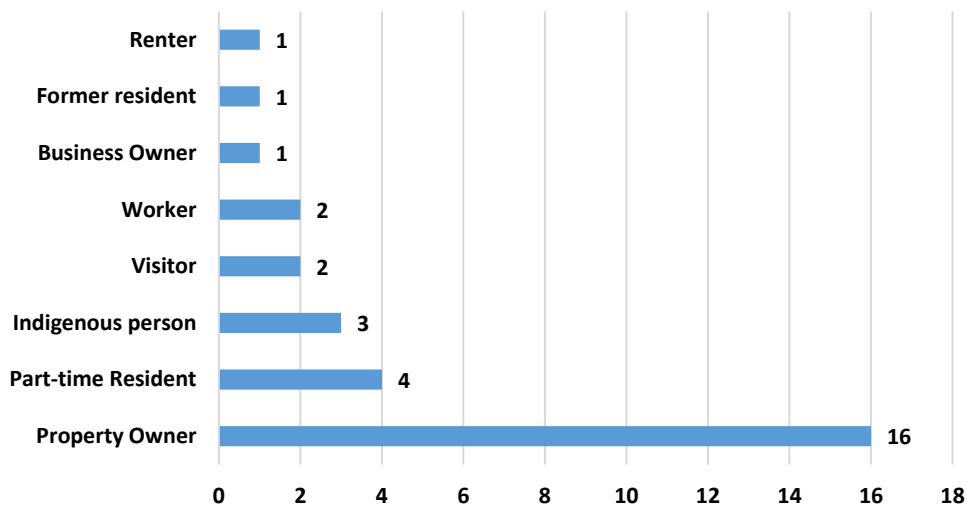
***Question 1: What is your connection to the islands?**

- 1,256 out of 1,256 completed (100%) who participated in the survey completed question 1

What is your connection to the islands? Check as many as apply:



Q1 - Breakdown of participants who chose 'other'

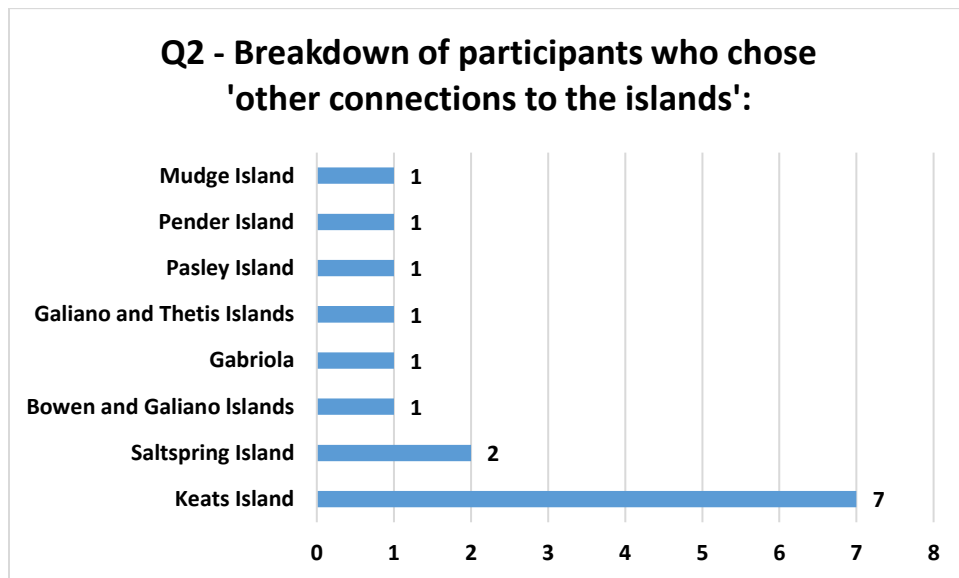
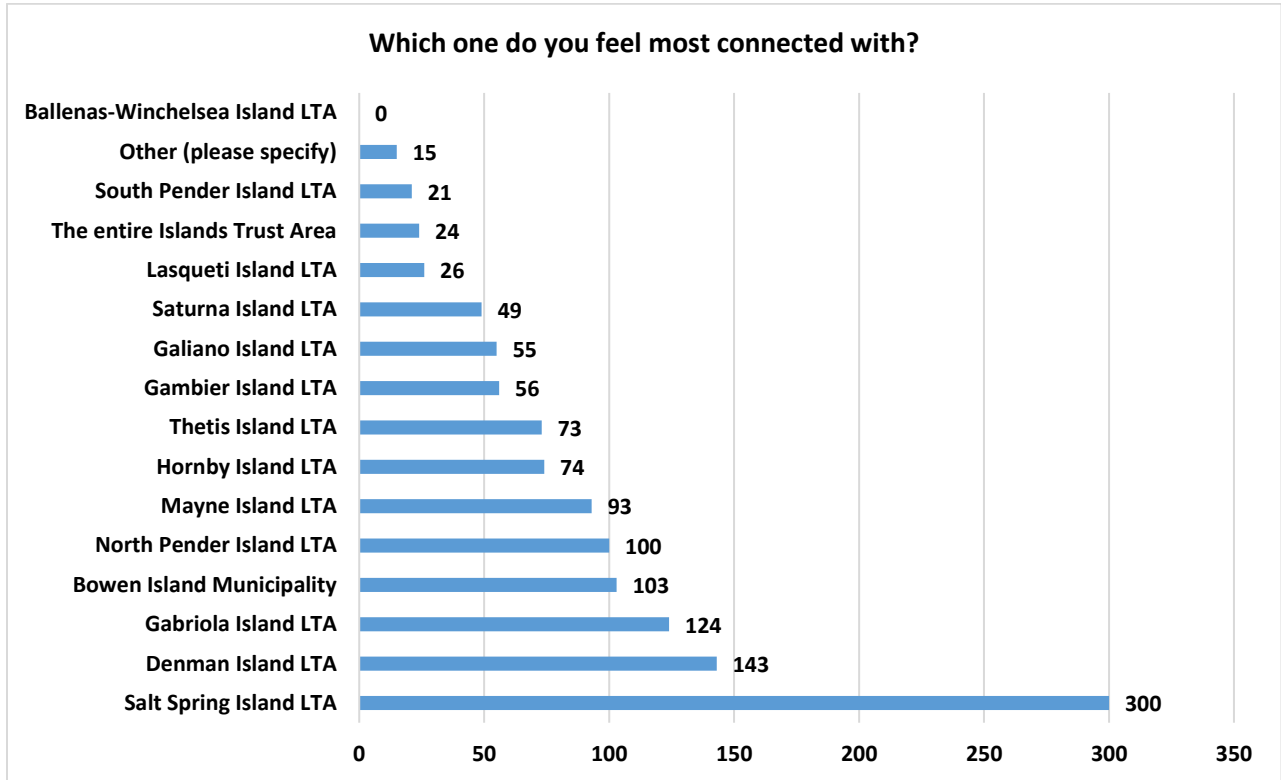




***Question 2: Which local trust area/Bowen Island do you feel most connected with?**

- 1,256 out of 1,256 completed (100%) who participated in the survey completed question 2

The Islands Trust Area is made up of 13 local trust areas (LTA) and Bowen Island Municipality.



Proposed 2022/23 Budget

Islands Trust works to preserve and protect over 450 islands in the Salish Sea and surrounding waters with First Nations, residents, property owners, and all British Columbians. Each year, the Islands Trust Council develops our budget in consultation with the people we serve.

In developing the proposed budget for 2022/23 (\$9.3M, excludes non-cash amortization), Islands Trust Council assumes that Islands Trust will maintain existing service levels and implement the 2018-2022 [Strategic Plan](#). View a breakdown of the draft budget numbers [here](#).

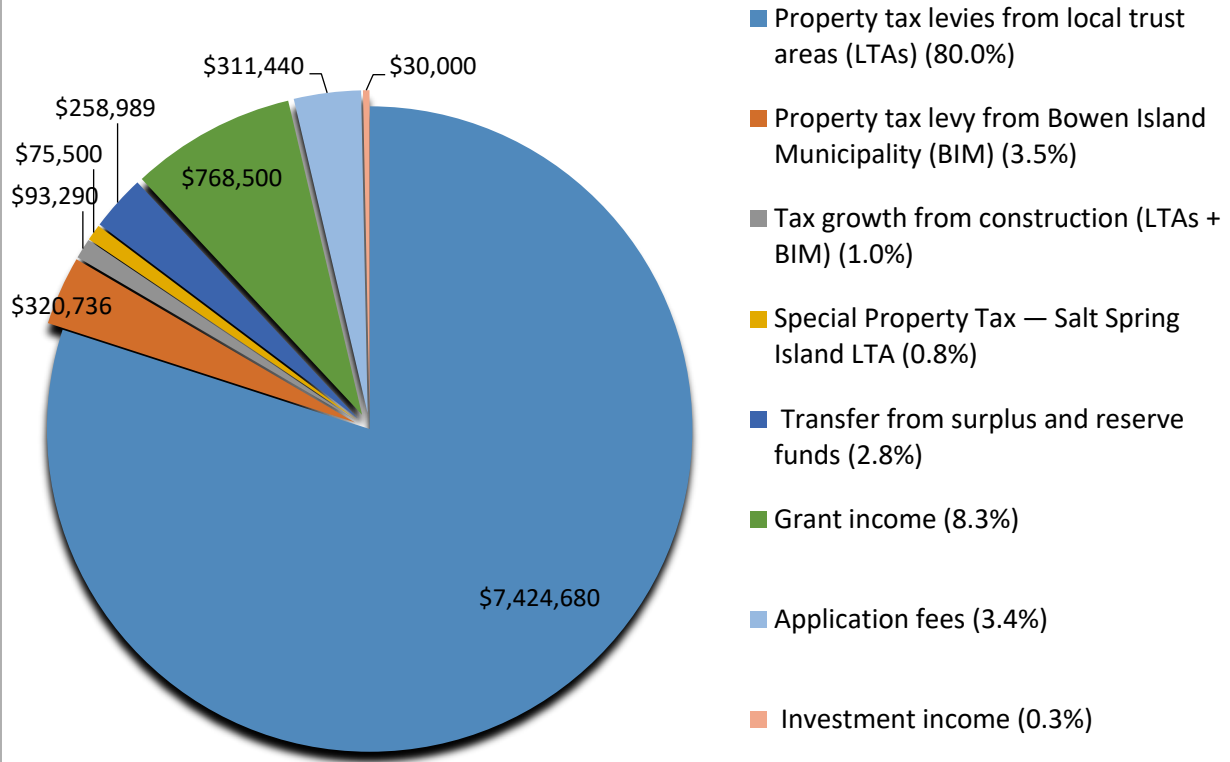
Islands Trust taxes make up only a portion of your total property tax bill. Please look at past annual property tax statements for the specific annual amounts.

Please note that figures in this survey are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Revenue:

- \$7.4M property taxes
 - 6.1% increase (\$435,000)
 - 4.88% increase to the existing local trust area tax base plus an additional 1.25% tax revenue expected from new construction and development in local trust areas
 - \$324,000 Bowen Island Municipal tax levy
 - 4.0% increase (\$12,497)
 - 3.07% increase is to be levied against the existing tax base plus an additional 0.95% tax levy expected from new development and construction in the Municipality
- \$769,000 in grants (increase of \$197,500, 12%)
- \$311,000 in application fees (increase of \$191,000, 160%)
- \$259,000 transfers from Island Trust surplus and reserve funds (reduction of \$399,000, 61%)
- \$75,500 Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area special tax levy (no change)
- \$30,000 in investment and other income (reduction of \$30,000, 50%)

Islands Trust Proposed 2022/23 Revenue Sources



Expenditures:

Islands Trust preserves and protects the Trust Area through: environmentally sound land use planning, land protection through the Islands Trust Conservancy, and working locally and across agencies to collaborate, plan, and advocate on important matters in our jurisdiction. Actual historical spending trends help to inform the proposed budget.

Total value of the proposed 2022/23 budget is \$9,283,000 which pays for operations, projects, and capital purchases (excludes non-cash amortization expense).

The proposed operating budget excluding non-cash amortization expense is \$8,301,000, an increase of 4.1% (\$337,000) from last year. This includes:

- \$5,696,000 (\$143,000 funded from grants) in staff salaries, benefits and training costs (increase of \$132,000, 2%). This includes a proposed new part-time Conservancy fund development position (\$52,000) to work with potential and existing donors and 2.0% staff wage increases per union agreements and the BC Public Service policies.
- \$660,000 in office leases and associated costs and insurance (increase of \$27,000, 4%)
- \$605,000 in trustee remuneration and benefits (increase \$15,000, 2%). [Learn more.](#)
- \$265,000 for legal expenses (no change)
- \$187,000 (\$59,000 funded from grants) for Conservancy property management, conservation planning, land securement and ecosystem mapping (increase of \$12,000, 9%)
- \$192,000 in insurance expense (increase of \$7,000, 4%)
- \$141,000 in elections expenses
- \$100,000 in technical support (increase of \$12,000, 13%)
- \$70,000 (\$3,200 funded from grants) in communications costs (increase of \$21,000, 42%)

The proposed projects budget is \$912,000 (\$375,000 funded from the grants), an increase of 3.4% (\$30,000). There are \$304,000 in proposed local trust committee projects, \$235,000 in Strategic Plan projects, and \$374,000 in proposed operational projects. These are listed lower in the survey.

The proposed capital budget is \$71,000; (increase of \$37,500, 113%), which includes:

- \$ 15,000 to purchase computers for newly elected trustees (not returning trustees)
- \$ 51,000 to replace end-of-life technology, and support hybrid public meetings

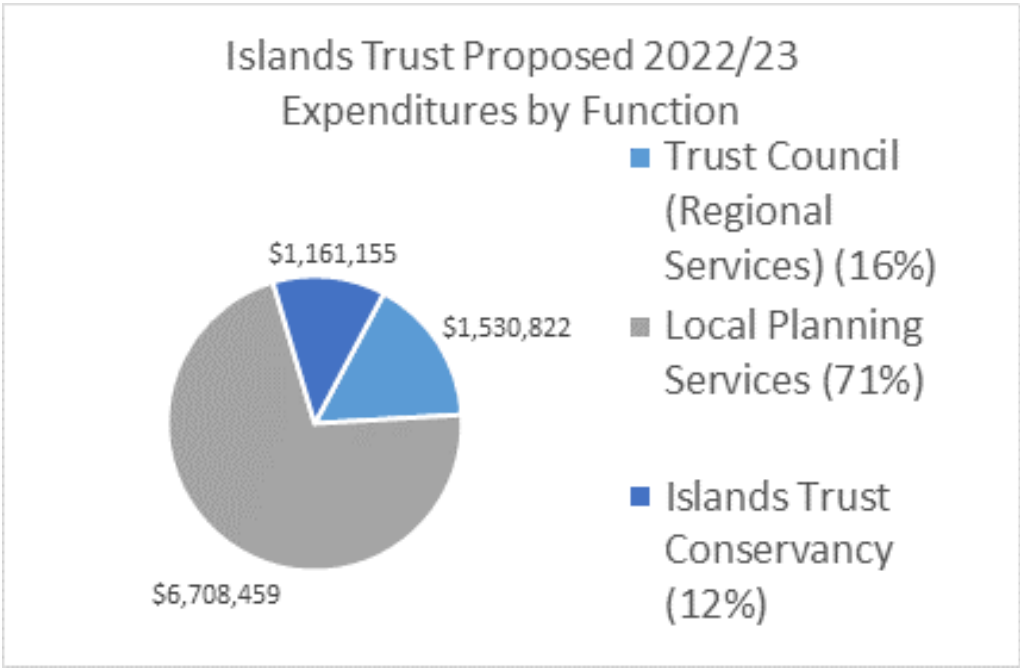
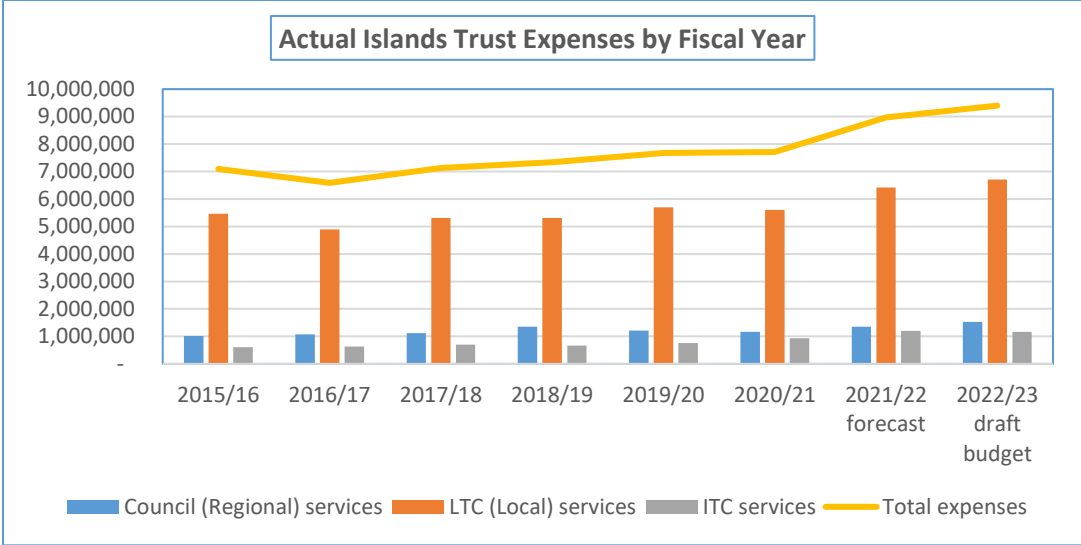
Annual percentage (%) change in property taxes (excludes Bowen Island Municipal levy ¹), approved budget expenditures, and actual expenditures since 2013/14.			
Fiscal Year (April 1 – March 31)	% Property Tax Change (excludes increase due to non-market factors)	Approved Operating & Projects Budget Expenditures²	Actual Expenditures³
2022/2023 (proposed)	4.88%	\$9,401,010	NA
2021/2022	3.26%	\$8,838,101	Year in Progress
2020/21	0%	\$8,096,211	\$7,707,867
2019/20	2%	\$7,753,986	\$7,672,619
2018/19	2%	\$7,658,134	\$7,339,845
2017/18	0%	\$7,667,011	\$7,131,865
2016/17	0%	\$7,260,509	\$6,588,536
2015/16	0%	\$7,134,445	\$7,092,373
2014/15	0%	\$7,054,080	\$6,835,277
2013/14	1.30%	\$6,892,192	\$6,500,914

Property taxes are only one source of Trust revenue. Other revenue sources (grants, application fees, investment income, surplus funds) are not reflected in this table. As such, a direct comparison of expenditure changes versus property tax changes over time cannot be made from this table alone. It serves only to highlight key pieces of information deemed likely to be of greatest interest to the average reader. For more information: [Islands Trust Approved Budget History document](#).

¹ Since 2013/14 Bowen Island Municipal levy has increased from \$225,614 to \$311,188 in 2021/22. The proposed levy for 2022/23 is \$324,692. Bowen Island Municipality contributes to regional programs and Conservancy costs (not land use planning) based on their proportional share of Trust Area property values. Bowen Island taxpayers contribute to regional programs and Conservancy costs to almost the same extent as other island taxpayers.

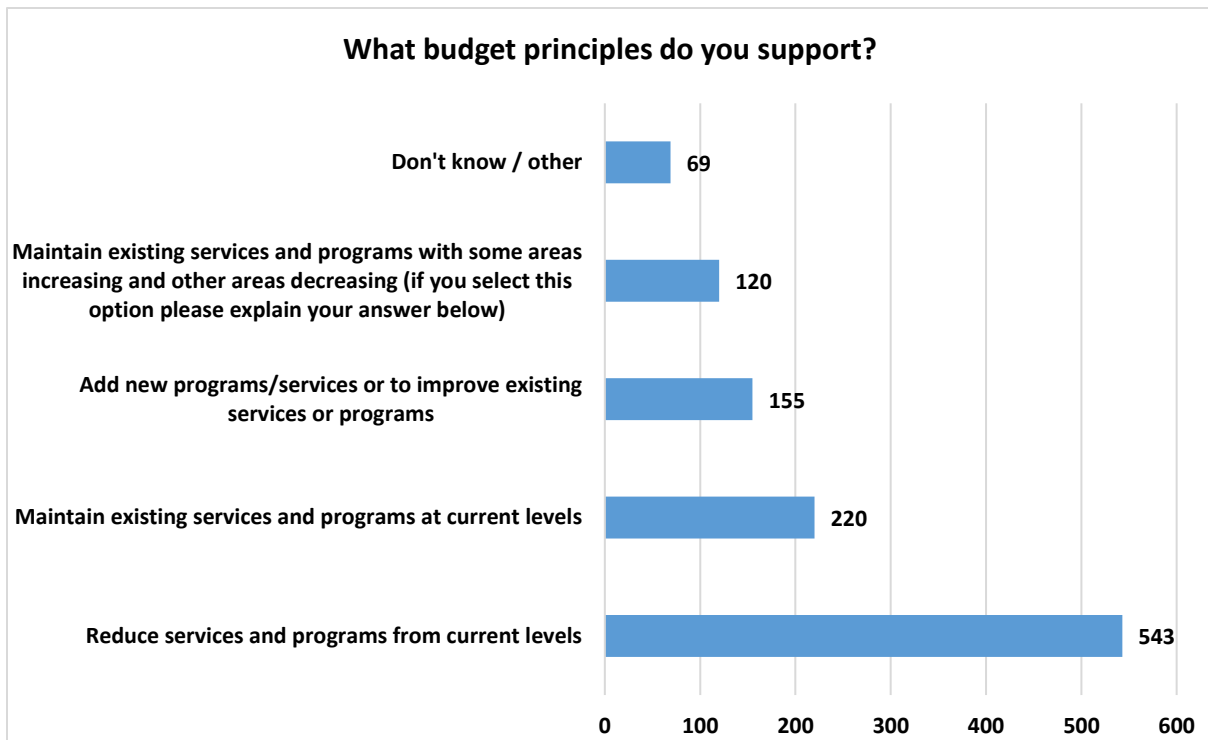
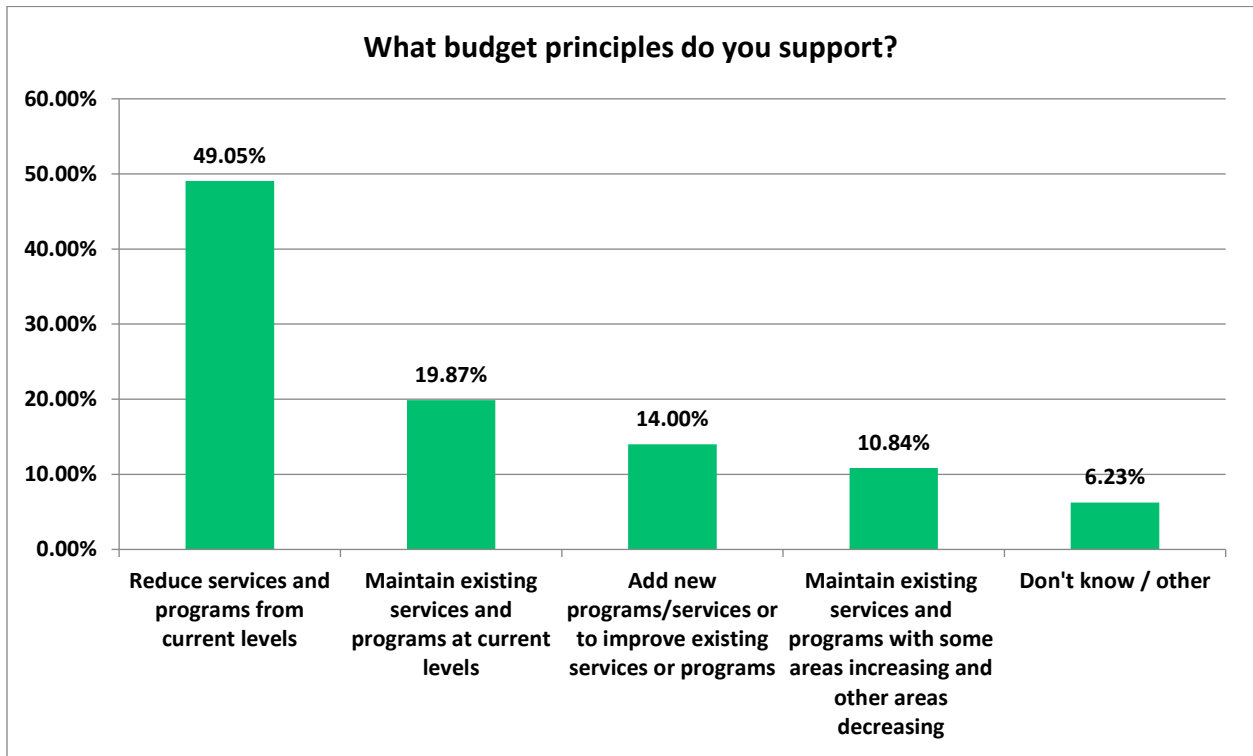
² The operating and projects budget excludes purchases of tangible capital assets and includes amortization expense, which aligns with financial reporting for Actual Expenditures.

³ As reported in the annual audited financial statements



***Question 3: What budget principles do you support?**

- 1,107 out of 1,256 completed (88%) who participated in the survey completed question 3



The following tables show the comments from 562 participants who explained their choices to question 3.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add new programs/services or to improve existing services or programs
Add groundwater monitoring programs
Allow Trustees to better protect the mandate to preserve and protect
As the population increases, expectations rise. I think we need new and/or better policies to get ahead of climate change impacts. Some new regulations about land use are needed.
Because it just makes sense.
Bowen needs playgrounds. Yea he fact that's the only one is currently at the school which can't be used by children during school hours is absurd. There is fundraising to build one, but there should be far more options on this island
Challenging times need to be addressed with the necessary time and expertise.
Climate change needs good funding.
Conservation of these delicate ecosystems is important
Easier Access
Environmental planning projects ONLY
Everyone wants services but only a few are willing to pay for it.
Facing the reality of increased pressure from development, climate change and biodiversity loss, it is imperative that we not only retain but strengthen environmental protection.
For Lasqueti it makes sense
Good to invest in our home area
Housing
I do not support an increase with existing levels of service.
I feel Islands Trust is doing a good job, I trust our current trustees and think we need more environmental protections as I expect more developer pressure from the wealthy class who are buying properties...
I feel like with new staff and new increases then the overall should be making things better. Would like to see permitting moving more quickly but maintaining accuracy.
I really value the work the Trust does, and want to see more protection of our natural environment. I think more mapping and planning would be useful to that extent.
I support the work of island trust
I think its important to be as proactive as possible protecting our islands
I want the Islands Trust to have the capacity to meet the challenges we face.
I want to see the sub housing situation addressed
Infrastructure is good, we need projects to finished before starting new ones
Insufficient attention paid to flagrant land use bylaw violations
It represents progress.
It's always good to add and improve now while money is available
It's the right thing to do
Many people want to live in IT area. We need to plan for this. We need IT to be able to deal with the challenges.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add new programs/services or to improve existing services or programs
more commitment to protecting water resources
more environmental protection and water science programs
More funding to conservation
More is understood about the needs and the importance of meeting them in current and future circumstances
More people moving to the island
Need a swimming pool on Gabriola.
Need more commitment to preserving environment and protecting watersheds
Need more work on protection of freshwater and watersheds
People in our community are largely ignorant to issues like water and wildlife conservation
Programs and services need to be reviewed regularly as things change such as the climate..
Property values have increased which increases tax revenue
Roughly 10% of the budget is allocated to projects - increasing this allocation should take precedence.
Shoreline Enforcement
The effects of the climate crisis, covid, and development pressures mean more or improved services are needed in these times to achieve the IT object
The future is going to be more demanding
The islands are desperately need more protection from development.
The islands need to better support and enable affordable housing.
the IT needs more conservation expertise to support its protection mandate.
The major part of the budget/expendure is used for administrative issues(spend as usual new service/programs are just added) and the least is spend for the important part of for conservancy or not even mentioned sustainability - rainwater collection/food security. Going on in the same/old way will explode the budget in the coming years. New or different ways are necessary. The efficiency how and where to spend for the long term should be improvement - at least in my opinion.
There needs to be an improvement what Island's Trust can lawfully look after. For eg. hazardous properties.
Thetis Island does not benefit from and the numbers are not applicable to Thetis because new development is not allowed to be done here so therefore residents are being taxed for absolutely nothing in return for our money. There is no evidence that Thetis receives any benefits from the payment of taxes to the Islands Trust. As we do not receive ANY programs or services in regards to the items listed in the provided information, we strongly believe that the tax rate is not justifiable and causes harm to the residents by forcing them to pay these taxes for nothing in return that benefits Thetis Island in any way.
Things could definitely be better for a lot of people on these islands
To invest in First Nations reconciliation and increase resiliency due to climate change
We are facing we are facing an imminent disaster if we don't address CC in a serious fashion. If there was one time in life to step up and financially support your LG, it's now. In 5yr we will be too far behind to catch up.
We are growing.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add new programs/services or to improve existing services or programs
we are in a climate crisis and a housing crisis, and also the need and opportunities for reconciliation are immense. Islanders can afford a bit more to help us collectively deal with these issues. Also, there is a backlog of topics that needs addressing via OCP/LUB reviews. When OCPs and LUBs are not reviewed regularly and/or when changes in the world demand it, communities lost faith in the Trust and the community regulations. Also, the Trust needs to get its public engagement working better, and communicate better with residents.
We need to support the evolving needs in the trust area.
Well, we have crises everywhere we turn, we need to plan our way out of this mess and get prepared for what's coming.
Your budget is pathetic, you are not protecting bowen island at all

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't know / other
10 minute survey? this is beyond scope/mandate of the Trust. budget needs to be reduced and align/reconcile mandate with budget items.
A 5% increase following 3% last year is too high - IT is trying to do too much and is spending much more than comparable governments in BC - need to focus on core programs and services
All bureaucracy-feeding budgets should be zero-based.
BIM should no longer be in the Islands Trust.
Bowen Island already has and pays for the majority of services IT can provide
Bowen Island does not need to be in TheTrust end of story
don't have requisite knowledge to give meaningful response
I do not think IT needs to have staff/programs that other levels of government are already regulating/providing .
I don't know enough about programs/service levels
I don't really understand how to islands trust operates
Islands Trust Administration moving out of Victoria.
Lots there. I'm surprised that nearly 70% of the operating budget goes to wages and salaries
No clue what you do, or who all these employees are that are making 5.7 million in a year, no clue of your presence in the community
Not reflect in t to his table
Not sufficiently familiar with existing programs -newly moved to Pender Island
Reduce Islands Trust crew
Staff associated costs (salaries , benefits, training etc.) are way too high for the level of program activity/expenditure. Look for a way to reduce staff.
The charts and info above is totally complex and inaccessible. And I'm a professional with a graduate level degree.
the principle of spending in line with achieving the strategic plan, balanced with prior year's expenditures.
This is a ridiculous question without the context of costs and taxes. I choose increase services while also reducing taxes. This is impossible I know. Then I choose lower taxes with existing services.

<p>Comments from participants who chose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing services and programs with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing
Add a service to protect residents from container ship anchorages.
add planning and support staff
Affordable housing and marina work should be expanded
After last year, we should have a better idea of where money should go.
Allow more flexible housing options for low income renters and temporary workers.
Although it has not been communicated there are no doubt some current services/programs that are more important than others. While there is a need to reduce the overall increase it should be done taking to account these priorities.
Appropriate land use/conservation for the islands needs more focus
As long as water table monitoring is developed fully.
As Saturna is largely a park conservancy is probably not an issue
Bowen needs water, sewer, building permits, road repairs - not the Islands Trust
Budget cuts are necessary. Everyone is tightening their belts. I don't have particular knowledge about where cuts would be most effective. That is up to you.
bylaw enforcement should be reduced
Circumstances change yearly, why lock in a budget
Conservation budget should be maintained and all others should be decreased
cut staff salary
Cut staffing, new hires - this will reduce office space needs, etc. Readdress the money given to Conservancy.
Decrease centralized 'expert' services and rely more on local knowledge and expertise on the islands
Decrease services and programs for all areas with the exception of conservation areas
Do not add a fund development position to the IT Conservancy! This was first discussed in ITF committee 22 years ago and will never have community support in the Trust Area. Local conservancies exist and have agency and community trust. Put this fund allocation instead into launching an Annual Grants in aid program to grant monies to local community conservancies. Will leverage that staff position costs as an ROI many times over!
Fiscal responsibility. Stop duplicating work in other governmental jurisdictions. Stop acting like special interest group's mouthpiece. Do your own functions only
Focus on acquiring protected land. The islands really can't support an increase in population, so instead of worrying so much about what people are doing with the property they already own, get the undeveloped property off the potential market.
Focus on Affordable Housing
For example stop the ban on short term rentals imposed by the island trust and impose avan on diesel generator run grow-ops that go against « preserve and protect »
Given the current conditions of high inflation and a struggling economy it is imperative that we find ways to manage the budget at the current levels as many of us live on a fixed income and can't absorb the increase in costs.
I am concerned that Islands Trust is making more and more regulations without proper consultation with residents. I don't want to have to get permisswion to build a shed on my 30 acre property or cut down a tree without permission.

Comments from participants who chose:

- **Maintain existing services and programs with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing**

I am concerned that with the increase proposed that those on restricted incomes will not be able to continue to live in the Islands area. This is not a bottomless pit. We all have our break points and expenses have to be thoughtfully done.

I am very concerned that the current administration is aware that independent reports have shown that your internal processes are highly inefficient, particularly in the area of land use applications and permits. By allowing these inefficiencies to continue you are just throwing more money and a system that is broken. I can support the work to allow for updates to the computer and online access to meetings.

I am very unhappy with the roads and fire fighting on Saltspring . These need better funding. On the other hand, we get 0 value from anything else. Yet, our taxes have increased 4 fold in 10 years.,

I believe that it's important to maintain service levels at their current level. Adding programs at this stage should only be done in balance with current services.

i don't know enough to say what should change but the BEO should not be wasting our tax money harrassing private and necessary rental accommodation

I see enforcement as being underfunded, as we witness a great deal of behavior that is not taken to account. Some of us see complaints as personality driven, and not based on the preserve and protect mandate.

i think funding needs to be allocated for better electronic meeting participation going forward with money coming out of reduced office space, communications, and elections expenses budgets. If more Trust staff could work from home more often there would be less need for so much office space, and this savings could go towards electronic meeting support. Also travel costs could be reduced as well.

I think that the SSI Planning Dep't needs to shrink so that it can do less damage to local property owners. I think that it must be overstaffed at its staff seems to seek out work and revenue by overpolicing local property owners' property improvement projects.

I would like to see increased funding for IT Conservancy but a far more Spartan approach to office staff travel, lavish public meetings (banners, refreshments, food etc.)

I would like to see more budgeting for land securement, and conservation planning. Specifically as it relates to sensitive ecosystems, regenerative farming, and supporting Indigenous land use. There is a very real threat of our island (Gabriola) becoming "a suburb" of Nanaimo, with no housing security, job security, or food security. This would be a major mistake when thinking about preparing for climate change.

Comments from participants who chose:

- **Maintain existing services and programs with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing**

I would like to see more money invested in positions for bylaw enforcement. There are too few officers currently for bylaws to be enforced, which leads to widespread violations of the bylaws - and thus there is little point to having good policy if everybody can ignore it with impunity. The current situation is that investigation only takes place when there is a complaint - and who is prepared to "tell on" a neighbour? the price paid for damaging relationships is too high, many would feel. So it would be better if we had bylaw officers that would actually go around and check whether bylaws were being adhered to. The thing that I would like to see less money spent on is surveys, especially when large sums are given to outside firms to create and implement them. For example, we made clear that we weren't happy with proposed changes, and it was agreed that trustees would consult with the inhabitants of the islands and hold information sessions. I would have expected then that our trustees would schedule a couple of meetings on our island to discuss the proposed policy changes with us. Did that happen? No. It wouldn't cost much to do that. Instead, more expensive, outsourced survey work is planned. Unnecessary and unhelpful. Much more could be achieved by having trustees actually interact with the residents.

I would like the IT to have an external audit done to identify waste in policies and procedures. Once complete, have a Public Release of the audit results. Ask the budget questions again after the public audit has been done.

I'm curious why communication went up so much. I want more action on housing.

improve roads and enforce bylaws

In favor of water meters

Increase Bylaw enforcement Staff, decrease planning staff for a year..

increase communication and local staff /office on island..like Mayne

Increase land conservancy and preservation budget, decrease head office type expenses

Increase marine protection areas

Increases in spending over and above inflation rates should be offset by reductions in non-priority areas.

Increases in taxation should be placed on the sub areas of the trust that are affected or receiving the increased service or project if that project/service has been agreed upon in that trust area.

Increasing local planning to 77% and decreasing Trust Council Regional Services to 10%

Islands Trust is a planning service. All other chores, such as advocacy, conservation, information gathering already undertaken by regional and provincial authorities should be phased out as soon as possible.

Islands trust needs to look at what they have currently and how they can improve the basics, not add more rules and yahoos to our island like they do for control.

Islands Trust should use their discretion to balance the needs of existing services & programs but during these hard times, it's not appropriate to increase funding

It is obscene to spend more on the council than on conservancy itself, which is the purpose of the island trust. As well the planning needs a sharp decrease in funding and reach.

It is realistic.

It makes the most sense as some areas no longer need as much funding and others need more.

Keeping a budget without hefty increases

<p>Comments from participants who chose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing services and programs with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing
<p>Less bylaws and impediments to land owners and small businesses. More actual conservation efforts such as public wildlife preserves. Actual climate change action such as wildfire preparation (mass buys, or tax exemptions for water cisterns and battery operated exterior sprinkler systems, to prevent the whole island from burning down into a toxic wasteland</p>
<p>Less surveys and more local maintenance</p>
<p>Look for opportunities to reduce expenses and streamline processes to increase efficiency.</p>
<p>Maintain existing services but reduce staff by 10%. You are a bloated bureaucracy</p>
<p>Majority of budget is salary and remuneration, very little in programs and services.</p>
<p>More \$\$\$ toward enforcement and whatever can be done to facilitate more-affordable housing. Less to environmental aspects.</p>
<p>More adaptive ecosystem management -- setting measurement targets based on carrying capacity and alternative solutions, vs blanket bans and prescriptive codes. Re the Trust Council -- I want to see a move towards less governance from Victoria, and more meetings and staffing here on the Gulf Islands, including the CAO. There is no way we can get meaningful representative government and proactive services implementation when staff and managers don't share our lives, experiences, and concerns.</p>
<p>More funding should be directed to support conservation options, both in terms of \$\$ for acquiring new nature reserves but also to assist landowners who want to donate land or a conservation covenant. For example, IT should set aside funding each year that can pay for surveys, biological inventories, and other costs associated with covenants held by the Islands Trust Conservancy. In general, increase capacity at the ITC and ensure that planners, LTCs, and others have training and support to properly apply "preserve and protect" to the area</p>
<p>More work on housing, less work in other areas</p>
<p>Most people own a computer or smart phone that can function as their work technology. Decrease pay for the trustees and turn it towards funding tech supplies</p>
<p>Much like govt. there are areas that continue to cost the same but are no longer as necessary or vital, but continue whereas moving forward in a more progressive and needed direction would be a better use of funds. Just because funds are available isn't an excuse to continue to misuse them. With first nations being included in islands trust affairs finally I am concerned that monies spent on keeping people employed doing the same old same old will not be available for these important issues. Even worse the budget will sneak up each year and it's already far too much of our land taxes. In my experience there is alot of waste because of the high budgets</p>
<p>Must address Fallow Deer cull to preserve the environment</p>
<p>Need some flex to respond to change circumstances</p>
<p>need to get to the core services that "govt" is responsible for, get rid of the fluff</p>
<p>No expansions of mandate / reduce in areas that are not directly related to mandate and legislated responsibilities</p>
<p>Nothing is static, there is always ebb and flow</p>
<p>Now is not the year to add additional services. Maintain service as best as possible with no to little (less than 2%, or what is needed to meet salary obligations under bargaining). No increase or change in new services until they can be covered under current revenue sources.</p>

<p>Comments from participants who chose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing services and programs with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing
<p>On Gabriola the “trust” has and continues to facilitate the removal of mature and old growth forest ecosystem and trees, allows cultural sites to be desecrated, allows shoreline development. You cannot claim to be preserving and protecting any aspect of this island. Either drop the false “preserve and protect” slogan, or budget to stop creating the luxury subdivisions and housing the service sector that supports the gentrification.</p>
<p>Pensioner income fails to increase at same level as inflation. Time to manage tax increase to pension or wage increase.</p>
<p>Programs & services related to environment and health need to be prioritised at this time. Lower priority budget items can be cut.</p>
<p>Programs to preserve the ecology of the Trust Area - I'd like to see these expanded.</p>
<p>provides flexibility, but with the option of NO services decreasing. Not quite the same as option 2</p>
<p>quit wasting money on enforcing unrealistic zoning laws and stop harassing honest farmers and workers trying to live on this island, and instead support and allow for affordable housing and zoning to accommodate for the work force to live here.</p>
<p>Reduce enforcement expenses, prioritize housing related initiatives</p>
<p>Reduce expansion in staffing and reach of services. Employ more local people who live in the areas, reduce costs by relocating from Victoria.</p>
<p>Residents already see almost zero benefits from taxes paid , and the aiT has not demonstrated any ability to manage current funds</p>
<p>Review and evaluation of all programs and services is good practice.</p>
<p>Salt Spring ditches and roads are a deteriorating at an alarming rate so is our fresh water and fire protection distribution system. So we must reduce some planning to address this needte</p>
<p>Scope creep into areas of other's jurisdictions. Keep spending flat and enhance services you are supposed to deliver</p>
<p>Spend less on environmental issues and spend more to support low income people.</p>
<p>Spend less on studies and consultations and more on housing.</p>
<p>Staffing appears to be excessive for the services provided</p>
<p>Support land use planning and stay out of environmental issues already covered by provincial and federal agencies</p>
<p>The breakdown here isn't entirely clear, but it is clear that the numbers don't appear to reflect what actually needs to be done on the islands vs what work is being done. I think this needs to be broken down into specifics of exactly how the money has been spent and highlighting if that has been at all successful and wether or not current efforts are even within the mandate of the trust.</p>
<p>The conservation budget should be MUCH higher! Isn't it the entire mandate and mission of the trust!?</p>
<p>The Islands Trust needs to reduce or eliminate initiatives and activities that are the jurisdiction of other agencies and where there is no liklihood of positive, measureable results and where there is no expertise within the Islands Trust. Examples include radio/EMF issues, BC ferries, community economics, fisheries and oceans and climate.</p>
<p>The Islands Trust should mantain the services required to fulfill the object of the Trust. Others like affordable housing belong to other level of government, affordable housing is not an unique amenities.</p>

<p>Comments from participants who chose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing services and programs with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing
<p>The Trust should stick to it's core mandate of land planning, development review and permitting, and managing the Trust Conservancy areas. The Trust should be advocating in these new areas — as directed in their Act — not expanding roles and staffing. The regulatory areas that the trust wants to expand into are already handled and done well by provincial and federal agencies. I support a decrease for almost all areas with staying the same for several areas (i.e., conservation areas)</p>
<p>There is lots of wanted expenditures. These times are challenging for all and islands trust should be trimming their budget too. It is not a time to be wasteful</p>
<p>There should be a new budget principle of not increasing expenditures on the basis that we all need to adjust to a steady state economy on a planet that is already suffering from unchecked growth. Increases in government expenditures should only happen to tackle inequities and suffering and those should be done at the expense of the most privileged.</p>
<p>This is not the time for increased staff salaries or trustee remuneration and benefits .A lot of folks are hurting</p>
<p>This is unacceptable that so much of the budget is spent on salaries so I do not support any increase in the budget and instead realign and fine tune the current services.</p>
<p>to provide flexibility in current context</p>
<p>Too much emphasis on housing.</p>
<p>Use Community plans for guidance.</p>
<p>Use local volunteers more</p>
<p>Want consevancy increased</p>
<p>we do not need to add more programs we need to work on doing a better job with the existing services,need to improve Emergency Management,Road infrastructure and Bylaw enforcement clean up the rif Raf.</p>
<p>We need less governance</p>
<p>We need to get the druggies off the Island</p>
<p>We used to do so much of the work of island governance through resident committees, with a single staff person as advisor, attending the occasional committee meeting. Now all decisions seem to be made by a string of staff (few who actually live on the island and participate in community lived experience and knowledge keeping) advising the local trustees as to what is the way forward. Full stop! Islands Trust Council and the body of staff are off course. The duplication of services already done at regional levels (yet firewalled by the Islands Trust) only serves to highlight the bloated redundancy that the Islands Trust has now become. In the meantime, an unprecedented housing crisis has shown the need for the Islands Trust to preserve and protect the environment, and communities that prioritize ecosystem and human rights. Please correct your course IT, before furthur damage is done to our communities.</p>
<p>whatever needs to be done to incorporate tiny homes to be allowed on Gabriola. A new committee may have to be formed to expedite results.</p>
<p>You guys spend way too much on IT</p>
<p>Your budget increases will cause an increase of 4.88 % plus the 30% increase in our provincial taxes you are taxing us out of living here. I think you need to trim where you can and reassess the programs that work and who benefits. Perhaps a mor innovated look at the budget.</p>
<p>Your budget is too staff and office heavy make cuts to those costs</p>

Comments from participants who chose:

- **Maintain existing services and programs with some areas increasing and other areas decreasing**

Your organization is too large and is not providing services effectively. It requires an overhaul and rethinking of strategy

Comments from participants who chose:

- **Maintain existing services and programs at current levels**

A whole 'reallocation' of mission needs to be reviewed; staff costs are too high - reduce overhead and allocate to programs

Affordability

Almost all the budget increase is staffing and very little for new initiatives.

because gabriola is cannot afford to support projects that only benefit a small segment of the population.

Because I am concerned about jurisdictional overreach

Budget and mandate creep

Conservancy up 9% Communications up 42% not justifiable

Covid has changed the world - hoping as 2022 evolves a better idea of new economic normal will be established

Don't feel IT should be expanding its programs - focus on doing what they are meant to do and do it better

Don't feel there is a particular lack of services now

Don't need increases or added costs that provide little value

Don't really see the results/benefits of services provided

Enforce bylaws. Building codes must be enforced to protect the environment.

Escalating costs

Except for hiring a fundraiser for ITC.

Existing services are more than adequate.

Generally acknowledge that the Islands Trust Area has many issues that require funding and support, even if many of these issues are outside the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust. However, I cannot agree to adding new services or anything that would cause the budget to increase as:

1. The Island Trust's accounting in this survey and in its Report have a number of errors and internal conflicts. The Budget numbers on the survey page are all lower than the budget numbers reported in the referenced "Islands Trust Approved Budget History document". In addition, the figures for Consumer Price Index in that "History document" do not agree with its reference. The CPI for 2020/2021 for example, is reported as 3.1% in the IT "History document" but was actually 0.8% according to the referenced source Statistics Canada/BC Stats. There was a Property Tax increase (0.3%) in 2020/2021 where the Survey page reports none (0.0%). These are gross and material errors in financial reporting.
2. Annual increases in the IT budget are on average twice that of CPI.
3. The IT has been drawing down its Surplus Funds by \$78,000 per year, or about 1% of the overall budget annually since 2016/2017. Over 9% of the Surplus was consumed in 2020/2021 alone. This effectively hides a 1% budgetary increase and further underscores that the Islands Trust budget is growing at an unsustainable pace.

I believe the IT has forgotten it's original purpose and is moving toward new goals and priorities without clear approval from its stakeholders

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing services and programs at current levels
I do not think we need changes nor increased taxes.
I don't know enough about the services and programs so for me it is best to maintain at current levels.
I have heard no specific complaints from islanders about how previous budgets were allotted.
I lost my job due to covid, as did many others. This has been a very hard couple of years, yet during Covid the two biggest tax increases were added. I believe in taxation and do not think that we pay too much, but adding taxes when people can least afford it is cruel.
I moved here 15 years ago to be part of a rural community. I have more than enough services already.
I neither wish to decrease nor increase spending without a comprehensive review of the Islands Trust that includes its relevancy and purpose, its organization and administration, its scope of influence and activities - and what I see as the need for major updates to the OCP that incorporate information gained from a comprehensive consultation with the community.
I'm a senior and can't afford the increase in all the taxes
I'm concerned with the impact an increase in property taxes will have on my family. Our BC Housing Assessment has increased the value of our property by 40% this year which means we will already be paying significantly more in taxes. We are a young family that have lived on the island most of our lives and are privileged to own a home because we purchased so long ago. We plan on staying and raising our children here but we struggle to make ends meet. An increase in assessed housing value is great for someone planning on selling but not for those of us planning on staying. Won't the added taxes for our 40% increase in assessed housing value provide an increase in budget already without having to ask for more? I support the Islands Trust and the work you do and value it but this is a bad year to ask us to pay more.
I'm happy with the services we have!
I'm satisfied with the current service levels
if it aint broke, don't fixit. also, I don't think its broke!
I'm not going to approve new programs without knowing what they are, but that doesn't mean a blanket opposition. Just caution.
Increased spending means increased taxes and being retired on a fixed budget makes one feel we will eventually be squeezed out and forced to move
Island Trust should focus on their core mandate and not seek to expand as this is a natural process of all administrative organizations that must be kept in check.
It is not at all clear how any new services would benefit residents of Saturna.
Keep costs down.
lack of confidence in the rationale for the expansion of programs/services
More consultation with residents in a more democratic process is needed. An election perhaps where all is in the public discussion space.
Need to keep any tax increases in check with inflation only.
No further services required at this time.
People are are tired of pay more taxes
Property taxes are too high for services received

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing services and programs at current levels
significant tax increase last year. Too much increase for 22/23, especially in light of increased property valuesf
Simply can't afford the level of property tax increases as a retiree
Stick to the original mandate!
Taxes are going up at such a rate I will be forced out of my home.
The current mandate is adequate and should not be increased or expanded. Secondly continuing to increase taxes on the justification that property values are increasing is risky because all metrics point to a bubble and if it bursts we'll be left with considerable tax levy that will not be coming down regardless of how low property values fall
The current services are adequate for a retirement and recreational area. The area is not a city and should not have all the services of such since this is not feasible.
The Islands Trust Area has many issues that require funding and support, even if many of these issues are outside the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust.
The Islands Trust should not be expanding it's mandate. We have regional districts, provincial and federal bodies in place already with expertise, policy and process in place to manage areas that the IT proposes to become involved with. The Islands Trust needs to remain focused on their intended role: land planning and permitting services
The organizational and financial capacity of the trust is low and must further develop before any real growth can occur. Treading water is alright
There appear to be a number of plansn being put forward, I feel more time is needed for meaningful consultation
These services are already being handled by people who have expertise in these areas!
Trust areas of responsibility and jurisdiction are are the correct level
We do not need the further expansion of IT. It will lead to more full time employees at IT and further increases taxes to fund the machine. This will only lead to only the super wealthy being a le to afford living here. Enough is enough.
Why not?

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
The Islands Trust should cease all programs, thus cutting costs, for all areas outside of its jurisdiction. Additionally, the Islands Trust should stop trying to expand their jurisdiction and authority over areas not directly within its current jurisdiction. Further, Islands Trust should contract rather than expand, returning to its original purpose as detailed in the Islands Trust Act.
Because Island trust has over stepped their mandate and lost focus of their purpose and fiscal realities
1)The IT is not "preserving and Protecting" 2) The IT is spending 9 million for 70,000+/- citizens. There is minimalcost/benefit to islanders - only the bureacracy
4.88% tax increase on the existing tax base is not desirable or sustainable. A core service review and/or zero based budget is required to bring the budget "ask" of the taxpayers back to reality.
A bloated bureaucracy

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
aa great deal of the money goes to supporting yourself and causing trouble for people on the islands.
actual benefit to Hornby residents does not justify this amount
Administrative overhead is incredibly bloated, champagne socialists are like pigs at the trough
Against any increase in taxes.
All ready too much
Also reduce taxes, disempower busy captured intrusive regulators
as a full-time resident of 20 years I'm not aware of any benefits from the island trust that warrant increase revenues
as a group I believe you have been over steeping for years
As a home owner I don't want my taxes to go just to pay Trustees to continue poorly governing our Islands.
As a retiree I can I'll afford this proposed tax increase combined with a 71% assessment i
B/c I don't see any evidence that our current tax rate equates to efficiency or productivity. I've lived here for 5 years and I still don't understand what you do that provincial and federal can't manage. You guys seem to make stuff up just to keep your jobs.
Because Bowen pays way to high % of the total income
Because I do not believe that Islands Trust should govern me.
Because IT has been continuously expanding the budget to fund initiatives that are outside of their mandate!
Because the cost is outmatching your output.
Because the islands trust already has too much power and delves into areas in which they have no jurisdiction
Because the islands trust needs to be dismantled.
Because the islands trust oversteps its mandate already
Because you folks are going overboard on things that are not your responsibility and I am tired of being on the hook to feed your ambitions.
Because you're just another bloated government institution with its nose in the money trough
Been Island residents get very little value for the significant annul fee we pay the Islands Trust.
BOWEN IS HAS ITS OWN PLANNING AND SERVICES
Bowen Island costs should be significantly reduced - no need for same level of support/services as other islands that are not supported by a municipality.
Bowen Island has its own Municipal Operations.
Bowen Island no longer needs to be part of the Islands Trust
Budget is out of control and must be reduced
Budget is too high for - IT should pare back workscope to essentials.
Budget is too high. It has not been sustainable. Reduce budget please.
Budget seems heavy on wages, low on services. I am it aware of much service Islanders are getting for the expenditures
Cannot afford higher taxes
cannot afford higher taxes
Cannot keep raising taxes with little or no return

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
Can't afford the IT - another level of bloated bureaucracy.
Costs are rising much faster than inflation ...and new areas are being contemplated that are beyond the scope of land use
Costs are too high and don't support community infrastructure only land use
Covid, loss of businesses and workers due to unaffordability; Trust has to give up something, too.
Cut back on all the studies and consultants and get down to the peoples level
Desire that the Trust Stays with its mandate.
Distant, redundant, expensive. Governance like that needs reining in
Don't feel Bowen Island needs to be a part of the IslandsTrust
Don't want more spending
Every island in the trust areas have their own OCPs in place you're not giving choices and freedom anymore that's why we live here
Excessive taxes
Expenses tend to be increased substantially over the last few years.
Frugal nature
Given the current economic environment and pandemic, it's time for Islands Trust to tighten it's belt. No tax increases in 2022. IT doesn't provide any tangible services to the area aside from planning. Do we really need so many planners? The budget has grown out of proportion to the size of the region and inflation. Quit burdening property owners with the task of preserving and protecting the region beyond our benefit. If all British Columbians are to benefit from the trust, then all British Columbians should pay their fair share. Until that time, listens to those of us paying the bills.
I agree with the trust's critics that it's plans to expand its services are unnecessary and beyond its capability to perform properly
I believe Islands Trust are a duplication of services
I believe the Island's Trust is trying to expand into areas they are not originally mandated for such as marine management, endangered species, climate change and housing. Like many publicly funded bodies, the temptation is to become top heavy with new positions that are already handled by other provincial and federal departments. It appears that the Island's Trust is creating these new positions to take more money from the inhabitants of the Islands in the Trust. The property taxes have already increased by 35% which is causing a lot of stress on property owners. Coupled with less revenue and loss of jobs since the pandemic I am shocked at the callous and greedy motives of the Island's Trust.
I believe the trust is working outside its mandate and we aren't getting good return .
I believe the trust should be defunded completely
I do not believe the trust is acting in the best interest of working families or single parents. Policies are harmful to our local economy and favour wealthy seasonal residents with enormous homes.
I do not feel that the islands trust is acting in the best interest of ALL islanders, just a select few.
I do not support new proposed staffing
I don't agree with many of the Trust's current initiatives.
I don't think the money is well spent. Endless reports no action
I donot support the Islands Trust entering into areas beyoud it's Core Mandate.
I don't agree with the direction that the Islands Trust is pursuing nor with the level of communication and engagement of stakeholders.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
I feel the Trust has lost it's way and is trying to create an identity by significant over reach.
I feel the trust is over reaching and it's original mandate has evolved into too much bureaucratic control
I feel the trust mandate is too broad
I find it difficult to comprehend why only 10% of the budget goes to project and a staggering 80% to cover for salaries
I have seen negative impact of decisions made by islands trust. I don't see it having a useful function
I pay way too much and get way too little
I run my personal household whereby I live within my means. I expect my elected officials to ensure the same for the areas they oversee. My overall tax burden is relatively high. My property value increased due to inflation (i.e. I am no better off financially). I expect my elected officials to reduce spending and reduce my property taxes. If services and programs increase due to inflation, the answer is not to raise taxes, but rather reduce services and programs. Live within our means.
I see zero value for the thousands of dollars that Bowen Islanders pay every year.
I think the Islands Trust needs a serious overhaul. I don't see the value it brings anymore.
I'm very concerned with bureaucratic redundancy amongst the IT and our municipality incurring a diversion of taxpayer dollars which are desperately needed on Bowen
I'm tired of my tax dollars being wasted by bureaucrats
In the last five years the Islands Trust has suffered scope creep. The organization is far outside it's mandate and have lost its focus on protecting and preserving. Focus on the right things and you don't need to add more people or more projects.
Increase marine conservation and decrease enforcement of B and B they are at least paying tax ie your salary
Inefficiencies are a huge waste of money. I do not want my tax dollars wasted this way.
Island Trust does not serve residents of the islands.
Island Trust doesn't seem to have the support it used to as it slowly is eroding property owners rights
Island Trust is a inefficient and waste full "government"
Island Trust is a organization that should be dissolved. the over reach of these elitists are a threat to freedom in Canada
Island trust is getting its hands in way too many areas outside of their mandate of land use planning
Island Trust is useless, reduce service
Island trust should go back to its original mandate. It is now becoming another level of government with expenses far surpassing the ability to pay for most trust area taxpayers. We already pay the provincial and federal governments to carry out many of the functions being added to the proposed island Trust agenda. At what point do we say enough "government"?
Island trust unrealistic and focusses too much on environment
Islands Trust activities duplicate those for which the Province and the federal government already have responsibility

Comments from participants who chose:

- **Reduce services and programs from current levels**

Islands Trust appears to us to have developed a beaurocratic overreach seeking to expand its staff and "services" regardless of market needs. Look at the expenditures and compare to actual permits issued, as an example. IT cannot be trusted to treat taxpayer dollars with the respect these deserve. Fiscally prudent operations over a period of years may cause us to change this view. [REDACTED]

Islands Trust has created a bloated bureaucracy & needs to cut back.

Islands Trust is a \$10m self perpetuating organization which employs 59 full time personnel and porposes to hire one more part time person. It gets involved in matters way beyond the simple 'Preserve and protect' remit and needs to REDUCE its activities as it does not represent value for money..

Islands Trust is a bloated organization. Staff levels need to be reduced. Too many trustees and staff. They are straying into areas for which they do not have the jurisdiction and which are already covered provincially.

Islands trust is a waste of money period!

Islands Trust is an atrocity. Staffing needs to be slashed, budgets halved with a new mandate. They are an ineffective level of governance, providing little value to the lands and people they represent.

Islands Trust is exceeding its mandate. It should reduce to focus on core principles, and not keep on adding additional services, and staff.

Islands Trust is far too costly for Bowen Island taxpayers.

Islands trust is morphing into something more than its mandate

Islands Trust is probably trying to do too much. We should focus on priority projects that affect the greatest number of residents.

Islands Trust is trying to use my money to act outside of their mandate.

Islands trust lacks transparency and lacks in accountability to their taxpayer base and their residents

islands trust need to stay focused on its mandate, not overstep into other areas, such as housing, agriculture, forestry. Development is down, there planning services should be reduced accordingly.

Islands Trust original mandate has been fulfilled and as land resources are finite, and in most locals, developed to maximum potential, this program has outlived its usefulness.

Islands Trust services are not needed on Bowen; municipal services suffice

Islands Trust should be supplying Planning Services only not overreaching into other jurisdictions.

Islands Trust should focus on the services set out in it's mandate. There should be no programs or research funded outside of this cause.

Islands Trust spending is out of control

IT administration is way to high and IT wants to hire more to assist with virtual meetings now? In addition slow sown on hiring 3rd party consultants. Trustees know their Islands and should be able to address islanders concerns with community input versus expensive consultants.

Comments from participants who chose:

- **Reduce services and programs from current levels**

it appears IT is overstepping its original purpose and attempting to duplicate areas of responsibility already covered by Municipal, Prov. & Fed. departments, far too many High paid individuals making a career out of local politics..very difficult to see what all these people accomplish? Bylaw enforcement is a very sad joke, one very well known executive has broken most of the bylaws..and continues too..blatant/serious bylaw infractions go on forever to the detriment of the entire Island. Nothing seems to improve or change..only higher Budgets etc...certainly a very poor Bang for our Buck. Plse do something meaning and constructive...like shut the entire operation down...you are doing a very very poo job.

It appears that the costs to administer programs is high and increasing. Staff, administrative costs, office expenditures, executive compensation seems high

IT expenditures On issues not in their mandate should be curtailed.The Bylaw Enforcement abuse must be curtailed.

IT has become more bureaucratic, creating new rules, raising the cost of building homes. . All the restrictions would be OK if they were effective! Take a drive around Pender N and see the illegal containers, the junk vehicles, the clearcut lots, the plastic shelters and deteriorating trailers. See the oversized docks built and allowed, the helicopter destroying our wildlife habitat. Look at our forests, decimated by a deer population destroying the undergrowth and turning us into a mono-culture of fir trees. The farm properties destroyed by their owners, I could go on! Add to this a 6% budget increase is apalling when one considers the other taxes that are going to be raised in an attempt to bail us out from crazy spending in the last 2 years. Cut the bureacracy! It actually will make little difference.

IT has gone well beyond its mandate, and is overstaffed

IT incredibly inefficient

It interests and those of residents are not aligned. They can not become the go to solution for all island needs. They are not the most appropriate party.

IT is an inefficient and ineffective bureaucracy with one-sided agenda that negatively impacts the community and interferes with a holistic approach to sustaining community

IT is expanding into areas that is not needed, only nice to do or make work. This is positioning the IT to hire yet more staff into an already staff heavy organization that we are paying for. Staff are coming up with projects that reduce our ability to live on the islands and tying our hands to pay yet more money through additional hoops for us to simply survive in our homes. Staff do not live on the islands and do not have the intimate knowledge required to understand the devastating effects that are being implemented without resident votes. My recommendation is to cut staff and programs back to match other jurisdictions and to remove fingers from pots that don't belong to them...I.e. where other govt departments already have programs in place.

IT is extending it's authority to areas not under its purview.

it is getting far too expensive to carry on like this

IT is going far beyond its original mandate & duplicating other government services

IT is moving into areas that they shouldn't like not allowing desalination yet don't deal with the deer that are killing the island.

IT is now overreaching. They are hiring non-locals who do not 'know' the islands. Thus is costing too much, is becoming a bureaucrat machine, is out of touch with the islands, and has moved away from its key mandate - preserve and protect.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
IT is over staffed and working outside mandate. It is trying to be local govt in lieu of incorporation, not their role
IT is taking on responsibilities beyond their mandate and has misinterpreted the preserve and protect mandate causing a lot of time for staff and trustees that could have been saved
IT is working outside of its mandate. If it kept to its mandate programs and staffing could be cut.
IT should be abolished
It would take a lot of time and research to look into all the work that the Trust does so you're asking us the public to be experts in this process. And I don't have the time to be the expert on this entire strategy process and associated costs. So I can only say that the costs seem to be huge in relation to the return on our dollar, at least for Bowen Island.
ITrust is duplicating what other government authorities are responsible for. It is over staffed for the population they say they serve.
I've always said since the formation of the Islands Trust that you couldn't have designed a better way to make the Gulf Islands exclusive to the wealthy. Their excessive and selective regulations have achieved that goal.
Just look at the operating budget for staff and offices! I see no benefit from the Islands Trust.
Keep taxes affordable. We are already over regulated.
Large tax increase for 2022
Less governance required
local planning services are getting too invasive in areas of private property use
Local planning services are too high for the return on investment. The money could be spent actioning some key focused priorities
Major areas of your budget are not within your jurisdiction (such as conservancy)
middle and lower income land owners are being taxed off of their land
Miss management and erosion of property rights
Money is being wasted on "We have money, let's spend it" projects
Money wasted on bureaucracy
Most existing services unneeded
Most of the budget expenditures are outwith the IT's core mandate of land use planning - I don't want my taxes spent on make-work projects totally related to the core mandate. The IT operates more like an ec-NGO than a responsible municipality. Please get back to basics, do something useful for our communities rather than external NGOs.
Most of the budget is for overhead.
most of the services are duplicated by Metro Vancouver and Bowen Island staff and council
Most programs in the Advocacy department are beyond the IT's mandate and should be sharply curtailed or eliminated altogether. The IT should be able to function adequately with several fewer planners.
my option is to discontinue the island trust as they have become out of touch with reality
My taxes are already too high for the limited services I receive
My wage went up by 2% this year. The budget should only increase by 2% for the next fiscal year. Reduce services and programs from current levels.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
Need for fiscal prudence and a better understanding of the value Islands Trust brings vs the cost to provide it.
need to stick to core mandate
No confidence in Islands Trust financial management
No new hires and stay within the mandate.
Non essential services and programs should be eliminated. An independent review should be undertaken to identify non essential services and programs. I
Not aware of any benefits from this repressive level of government
Over 60% is in wages which makes this more of a make a salary "business" anyway
Over reaching themselves
overlapping jurisdiction
Overreaching
Planning dept. is inefficient. Eliminate all LTA projects, they waste time and money. In Particular, the Douglas Fir, housing task force and ganges village task force. Let planners do actual planning work.
Planning function is highly inefficient and excessively focused on unimportant detail. The decision process is much too slow and frequently captured/derailed by selfish NIMBY interests.
planning not done
Please reduce your expenses!!!
Property owners are drowning in ever increasing costs. The Trust is suffering from staff shortages. It is a good time to accept that you do not have the capacity to do all of the wonderful projects you want to do anyway. It would be an appreciated gesture and a nod to reality that a smaller tax increase is the more prudent and realistic choice this year.
Property taxes are too high for the "services". Your spending is out of control.
Property taxes have been skyrocketing for the last 30 years. The Trust is aiming to expand into new areas (ex. housing, climate change, endangered species) that are already handled by federal and provincial levels of government, creating overlap and requiring hiring more staff. Please advocate on these areas, as you have before.
quit grouping us with every other island!
Reduce Island trust overreaching authority
Reduce planning services and money provided for housing applications and development projects and increase funding to the conservancy. The planning positions need to be cut as the Trust must refocus its resources on protecting and preserving the environment and not promoting development and land brokerage.
reduce Strategic Plan projects to those which are within the jurisdiction of the Trust, achievable, and have relevance to the mandate
Reduce trust payments for Bowen island
Remove all services for Bowen Island same as other municipalities.
Retrieve actual priorities from mandate drift.
Ridiculous costs which i have experienced with IT and the red tape for zero ROI
Scope creep and increasing government interference and bureaucracy in a chronic and insidious problem with the Islands Trust

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
Seems high overhead for leases. Remote working share space vs stand alone ie. Galiano building taking up postal area. Multipurpose spaces more economical and “friendly”.
Significant overlap with other levels of government, staff costs should be reduced
Some are not necessary.
Spending and tax increases adds to inflation which is already out of control.
spending has been outside of core services. Projects outside of the Islands Trust mandate and Vanity projects have no place!
Spending has now been out of control for more than a decade
Spending is OUT OF CONTROL
spending is out of control
Staffing and administrative costs too high. Both should be reduced
Stay out of our business. Island trust does not need to get bigger and do more for us to pay more. Stop making work for yourselves
Stop expanding what the original mandate was for which was to review development and permitting and managing the Trust Conservancy areas.
Stop taking more money out of our pockets. Your u should be concerned with the mandate that you started with, not trying to crate more jobs for yourselves
Stop trying to stick your out of touch nose into things you have no understanding of.
Tax increases are not acceptable
Tax payers cannot afford continued increases
Tax tax tax we can't afford four levels of govt! Federal, Provincial, CRD AND islands Trust
Taxes are crippling and creating in some areas homelessness
taxes are too high
Taxes are too high
Taxes are way to high for the services we receive
Taxes should not go up EVERY year, and not by more than inflation.
The above choice was made because several programs are overlapping current federal and provincial programs that do not necessarily comply with the Gulf Islands Preserve and Protect mandate
The areas in greatest need of funding are outside the trust jurisdiction.The conservancy, for example, should be run like a charity, independent of the IT itself with no impact on tax payers.
the bureaucracy is building way beyond the mandate !
The bureaucracy is growing at an unsustainable rate and the scope of the Trust's projects is overlapping with other levels of government.
The costs are escalating and there is little accountability.
The current economic climate does not support growth
The current Trustees are exceeding their mandate already.
the developed islands are adequately serviced by 3 levels of government
The existing services and programs have little impact on my community. I don't see the value
The expansion and staffing levels are out of hand.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
The expenses are too high, especially for Bowen Island, which does not need another local government competing with the Bowen Island Municipality government.
The focus should be on land use management and not duplicating other government responsibilities
The government is taking away our rights
The intrusion of Islands Trust into resident's lives needs to be reduced
The Island Trust appears to be expanding its efforts into areas already covered by provincial and federal governments
The Island Trust is a wasting our tax dollars
The Island Trust is exceeding it's mandate already and duplicating services the provincial government is tasked with.
The Island Trust should not be duplicating services offered by the Provincial govt
The islands t et is an unnecessary and detrimental government bureaucracy
The Islands Trust has exceeded its mandate and serves with respect not the residents and property owners, who pay the bills, but rather it's own "woke" agenda. There is no progressive issue that the trust feels it should not appropriate.
The Islands Trust has increased its services and programs beyond its mandate. The Islands Trust does not have a mandate to be in charge of water, that is done by another government department. Duplication of work just adds extra layers of work for all, and makes things harder with no visible benefit to the people who live in the IT. It is great that the IT wants to help with environmental protection, but if it is trying to cover something that it is not madated for, then it is likely something covered by another government department.
The Islands Trust has set a trend of exceeding its land-use planning mandate with extraneous advocacy initiatives.
The Islands Trust is a bloated institution that now operates beyond its original mandates. This is a zoning body that now wants to get involved in infrastructure and taxing. On Saturna Island we have an Islands Trustee Paul Brent who is also acting in concert as a 'deputy director' to David Howe, CRD, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We need to reduce waste, duplication, and cronyism along with reckless expansionism of the Islands Trust.
The Islands Trust is a zoning body with a special mandate. It is overstepping it's role and has become too costly.
The Islands Trust is a zoning body with a special mandate. It is overstepping it's role and has become too costly.
The Islands Trust is an undemocratic institution at least as far as Salt Spring in concerned. Salt Spring needs real elected local government not one based in Victoria run by a council that Salt Spring is hugely unrepresented in.
The Islands Trust is completley out of control and needs to be stopped.
The Islands Trust is reaching far beyond it's jurisdiction & should stay with its job which is supplying planning services only.
the islands trust is wasting my money
The Islands trust it's too expensive for our little community to support.

<p>Comments from participants who chose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
<p>The Islands Trust needs to pull back from the overreach into areas not within its mandate, as well as eliminate duplication of work that falls under the purview of other levels of government.</p>
<p>The Islands Trust serves no purpose for the Bowen Island Community. They are a redundant legacy that constitutes a cash drain to the residents of Bowen with no benefit.</p>
<p>The Islands Trust should focus on it's land use planing (zoning, rezoning and variances) operating expenses should be covered by applicant (user) fees not the tax payer.</p>
<p>The IT bureaucracy is bloated with little value returned. Need to reduce staff.</p>
<p>The IT increases reflect time & costs spent on research and projects that are outside its jurisdiction.</p>
<p>The IT is a zoning body that does little work, but has an inflated budget, and is not (via Paul Brent Islands Trustee) intruding into 'housing', 'infrastructure improvements', and a bunch of areas for which it was NEVER MANDATED. It's time for this to stop, to reduce budget, and lower our taxes accordingly.</p>
<p>The IT is going beyond its original mandate to "preserve & protect" the unique amenities. Time to cut back expenditures!</p>
<p>The IT is over staffed & trying to get into areas way beyond their mandate.</p>
<p>The process by which "services" are offered is excrutiatingly time consuming and expensive with so many consulting/planning redundancies and create work projects. I find them to be extremely slow moving, overpaid, and often duplicating what federal and provincial agencies are already doing.</p>
<p>The proposed budget represents an increase which is not in keeping with the ability of residents to pay of 6.1% and also an increase of 36% over 9 years , plus a budget that uses up the reserves and surpluses while no emphasis is placed on eliminating or reducing programs. A zero based budget proposal would be more responsible.</p>
<p>The proposed spending is just wrong. It's not reasonable to spend that much.</p>
<p>The rate of increase since 2000 is appalling. I don't see value for the money paid to IT either.</p>
<p>The real choice I want is not listed, and this is the closest one. I would like the Trust to reduce red tape and streamline applications. I'd like to see less regulation, less hoops to jump through, and definitely less bylaw enforcement. Especially egregious are the regulations and enforcement which prevent rural property owners from bringing their tools and equipment home to their properties between jobs. There is really no reason bylaw enforcement expenses should be spent on making it harder for regular folks to make a living. Bylaw Enforcement should be completely cut and replaced with a restorative system more fitting for small islands filled with lovely well-meaning and responsible people.</p>
<p>The rezoning process is broken. The Trust now requires large expenditures before Public Hearings. Many of these expenditures historically were required after rezoning. If the Trust had fewer resources they would not be able to make these requests. Expenditures like hiring arborists before PH is misuse of planner's time and applicants money.</p>
<p>The scope of the IT has grown far beyond its initial mandate</p>
<p>The scope of work is not crisp and is based on "business as usual". The work scope needs to taken back to Zero and worked upwards from that. Challenge everything. Assume you have to slash the budegt by 50% and consider the impact. Thats what happens in business. Try it.</p>
<p>The services are not specific to SSI, so not effective</p>
<p>The tax burden is far too high. Get back to ONLY core purpose, and stop duplication in areas that are outside the Trust actual mandate.</p>

<p>Comments from participants who chose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
<p>The Trust admits it's own inefficiency in issuing permits and works at a glacial pace. The Policy Statement indicates taking on areas covered by other ministries and taking local control away from island trustees. I think the Trust should be replaced by our regional district instead.</p>
<p>The Trust budget as presented is meaningless. Compare the Trust budget to the Consumer Price Index and that tells a more accurate story. Or even the change in folios. But without reference, it is both meaningless and misleading.</p>
<p>The Trust budget exceeds that of the planning budgets for many larger municipalities in BC. It is not apparent that any significant value accrues to the SGI for this expenditure.</p>
<p>The Trust continues to suffer from mandate creep and delivers poor value for dollars spent. It is an unneeded level of bureaucracy that delivers nothing.</p>
<p>The Trust does not have competent Trustees to take on the responsibilities they have and certainly not increased responsibilities.</p>
<p>The trust does not practice fiscal responsibility.</p>
<p>The trust has autocratically decided to expand its powers and citizens who are impacted by this should not have to foot the bill.</p>
<p>The Trust is a bloated inefficient bureau.</p>
<p>The trust is already funding unnecessary services.</p>
<p>The Trust is already operating far beyond its mandate.</p>
<p>The Trust is already over reaching</p>
<p>The Trust is asking for a \$9.1 million budget. The increase (5%) is to largely to conduct additional studies, hire new staff (e.g., endangered species specialist) and expand their mandate into several new areas (marine management, housing, climate change, endangered species). Most of these regulatory areas are already handled and done well by provincial and federal agencies. The Trust, even with hiring, does not have the knowledge, expertise, experience or resources totake on these roles. Plus these new areas are outside the Trust's core mandate of land planning, development review and permitting, and managing the Trust Conservancy areas. The Trust should not be expanding roles and staff The Islands Trust levy in our taxes has increased from \$2.1 MILLION in 1994/95 to \$7.1 MILLION last year (2020/21). That is over a 300% increase in 28 years. The proposed increase this year does not include the multiple additional areas the Trust is trying to secure in the new Draft Policy Bylaw, so next year's budget increase will likely be even higher. The Islands Trust only plans and reviews development applications. Other than bylaw enforcement, the Trust is NOT responsible for any physical improvements or maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, bicycle trails, parks, schools, hospitals and medical clinics, paramedics, policing, fire response and the other services that make our community work.</p>
<p>The Trust is heading off on a tangent from it's mandate.</p>
<p>The Trust is out of control.The islands get very little planning services in relation to what we pay in taxes. We would be better off using consultants for planning services as needed.</p>
<p>The Trust is over-reaching into areas that other agencies are already dealing with. I do not support duplicating management roles. Stay in advocacy in areas such as marine management, forest management, endangered species,</p>
<p>The trust is overstepping there boundaries</p>
<p>The Trust is wasting 5 million dollars on overpriced planners that continue to fail to plan for growth</p>

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
The Trust should be land use only
The Trust was significantly more efficient, faster processing when there were fewer staff.
The Trust, even with hiring, does not have the knowledge, expertise, experience or resources to take on these roles. Plus these new areas are outside the Trust's core mandate of land planning, development review and permitting, and managing the Trust Conservancy areas. The Trust should be advocating in these new areas — as directed in their Act — not expanding roles and staffing.
The use of funds due to lack of efficiencies within the IT needs to be addressed before any additional programs are added. Reduce redundancies, and hire in community staff.
There are inefficiencies with planning staff. Some of their work on applications duplicates other agencies' mandates. In areas of potential duplication with other authorities, IT staff should redirect focus to areas within the IT mandate.
There are too many 'pet projects' in LTC's. They frequently involve areas beyond the IT mandate which generally fall into the jurisdiction of other levels of government, Regional, provincial or federal.
There is a lot of deadwood programs being funded that should be eliminated
There is too much interference already
There is too much overlap in the levels of government. The Island Trust is duplicating efforts that should be provincial or federal.
There is way too much sitting around generating documents that are of little to no value within the Trust. This isn't my opinion, but rather comes straight from a Trust employee whom I know.
These people are out of control and need to be reined in.
This is a lot of waste in the existing services that should be identified and reduced
Time to cut spending at all levels of government, Trust, CRD, Provincial and federal!
To arrive at value for dollars spent.
To be honest, the Budget History and Strategic plans got my back up. I feel the Islands Trust, in charge of an area with 25,000 inhabitants and much land already in national park and other reserves, has an unnecessarily high budget. I feel that the writers of the Plan are unfamiliar with the Gulf Islands and the people who inhabit them, and display some arrogance in their presentations. Perhaps more listening, and a more balanced, nuanced plan would be better received, by me at least.
To counter the Islands Trust (staff & elected members) apparent desire to increase the scope of their mandate in the proposed Long Term Planning Document.
to many staff. Trustees need to cut back on what they ask staff to do.
to reduce the burden to the taxpayers
too many increases
Too much advocacy, please stick to the core mandate of Land Use Planning
Too much bureaucracy to get housing options moving
Too much bureaucracy and control.
too much bureaucracy and excessive staffing
Too much government, too too heavy, too expensive, too hard to live in my home for working class.
Too much local government spending
too much resources spent on ridiculous bylaws
Too much spending.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce services and programs from current levels
Too much top-heavy expenses.
Too much waste, consulting fees and pet projects
Trust is not adhering to Mandate or operating efficiently
Trust is over-stepping its mandate and inefficient
Trust is totally out of control
Trust should limit itself to land use. Let other government agencies do their jobs. Get out of the building permit file, etc.
Undertaking areas not under the authority of IT and not with an adequate amount of expertise
Unnecessary overspending
Until zero based budgeting is adopted I don't see why you would approve an increased budget
Wasteful administration
WE are already paying too much. Minus at least 10%
We are currently wildly over regulated. I do not support tax increases that increase the bureaucracy and make it harder for individual responsible citizens to enjoy their land
We are over-governed. We need fewer services from the Trust and increased spending on our crumbling infrastructure.
We are very tired and concerned about the total lack of efficiency with the Trust
we cannot afford a large tax increase - especially as we get almost nothing for it. No water, no sewer, etc.
We cannot afford islands Trust anymore. When we moved here only 13 years ago the Islands Trust cost was 50 percent less than it is now on an inflation adjusted basis. You need to learn to do less for less. We recommend a one time reduction in budget of 12 percent and then hold to inflation for next five years. Stop hiring so many new staff. We have had to tighten our budgets over the past two years. Islands Trust should do the same. Lead by example.
we don't need extra people hired and a salary increase
we only need our roads, fire/ambulance and health services maintained, I do not need a tax increase for nothing in return which is all i see here. Leave our Saturna as it is where most of us are happy with what we have here now.
We receive no services now so why should we pay more?
We would all like to see the Islands Trust go away completely
When \$57+out of every \$93 goes to wages rather than maintenance/capitol project were management heavy! Time to lean it out and get to work!
Why introduce services and programs that are already done by other government agencies it seems you are over stepping your boundaries
With more society support for land use,and programs from other levels of govt...Trust is becoming less relevant
You are operating way beyond the bounds of your mandate

Comments from participants who chose:

- **Reduce services and programs from current levels**

You are recommending doing things that are advocacy and not services you are having huge overreach and ignoring prior surveys where we have said this. A bunch of your plans are not needed Douglas fir protection not needed , more planners than needed to a of advocacy that is beyond the mandate. A conservancy should be a non profit not funded by out tax dollars. Cut neck on mapping abs environmental studies,show fiscal responsibility, our small island can act responsibly re environmental issues but you are way overreaching out local mandate and providing is the most expensive land use services ever.

You are single-handedly turning our islands into a playground for the rich.

You are totally overstaffed and out of control

you don't add anything to oue existing Muni Council's hard efforts & are double taxing our community, & we're not getting anything from all the money we are currently send you every year !!

you have been adding and adding and this is enough - you are working far beyond your mandate

You have gone too far.

You only spend 10% of your budget on end programs....90% is compensation, buildings, and equipment.

You spend too much money, that isn't yours, to do studies & then we wait & we wait.

Your costs are rising at 3.5%/year for the last 9 years, well above inflation. Find some savings.

Your scope needs to be refocused.

Local Planning Services

In the Islands Trust Area, the focus of all land use planning is the preservation of the environment, cultural heritage, and community sustainability. Land use planning activities include:

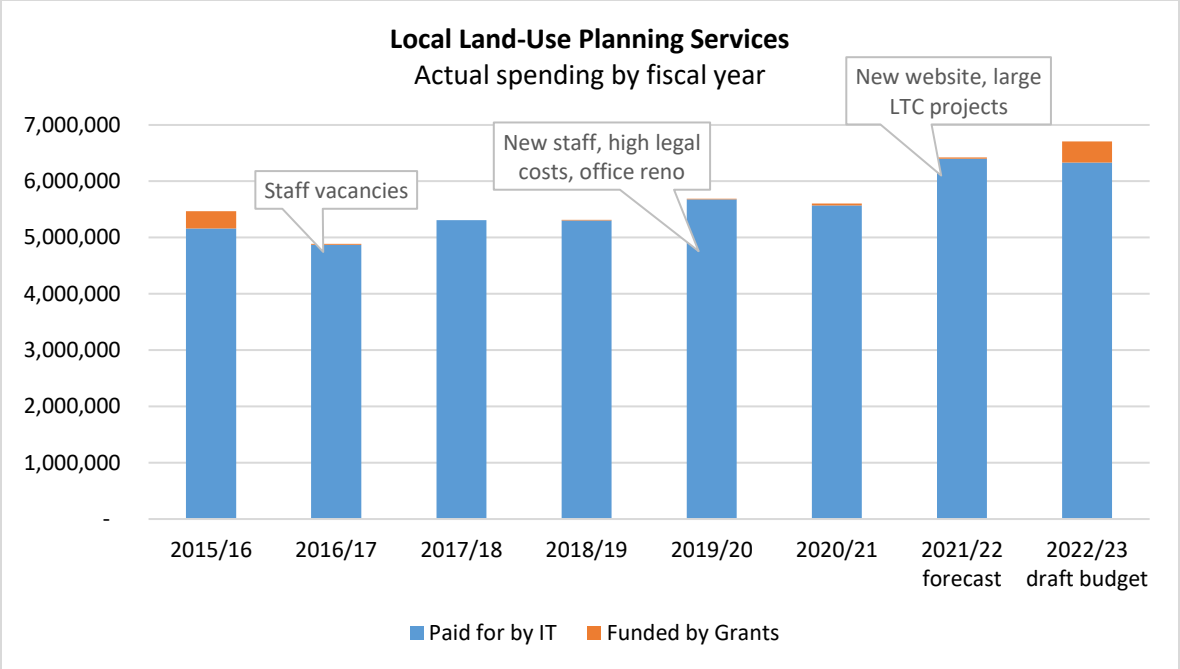
- Proactive land use planning (maintain and update 20 official community plans and 20 land use bylaws)
- Application processing (e.g. property rezonings, development permits, public hearings about proposed bylaws)
- Local trust committee meetings
- Community information meetings (e.g. land use planning issues, freshwater protection issues and options, climate change)
- Bylaw compliance and enforcement

In addition to routine regional operations, Trust Council plans to fund the following local trust committee projects for 2022/23:

- Hornby Island LTA: Official Community Plan Amendment Update - \$15,000
- Gambier Island LTA: Official Community Plan Amendment Update - \$17,000
- Denman Island LTA: Official Community Plan/ Land Use Bylaws Housing Review - \$13,500
- Salt Spring Island LTA: Protection Coastal Douglas-fir Zone and Assoc. Ecosystems Protection Project - \$3,200
- Salt Spring Island LTA: Ganges Village Project (phase 2) - \$51,000
- Salt Spring Island LTA: Housing Action Program (phase 2) - \$25,000
- Other local trust committee projects (to be allocated during the year) - \$26,000

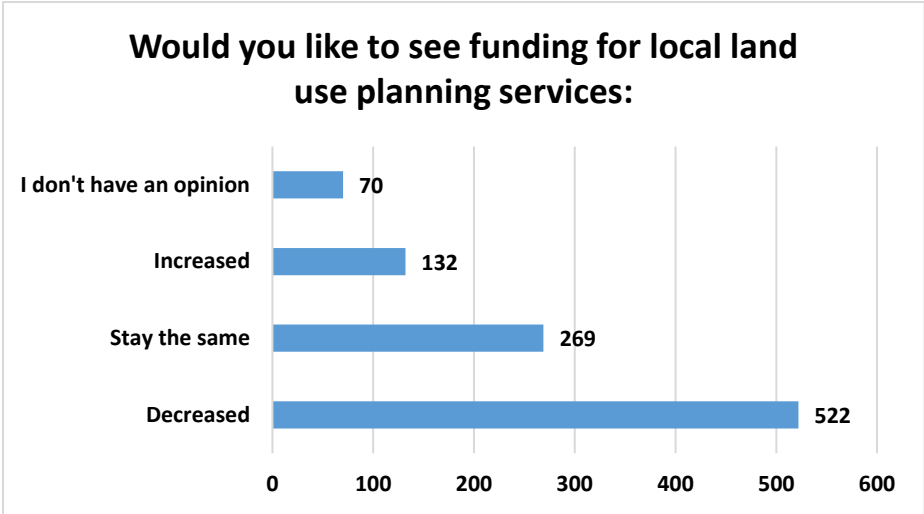
Trust Council also plans to fund the following operational project as a 100% grant-funded project:

- Development application processing improvement project - \$367,000



Question 4: Would you like to see funding for local land use planning services increased, decreased or stay the same?

- 993 participants (79%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 4 (This question was not available to respondents who indicated they felt most connected to Bowen Island).



Regional Programs

The Islands Trust Council supports the preserve and protect mandate through region-wide programs and services. These include:

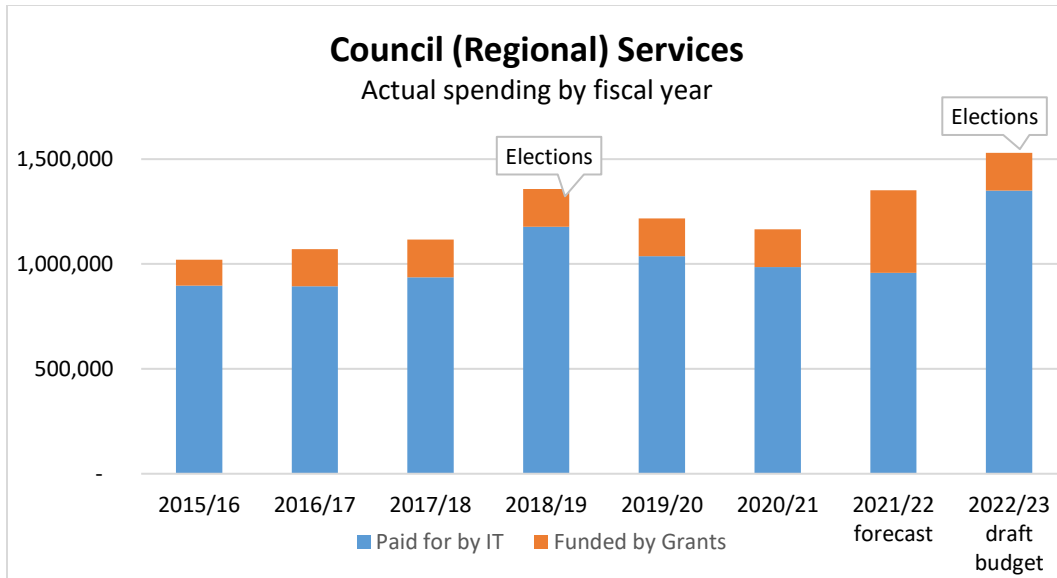
- Communications (e.g. website, social media, advertising, publications, news releases)
- Intergovernmental relations (e.g. reconciliation, agreements with other levels of government, hosting of coordination events)
- Trust Area-wide policy management, including the Policy Statement (e.g. updating, interpreting)
- Legislative services (e.g. Freedom of Information requests)
- Advocacy (e.g. lobbying about topics such as marine shipping safety, climate action)
- Public education programs (e.g. Community Stewardship Award program; educational workshops on topics such as water, climate action, species at risk)
- Islands Trust Council meetings and Council committee meetings

In addition to routine regional operations, Trust Council plans to fund the following Strategic Plan projects in 2022/23:

- Reconciliation Action Plan - \$ 17,000
- Policy Statement Amendment (Islands 2050) - \$5,000
- Website Improvements - \$15,000
- Model Bylaws (Affordable Housing) - \$10,000
- Freshwater Strategy Communications - \$6,000
- Groundwater Sustainability Science Program - \$50,000
- Heritage Preservation Overlay & Model Bylaws (phase 2) - \$74,000
- Climate Change Indicators - \$25,000
- Stewardship Education Program - \$17,500
- Secretariat Services - \$15,000

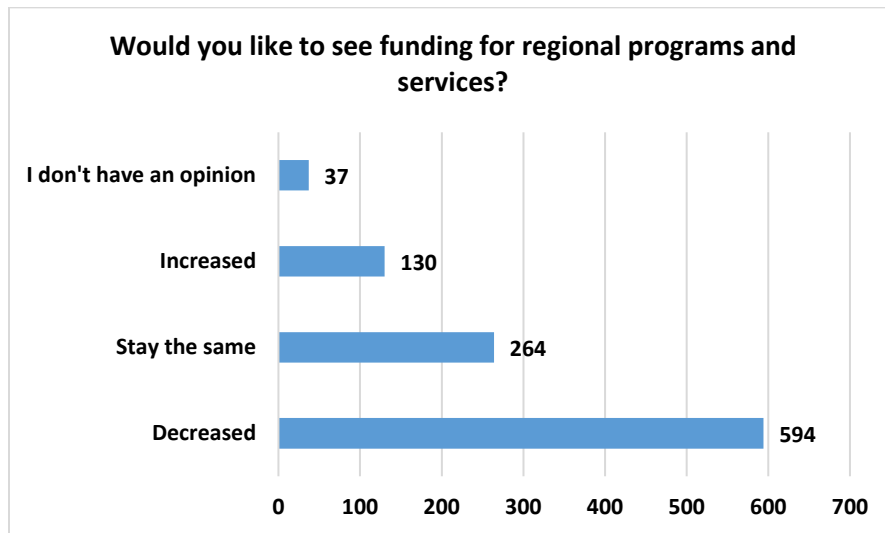
Trust Council also plans to fund the following operational project:

- Electronic Document Management improvement - \$6,500



Question 5: Would you like to see funding for regional programs and services increased, decreased or stay the same?

- 1,025 participants (81.6%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 5

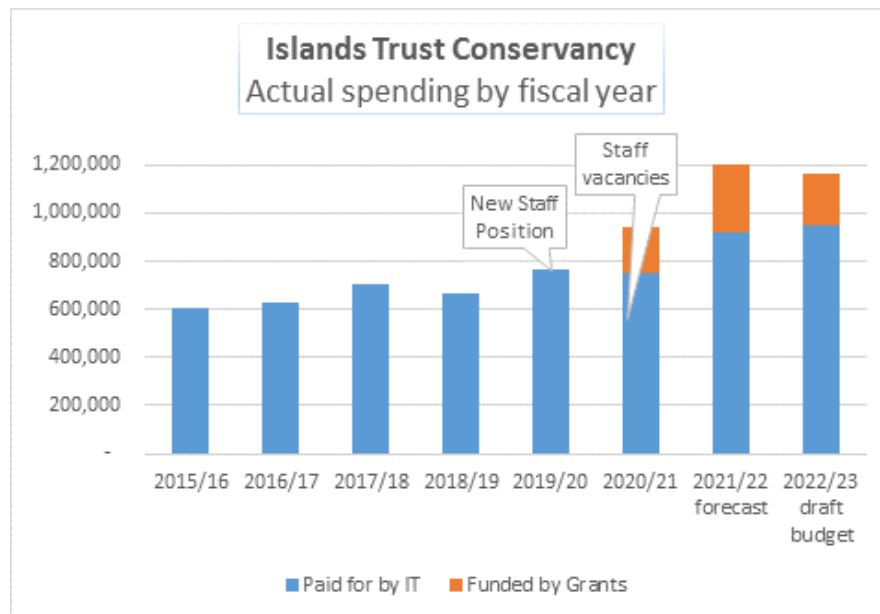


Islands Trust Conservancy

Ecosystems of the Islands Trust Area are among the most at risk in Canada and contain some of the highest levels of biodiversity in British Columbia. Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) protects natural landscapes (1,364 hectares) across the region within 32 nature reserves and 79 conservation covenants.

Islands Trust Conservancy encourages land conservation through innovative programs that promote conservation covenants (voluntary agreements registered on a land title that protect natural features), establishment of nature reserves and other voluntary conservation initiatives. ITC's administration costs, including the costs of managing the 111 protected areas, are paid for through the Islands Trust budget.

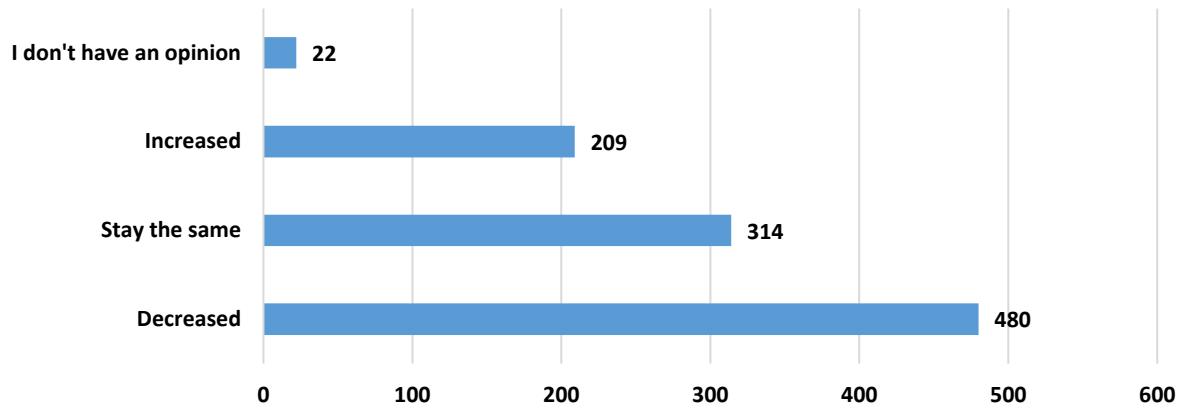
Land purchases and covenants are generously funded through donations and grants. As of July 1st, 2021, ITC nature reserves had a combined BC Assessment Value of over \$31 million. In 2022-23, Islands Trust Conservancy will also receive \$213,500 in external funding for a Species at Risk Program through Environment and Climate Change Canada which is part of a three-year grant totalling \$643,000. With more than 350 listed species at risk, and 72 ecosystems at risk in the Islands Trust region, the Islands Trust Conservancy has a strategic and focused program to help ensure their recovery.



Question 6: Would you like to see funding for the Islands Trust Conservancy in increased, decreased or stay the same?

- 1,025 participants (81.6%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 6

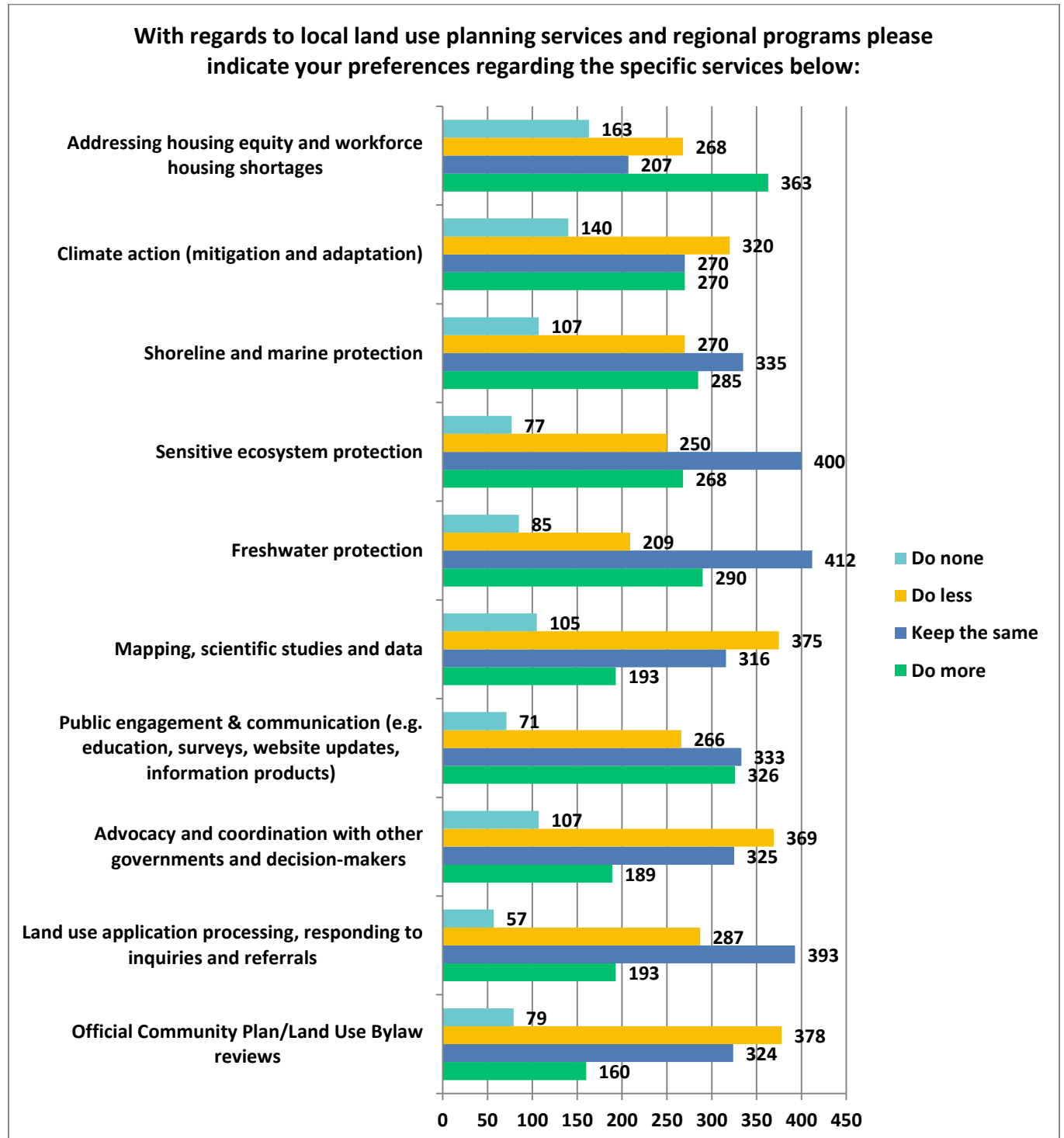
Would you like to see funding for the Islands Trust Conservancy?



Local Planning Services/Regional Programs – Specific Services

Question 7: With regards to local land use planning services and regional programs please indicate your preferences regarding specific services.

- 1,010 participants (80%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 7



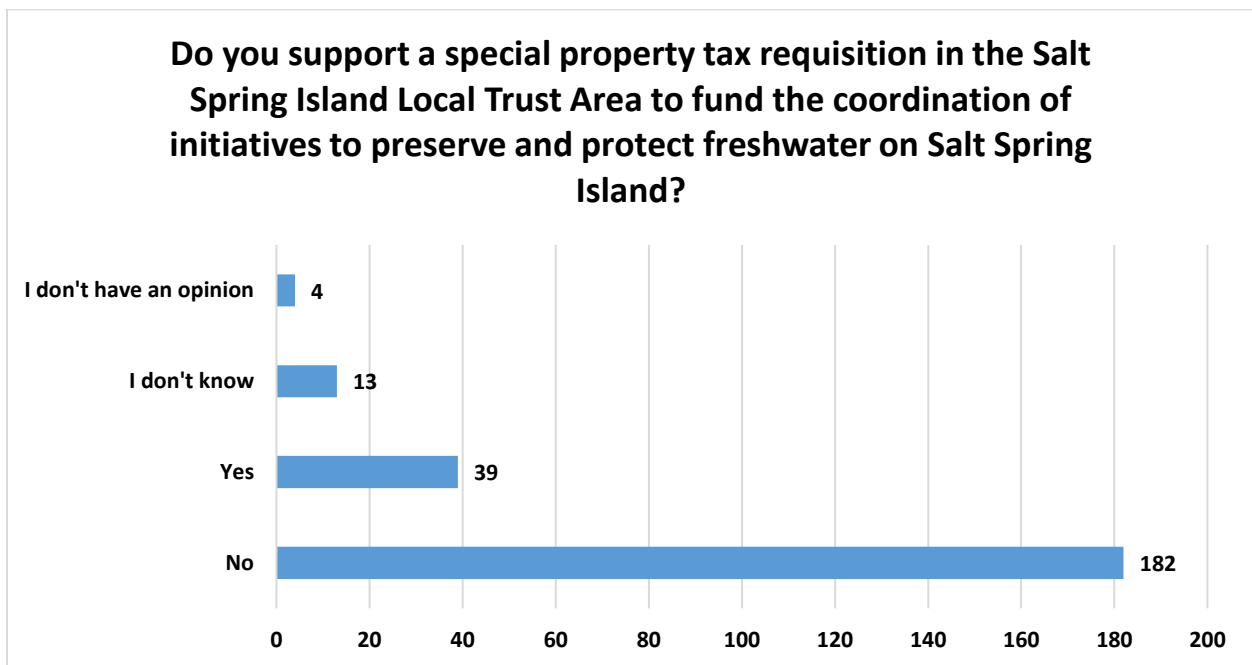
Salt Spring Island Special Tax Levy (This section only appeared when responded indicated connection to Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area).

A special property tax levy is a way for the Islands Trust to fund a special initiative taking place in a single local trust area through a tax levied on property owners only in that local trust area.

This special tax can be used when a local trust committee wishes to undertake a large project with local significance or to take on additional operations. Since 2014, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has funded, through a special local tax requisition, [Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance](#) to coordinate work related to the preservation and protection of freshwater resources on Salt Spring Island. [Backgrounder.](#)

Question 8: Do you support a special property tax requisition in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area to fund the coordination of initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater on Salt Spring Island?

- 238 participants (18.9%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 8 (Note: Participants who chose 'Salt Spring Island LTA' for Q2 only saw this question.)



The following tables show the comments from 73 participants who explained their choices to question 8.

Comments from participants who chose:
• Yes
Dependent on well articulated and specific programs and outcomes

Comments from participants who chose:
• Yes
There is some good work done with the funding, but it needs to be focused on a few key areas that result in tangible results.
Protect ecological precious places
There are many artisen wells in certain areas that are just left to overflo these need to be capped on all existing and future wells
I support the goals of the this initiative but am concerned about the possibility of cost inflations
Yes, as long as the objectives and performance indicators are being met.
important work thus far
yes but DO SOMETHING NOT JUST TALK
More coordination of initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater on Salt Spring Island
increase watershed protection
water is important
Small watersheds...look for new areas for collection sources
need to increase initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater
Yes ONLY IF this is done in conjunction with bylaw reform to require footprint-reducing construction practices like rainwater recapture, greywater reclamation irrigation systems, and permaculture-focussed landscaping design.
Need more funding to freshwater and Watershed Protection
Leave our wells alone.

Comments from participants who chose:
• No
You do not have jurisdiction in this area. There are multiple other government bodies whose jurisdiction it is.
This is not something that is in the purview of the trust. There are at least 3 other governing bodies at work here, let's not add another, it is already difficult dealing with the exisiting bodies.
Not your jurisdiction.
let's preserve and protect the people
Absolutely NOT through the SSI Watershed Protection Alliance. We have plenty of water and it is not being distributed correctly. Why fund this group? Get the NSSWD to pull their heads out of the sand.
Given that the Draft New Policy Statement plans to ban desalination this initiative is a waste of time and will not look for real, practical and environmentally benign solutions.
Stop taxing reduce your spending allow business to create revenue so the burden of taxation is transferred from homeowners to business .Right now you have blocked millions of dollars of business that is on hold and potentially more .millions of revenue that would pay for having clean water, safe communities and so many needed services. Instead your policies and the Government policies have created DEBT.
If we were a municipality we could get funding for this!
I don't trust this agency to act in best interests of local economic sustainability

Comments from participants who chose:

- **No**

The easiest and most straightforward way to preserve and protect is to limit development on Salt Spring Island. We are at the limit of fresh water availability for the needs of the existing population and cannot accommodate any population growth without huge expense to build the needed infrastructure.

Local property owners are very conscientious, Let them take ownership.

A broader approach should be taken to solving the problem of freshwater including rainwater harvesting, sharing wells, desalination etc. Just protecting freshwater springs is a limiting focus

There is lots of water, SSI needs to focus on storage solutions

we won't benefit, same as the Ganges sewer and Fernwood dock we pay for but don't benefit from our fresh water is already protected and more keeps falling from the sky (we live in a rainforest)

I do not have confidence in the capacity of the trust or level of expertise in balancing conservation with the reality of our community needs.

The mandate is very vague, I worry the money will end up disappearing with nothing to show for it

This is a ridiculous waste of taxpayer funds.

Need more transparency...too late

So far the Trust has done a very poor job of managing the plentiful amount of fresh water Saltspring has and I don't believe it's because of lack of funding I believe it's just poor management so I don't want my property taxes to go up to feed more poor management.

Property Taxes are not a free meal for Governments anywhere, Properties are a homeowner's savings plan for the final investment for many of retirement savings not the dipping fund for Multiple Governments going to the same pot over and over again, leaving the homeowner struggling to make ends meet when the taxes take up valuable retirement funds.

This is already under provincial jurisdiction so is unnecessary

Stop taking more money from the people and making more hurdles

This "coordinating-only" initiative has cost Salt Spring taxpayers a ridiculous amount of money for the value gained.

I do not encourage the Islands Trust's inclination to create and pursue endless bureaucratic studies that can never result in a measurable solution

There are more effective government agencies to tackle such issues

This item can be funded within the existing budget by establishing the budget with a zero based approach and eliminating programs of an equal amount needed. The focus on this budget is to keep the existing programs and services and to add more. This approach is not in keeping with the ability of the residents to pay.

Well users should not have to pay for services they don't use.

We have at least a dozen agencies already involved, not in the IT mandate so stay out of the business of others

My experience with individuals working on behalf of the organization is that they do not understand watershed management.

IT has done a poor job and I don't expect it will improve

Watersheds are already protected by provincial regulations.

What is being done now isn't working. More of the same = no change which is not acceptable

Provincial jurisdiction

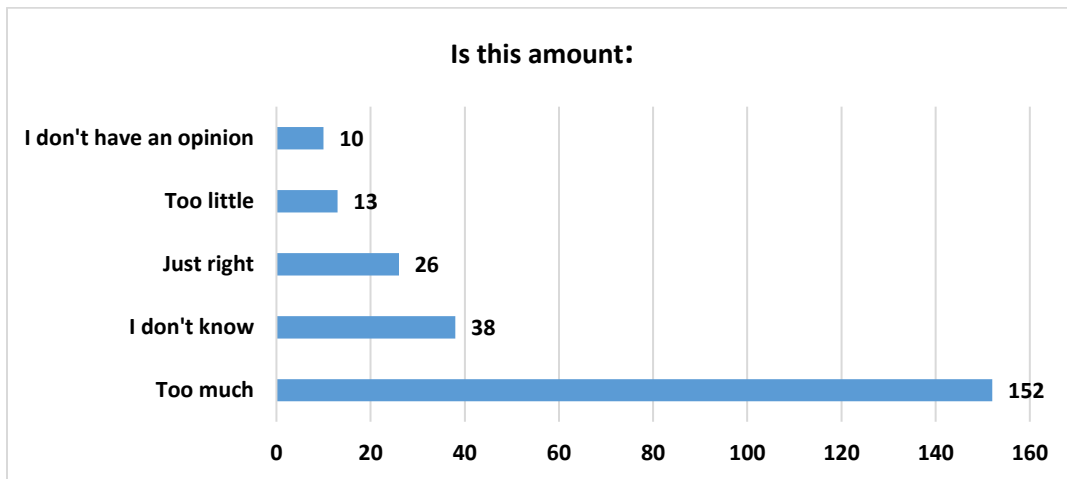
Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No
Preserve and protect inconsistent with additional supply
Island Trust is already too intrusive on property owner rights and should never be given control over water rights
Giving more money to any government agency (especially yours) is a 100% waste. You're no different than any other type of government. You aren't accountable enough to anyone; therefore, you waste resources and create more "need" for more studies and personnel.
it would only be a "money grab " to empire build
Stop wasting money
Prop tax increased 47% for 2022, along with water & fire & ins increase. Getting taxed out of retirement home
Water boards and the province should be responsible for this
IT not qualified
You spend too much money as it is & do nothing for it.
I find it difficult to comment without any discussion of mechanisms to ensure value for money spent. It seems there is a lot of studying, inventorying,etc without any real change or progress being made.
If this were an initiative that appears to create results that didn't impact private landowners' rights, I would be more willing to support it. I see no evidence of this.
This program has accomplished little and would be better coordinated by CRD because they can actually do projects, not just coordinate.
Landowners already pay more thantheir fair share through regular property taxes
You take enough of our hard-earned money.
There are already other government bodies in place to preserve/protect our countries oceans and fisheries.
Lots can't afford this after 2 years of covid
Water or Riparian issues are provincial.
Stop wasting money
There is an abundance of fresh water, on SSI, it comes from the sky, there should be an initiative for rainwater capture.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't know
Would prefer these funds be used for studies to help guide policy - not a panel
What are the details of the proposed initiatives? Will they include addressing the need to prioritize water resources for workforce housing not single family luxury homes?

Question 9: Is \$75,000 to fund the continued coordination of community, government and non-government organizations working together in 2022/23 to develop a framework and strategy to protect watersheds and preserve drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island too much, too little or just right?

- 239 participants (19%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 9
(Note: Participants who chose 'Salt Spring Island LTA' for Q2 only saw this question.)

The special property tax requisition is proposed to be \$75,500 to fund the continued coordination of community, government and non-government organizations working together in 2022/23 to develop a framework and strategy to protect watersheds and preserve drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island.



The following tables show the comments from 61 participants who explained their choices to question 9.

Comments from participants who chose:
• Too much
Again, you do not have jurisdiction in this area and there are other government bodies that do.
The same as above, this is not within the jurisdiction of the trust, and there are already multiple other governing bodies engaged in this.
Not your jurisdiction.
This is a Provincial ministry jurisdiction to many over lapping layers of government sets up conditions for inefficiency and waste
we need better water use strategies not protection of watersheds
Remove it. All of it. We have far greater problems that need funding than that.
See response to #8 above. Until and unless the Islands Trust can take its blinders off, the outcome of this study is already baked in. If the past is a guide, the Islands Trust will pursue a narrow viewpoint and only consider evidence that will conclude we are using too much water independent of the true nature of the situation and practical alternatives. Meanwhile, even a cursory overview of North Salt Spring Waterworks reports indicates that Lake Maxwell, for one, is grossly underutilized.
Not enough information

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much
No more tax increases to fund the services you should be supplying. Work on the revenue getting from a major shift in your policies
Again if we were a municipality we could get funding for this!
See above
Island Trust seems to make rules that hinder local owners from working to preserve water at their own homes. Leave locals alone.
our watersheds are already protected
Mandate is too vague
This special property tax requisition should be \$0
It is not necessary to add yet more property tax monies to fund the protection of a resource already receiving more than adequate funding from other government departments
Not necessary. Operating outside of mandate
I support the program but do not see need for additional property tax requisition
make this work with what you have - no more property tax.
Out of jurisdiction, this is duplication
The last time they tried to do this they wanted to put protection on a mud puddle on properties.
Of course, ngo's that are all probably far left leaning and sold entirely on collectivism -- defund them for non partisan solutions to non partisan problems
Way too much. The citizen engagement ia nothing more than disguised direct support for advocacy groups
Money needs to be spent on housing or roads , not on this!
endless work on paper with no results
Landowners are already protecting watersheds and water supplies.
Way too much!!! Lower that by 68,000
Water use controls are holding development hostage - fix the water storage issues!
Read previous comment
Needing a "special tax" is govt speak for "we wasted what we already took from you and now we need more."
Stick to core mandates do not expand.
No need
Reduce
See answer to #8 - no special requisition!
want good water and evironment, but can no longer live in my retirement (last) home if taxes keep rising in every direction
This is not to be funded by tax dollars
The province and water boards should be doing this
No more money for you
What is actually being done? I don't see any action, only spending of money to plan and plan a "framework and strategy" while nothing is done other than NSSWWD is still continuing to bully the island with their moratorium.
Always a plan or framework ,always expensive ,always paid for

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much
This project should be funded by CRD not the Islands Trust because CRD can use the money for useful projects, not just coordination.
The budget is fat enough to get this done if you would trim the excess planners, etc that are very overstaffed.
The trust is land use planning...all of these initiatives are outside that scope. Get back in your lane and stay there.
overlapping with provincial governance for watershed management.

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too little
As climate change proceeds freshwater resources will become more and more scarce and difficult to supply to the existing population.
Other regional districts have \$100,000s a year
should be higher for science and monitoring and research
need to EXPAND not just preserve water supplies for ALL residents. END THE MORATORIUM in NSWWD
more coordination of initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater on Salt Spring Island
funding on the level of other watershed protection programs are needed
Need more funding for freshwater
This amount only supports coordination, more funding is needed to do monitoring, science, and other projects

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just right
Why was there no framework/strategy developed in 2021/22? When will the framework/strategy be ready in 2022/23?

Comments from participants who chose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know
Not enough information for informed opinion
Would prefer to see these kinds of projects if they are seen as a priority be funded from within the regular budget
If you have to...
give me more specifics what this will pay for exactly
See previous comment. Don't just add on without a review of all services and programs.
Would prefer these funds be used for studies to help guide policy - not a panel
Is this SSSIWPA? Please be clear and provide details and report out on how well that initiative has worked so far. It's impossible to give useful input based on two sentences.

Comments from participants who chose:

- **I don't know**

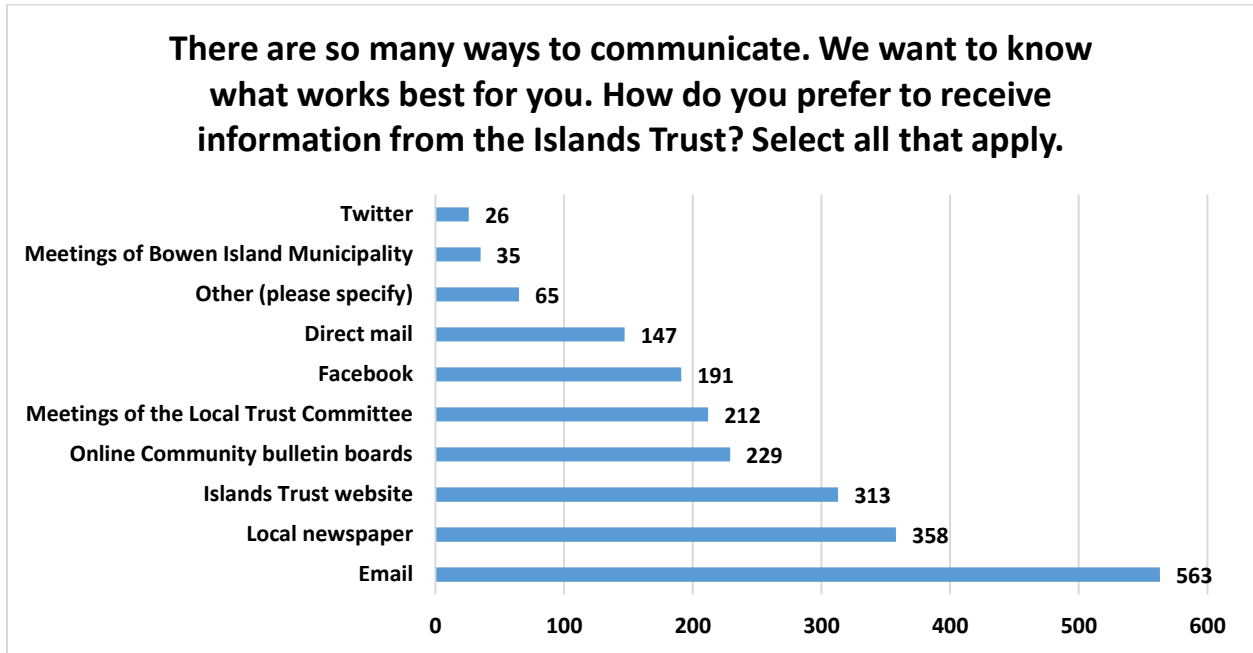
How can the average tax payer possibly evaluate this. A classic example of useless bureaucracy to my mind to even ask such a question

Tell Us More

There are so many ways to communicate. We want to know what works best for you.

*Question 10: How do you prefer to receive information from the Islands Trust?

- 979 participants (77.9%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 10



The following tables show the comments from 65 participants who indicated communication preferences.

Comments from participants who provided other options:
Does it matter? Has the IT done anything worthwhile in the last 10 yrs? That would not have been done by other, preexisting layers of government or volunteer organizations?? A huge amount of Feather Bedding..just ask any of them...they will tell you how hoid they ate and how much they have accomplished
Ideally I don't hear from the so called "trust"
A summary of intended actions to be available
the IT shouldn't be involved with Bowen Isl, as we are a Muni, & you've done nothing for us that counts ! It's time for you to fold your tents & leave us alone Thanks very much !!
i'll go looking for it
Actually meet and talk to people/no gov by facebook
please stop wasting your time and energy trying to control others
radio
Simplify to one page summaries & email. This is too much information.

Comments from participants who provided other options:
Minutes that are succinct! The detail in your agenda addendums and minutes are beyond the pale. Have something user friendly so that people can actually spend the time to read them. What you have now could be seen to be a device to keep people uninformed as they don't have time to read it all. How about an Executive Summary? Others do it. Why not the trust?
face to face local meetings with other islands trustees attending
Keep all Islands Trust meetings online including Council.
We do not need islands trust on Bowen. We voted for municipal status to get rid of the trust. Please leave us alone
Need regional FOCUS survey. People have difficulty reviewing these facts, figures, graphs for all island regions!! Individualize surveys applicable to people's interest.
Physical community bulletin boards
Ask residents if they even want your extra layer of bureaucracy still, most don't. Just disband already, let everybody run their own island.
none
Communications needs improvement. It is hard to communicate and people are not motivated to listen until they think they are personally affected. figure it out and do better!
No more Islands Trust make it a department within CRD
Word of mouth
Abolish the Trust
the new website is terrible. Bring back the old one.
The Trust must take into consideration that the local paper reaches ONLY 16% circulation, not all of which are on Salt Spring (my jurisdiction). USELESS since nobody reads it. Direct mail or Email. A large portion of residents do NOT use Facebook or Twitter or go to meetings.
_Plain__text_email (no html, a privacy and security hazard
espokes. Thetis island daily email
The new web site is useless - too hard to navigate and find information.
eSpokes
Zoom all meeting. Save us the needless travel expenses.
How about holding meetings at times when working people can attend instead of catering to retirees? Terrible
You need to clarify your trust meeting agendas. With all the paperwork in the package, it takes hours just to determine what will be discussed. Can someone create a plain english summary?
Note: The new IT website is terrible. The old website was great because it was logically laid out and one could easily find minutes and reports going back several years. The new website is a poor replacement.
Zoom meeting
Discontinue using Facebook
I find the website very unhelpful and prefer the old version
Whatever you do - more transparency is needed. It has taken a very hot fire/yelling and unhappy residents to get you to this point.
Open town halls on a topic, vs restrictions of LTC meetings

Comments from participants who provided other options:
Forget social media
Community facebook page
Don't care
Regular reporting from our area trustee(s)
The Islands Trust community groups on facebook seem misleading and are not a representation of the residents that want the Islands Trust to continue to preserve and protect the islands
3 times a year community meetings.
be sure everyone has access-not only online
By "Local Newspaper" I mean island publications: Islands Grapevine and Flagstone
The trust has out lived it's mandated
Town Halls every third month in person with Trustees and Trust Staff
ACTUALLY meet with residents in TownHall meetings, give opportunity to all residents to PERSONALLY attend a meeting. Most seniors DO NOT ZOOM, or attend video meetings. More personal contact within the community; not just 'SCRIPT' your personal opinions to be posted in the local bulletin.
Town halls
Thetis Island eSpokes email service
Meetings available to all through zoom
The Islands Trust website is abysmal to navigate. Local Newspapers have poor and declining readership. Direct Mail gets to the resident and non resident property owners.
webinars and/or zoom meetings
Virtual meetings Dominic not inform the people I know. Nor do they use your website. We need public people meetings.
Get our emails and keep us informed. You are terrible at communication. I have registered my email with you but still don't get any ? Why? I only heard of this via a friend. ? Why for instance is this survey not posted on 'espokes' the only real communication mechanism on theris island , why for instance have I bot received an email about this survey ? Why did I have to hear about it via a Facebook group not connected with the islands trust ? Where are my trustees ? Can't you guys manage to send out emails. Costs very little ?
Community information meetings not on zoom would be most helpful!
I travel a lot and want continued access to video meetings and minutes.
Come to our island once in a while (Mudge)
Salt Spring Exchange
Town Hall Meetings
Direct communication from Trustees to their communities with actual detail on what they are proposing.... that is, go further than just giving notice of upcoming meetings.
Multiple options to reach more people

Comments from participants who provided other options:

Your new website is as bad as your old one. However, so many legacy documents are missing from your new site. Now, these documents are only available through a freedom of information request. So much money spent on a NEW (improved? nope) website that is difficult to navigate and consistently resets my filter options, yet never remembers choice made on landing splash page. FAIL in communication and engagement. Citizen led engagement processes generate far more engagement, than IT ones. Why? Because residents don't believe that the Islands Trust ever listens. Its dysfunctional systems are too busy trying to decipher their own tangled webs of bureaucracy, staff-in-control, and political machinations or optimistic ignorance of trustees. While residents (human and non-human) suffer.

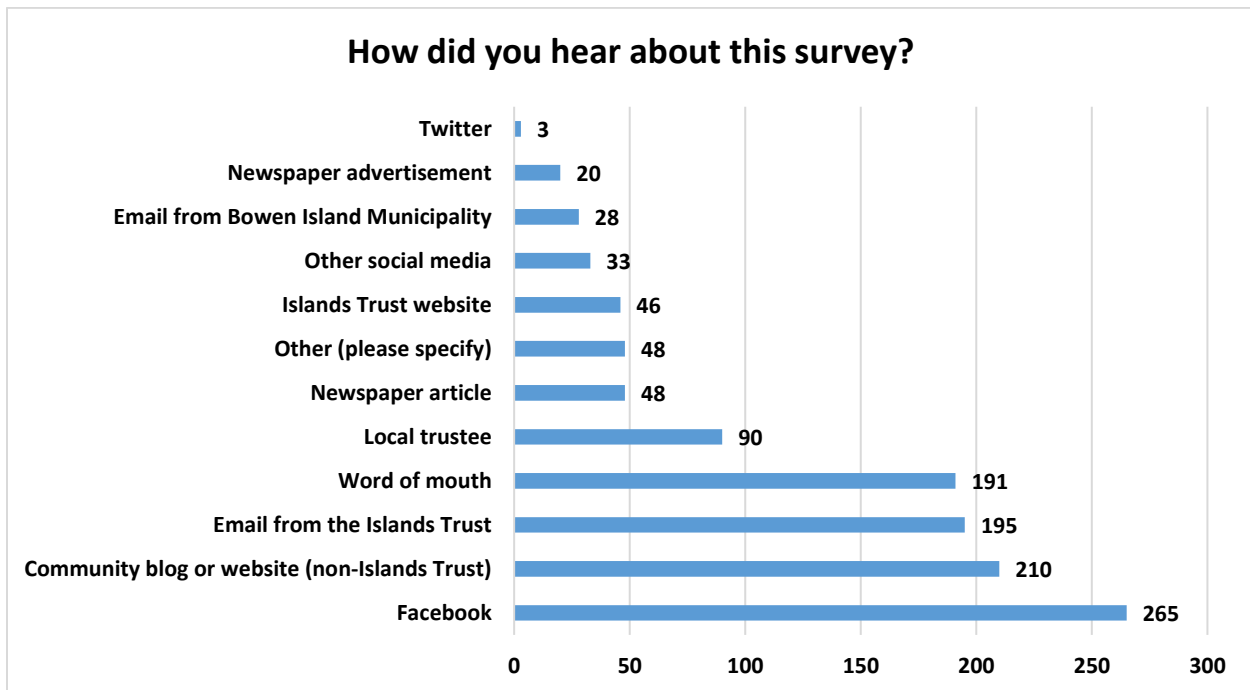
The website is hard to navigate and gets stale. I'd like to see a renewal of in person discussions with our reps. And during COVID, until we resume in person meetings, there should be no major decisions made. It smacks of underhand dealings... pushing things through without sufficient discussion by residents.

Posting information at ferry terminal works also

How about a sign at the ferry terminal with regular updates

***Question 11: How did you hear about this survey?**

- 979 participants (77.9%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 11



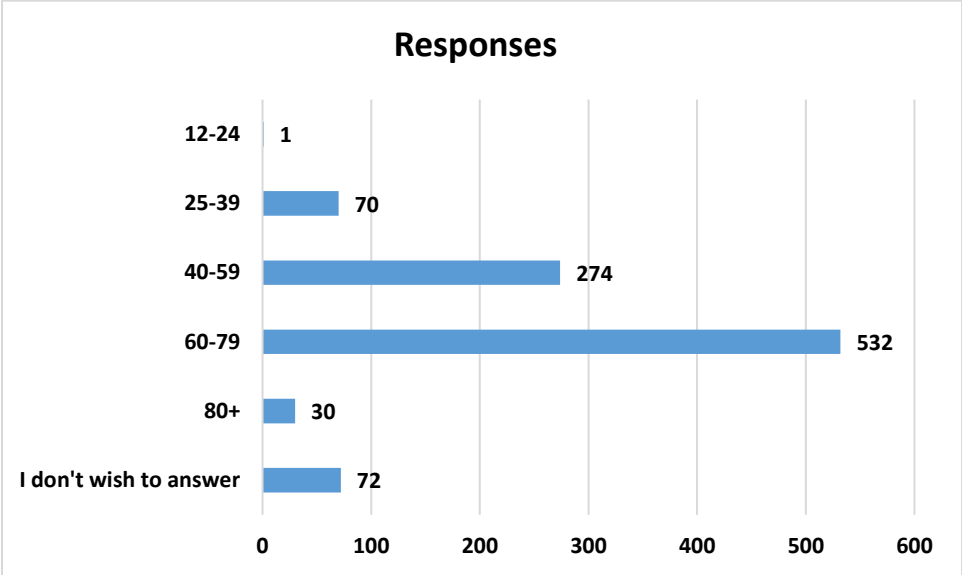
The following tables show the comments from 48 participants who provided more information on how they heard about the survey.

Comments from participants who provided other suggestions:
Word of mouth
ESpokes...
Undercurrent local newspaper
Agitation letter from CIRA, whom I do not support
Concerned Citizens website
Heard about from a friend.
An Undercurrent article
Concerned SSI Residents
Neighbour
Thetis Island eSpokes email service
Our Islands Trustee
Email
Postal box flyer
Email from our trustee
Propaganda flier in my mailbox by "Concerned Island Residents". I firmly disagree with their perspective and support the valuable work of Islands Trust
received a link
Local newspaper the Grapevine
friends
Saturna Island Residents & Renters Association - SIRRA
A concerned citizen. I have only filled this out because that person brought the issues to light. Most are buried in a lot of information.
Luckily there is a Facebook IT policy discussion forum other wise I would not have known about the survey
Islands Trust Concerned Pender Group
Stop the islands trust
email buddy
from family member
e-mail from a residents advocay group
Again, the only print newspapers I read regularly are Denman Island publications: Grapevine, Flagstone. The Denman Trustees, L Busheikin in particular, use these channels very effectively.
email from Councillor
Try to stay aware as distrustful of IT!
A group that sees the IT operating well beyond their original purvue.
espokes
Stop the island trust group
Discussion with friends
Private individual forwarded it to me.
Definitely not from Islands Trust!
SIRRA
A local organization

Comments from participants who provided other suggestions:
Concerned Citizens Group
Our community group is active at holding governments accountable which is where our best communication with lies comes from
Thetis Island eSpokes
email from Concerned Island residents
You ignore bowen island, it is hard to support you even though i want to
Espokes
from one of the Trustees! ... and I'm even signed up to receive emails from the Trust and they didn't bother to advise me of this survey.
Nothing from island trust staff or trustees.
I had no notification. Had to dig for it.

***Question 12: Please indicate your age:**

- 979 participants (77.9%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 12



Question 13: Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):

- 385 participants (30%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 13

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Address housing inequity and lack of housing for local workforce and long time residents (some born and raised here who are experiencing housing insecurity), by placing a moratorium on new enforcement of so called illegal housing until adequate housing is available locally. Rework bylaws to allow secondary housing on all properties 2 acres or larger. Adopt the new ALC acceptance of secondary housing.
Decrease the budget by at least 10%, address and resolve all inefficiencies, implement a hiring freeze and staff reduction through attrition. Less staff will be needed once inefficiencies are resolved.
The lack of personal interaction (yes, yes COVID issues) - have prevented the majority of residents from learning, finding out about the MAJOR ISSUES of IT and how it will affect our communities. IF COVID is the issue preventing PERSONAL information and opinions from being heard - THEN CANCEL THE BYLAW changes, readings, and STOP any changes, or new bylaws until such time as a FULL ON personal response from all Island communities can be heard or held.
Increase bylaw enforcement
there certainly is very little info available that allows me to give truly informed responses
The Islands Trust should not be requesting funds to deal in issues they have no jurisdiction on. It is misleading to the residents and a misuse of resources.
Found questions were too suggestive and vague
I feel the Islands Trust is working outside it's mandate on many issues and is creating an unhealthy environment for the future of young working families on the islands and an increase of any kind to the budget will only empower them to inflict more constraints on the young families trying just to survive on the Island.
I, and many many other successful people truly believe that the IT has outlived its usefulness and must be disbanded..it appears almost nothing meaningful, necessary or worthwhile has been accomplished in a long time.
Some Questions were too subjective.
I do not believe that Island's Trust has jurisdiction over shoreline and Marine environment-I believe that is the purview of the Federal government. I feel strongly that much greater protections ARE required for our fragile Marine Environment, but am unclear how Islands Trust would propose to implement any protections if the Federal Dept of Fisheries and Oceans in fact regulates management of our Marine Environment
The Island Trust's accounting in this survey and in its Report have a number of errors. IE. There was a Property Tax increase (0.3%) in 2020/2021 where the Survey page reports none (0.0%). Annual increases in the IT budget are on average twice that of CPI. The IT has been drawing down its Surplus Funds by \$78,000 per year, or about 1% of the overall budget annually since 2016/2017. Over 9% of the Surplus was consumed in 2020/2021 alone. This effectively hides a 1% budgetary increase and further underscores that the Islands Trust budget is growing at an unsustainable pace.
There isn't enough information in many areas of the budget to approve an increase of any kind, especially when the increase proposed seems majorly to address a few issues that are not within the

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
trust's jurisdiction. Many of the needs of the communities cannot be addressed by the trust, and the areas that can be addressed seem to be falling by the wayside such as zoning for businesses and for effective community planning and outreach.
I'm very unhappy with the direction the Trust is going. I believe the Trust has fulfilled it's useful role and should be dissolved so a more local self-determined governance can be adopted.
Affordable housing needs action now! Enough consultation, enough meetings, enough discussions, enough consultation, enough meetings, enough studies, enough meetings. ACTION NOW. Change bylaws, that's an action. Start building, that's action. DO something. These islands cannot thrive with wealthy people as the only residents.....who will mow lawns, shovel snow, clean houses, wipe wrinkly bottoms, provide support, serve coffee, run errands, sell groceries, staff the stores, keep people in their homes during their final years of life etc etc?! Us folks that need housing provide those services. Us folks that also value this island and lifestyle it offers, need housing. Us folks living illegally, we need to be able to not live in fear or secrecy. We contribute, we provide the skills and services to the wealthy aging population by allowing them to maintain their homes. We are not "them" we are the community members in your lives.
IT has clearly lost its way in recent years. I have worked and lived in the area for 34 years in design, development and construction. The budget has increased 10-fold, staff positions 6-fold and timely turn-around in application processes has slowed down to a crawl. It is time that IT return to serving the needs of its local areas individually.
Numbers presented in #3 do not agree with audited financials. This is a major problem in financial reporting.
There is a severe housing crisis where many families with children have no housing on denman. They should not have to leave the island. Please do something. Consider changing the rules about additional houses on land and providing some community rental housing at a lower cost.
I had to indicate choices of less environmental protection because I don't want Islands Trust putting Gulf Islands measures on top of Bowen Island bylaws and implementation. Coordinating with two higher levels of government (and sometimes Metro Vancouver) is more than enough already. Bowen has a remarkably effective Manager of Environment who coordinates well with council and her BIM staff colleagues, with the effect of steady progress in environmental protection. Counter-productive cost and complexity would impede what is going well.
I strongly support the Islands Trust's Object, but want operations and bylaws to be greatly streamlined with an effort to move away from NIMBY and complaint-driven responses.
One thing I object to is the lack of strong adherence to democratic values in your processes. In particular why were the proposed new purposes of the Trust not revealed and debated before the last election?
Why are the proposed strategies, with associated costs, not being done by current staff? If current staff cannot develop strategy, perhaps a change in role or position is in order to achieve all these strategies that the Island Trust wants to accomplish. Doing this work inhouse rather than farming it out to a consultant or someone else to develop will save considerable money and save tax payers money. Shame on you for mindlessly increasing taxes to achieve this rather than find efficiencies or changes to accomplish it.
This and other over-reaching non-government organizations have not fulfilled the mission statement that you quote, i.e. preservation of heritage, sustainability and conservation. The expense far outweighs the expense incurred.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):

"with regards to local land use planning services and regional programs please indicate your preferences regarding the specific services below." This question is BADLY worded. It is slanted to people's emotions.... yeah, do more about climate change but that is not in our jurisdiction, so how does one respond? And the answer options are not open to proper interpretation: "do less" "do the same" "do more" "no opinion" What are you going to parse from this? You should be asking REAL questions like, do you think that the Trust has lost its "why"? How do you feel about hiring consultants all the time? Do you think that the Trust is advocating in areas it has no jurisdiction? Do you feel that as a property owner that you are getting value from the service of Islands Trust? The questions and answer options will give you no more enlightenment than the previous 2050 iteration. I am sorely disappointed.

I think Islands Trust needs t do more to preserve and protect the ecosystems of our islands and marine environment.

The IT doesn't need any more money. There is too much of an over lap of services and oversight between it and the provincial and federal governments. Stick to just being a conservancy advocate.

The Southern Guld Islands should have been a National Park a long time ago. Any policy that moves toward treating it like a park would be welcome.

As a resident I request that a status quo budget be approved for this year. It's been many years since a comprehensive review of our OCP was done and much has changed. In order for the IT to remain relevant, we must return the the basics: a review of the values, purpose and mandate of the Trust within the context of 2022 and beyond. IT Trustees and IT Staff and Consultants cannot determine this without significant community input, particularly from the younger demographics.

I am in my 60s. My reality is very different from someone in their 30s or 40s who is trying to make a good life on Denman Island. I support conservation. I want a big focus on climate change awareness, prevention and mitigation. I want reconciliation. I want our younger people and families to be able to live and work on our Island. I want their voices to have priority over mine. As an Elder I see that my roles are to continue to work hard on the issues but, importantly, to support the younger ones who have such complicated issues to cope with.

This is election year. It offers prime opportunities for newly elected/re-elected Trustees to engage with their constituents in a full OCP review - and again, it must include everyone, especially the younger residents. Only then will I feel that the IT has a supported mandate. There is so much to talk about and consider, and I look forward to community discussions. Without this I think the future of the IT is uncertain.

Input on policy draft and associated increase in costs

Very clearly the Trust is spending our hard earned dollars on the wrong items. Priorities should be to manage development, community and housing, not worry about the environment. If Trust budget on "humans" and human issues is "X", budget on environment and water, marine, etc should be 1/5 X. People count, not salmon! We cannot stop oil tankers, so stop trying. The Trust has not addressed the biggest issues on Salt Spring...main one being housing...for over 5 years. The Trust is doing nothing by my reckoning yet you up the budget the last two years.

Please stick to the original mandate.

I know this is rigged and you will do what you want - but as you asked, I felt compelled to answer

There needs to be a review with input from the trending demographic and accordingly an update to the Community Plan. Such a review would have relevance and validity as to which programs to pursue. Planners and consultants who who are not necessarily residents of any Gulf Island tend to be a financial drain - they are not restrained by the fact of having to pay Island Trust taxes.

I would love to see community owned fibre optics in the budget!

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Ultimately the Island trust will not listen to the people. We are run by people in Victoria and special interest groups.
the incese you are asking for, (over 4%) is on top of the yearly charges you take away from our tax payers, & it needs to stop. Our Muni council is doing a good job for us & we don't need to be paying out \$324,000.00 for your over staffed kingdom !!
Property owners should be allowed to build and clear land without getting harassment from the Island Trust if they are keeping to the guidelines.
When will the "trust" stop facilitating ecocide, desecration of cultural sites, and creation of urban development? You have your well paying employment, please "preserve and protect" the islands in the trust region.
I would like to see a focus on expediting land use and building permits for multi family affordable housing and locally owned commercial enterprise.
Our LTC has spent an inordinate amount of time & money on revising the OCP at a time when the IT is revising the Policy and at a time when public consultation on that policy has not even started. The draft OCP is likely to be completed before the Policy Statement is presented. Hence the work done for the OCP will likely have to be done all over again. A colossal waste of time, money And constituent engagement.
No New Taxes ...
Bylaw enforcement is joke. The bylaws are rarely enforced and when they are "sorry we didn't know" gets the owner out of any rectifying Land conservation is a joke, there will not be any trees/plants left on Mayne because of the deer problem that has been known for decades and nothing done
Stick to the mandate of the Trust. Stop expanding the role of the Trust, growing staff and costs and replicating responsibilities already under jurisdiction of other levels of government.
Be more proactive/supportive of community food waste management and other community minded climate mitigation/adaptation efforts. IT policies should be more flexible to these efforts.
Staying within the mandate of the trust is important to me, but if the trust needs to fundamentally change to address the realities of govt under current circumstances, then that work should be undertaken wholeheartedly, not in leaps and stops.
You're overreaching. You were land use you determine our rezoning that's it. Stop over reaching or trying to. You're way too expensive too many people in your offices for some reason you need 60 employees? When we were struggling your budget was continuously increasing. Gross
the website is very difficult to use, not easy to find things the ques re funding for the ITC was confusing, not clear if asking if funding should be by taxation or from grants and donation. Funding should be from the government as the conservation lands re held by ITC for the prov government so they should pay or by grants and donations, funding should not be by taxation of the trust area
Time to reduce redundancy, combine multi government bodies to achieve the same outcomes.
Time for people to realize living on a small island is expensive and it won't change. Like any other neighbourhood, if they can't afford it, quit whining and move to a larger center that has the free resources they seem to think they're entitled to.
The islands trust wishes to duplicate services already provided for by the government. This will entail the land owners on the islands paying for these services twice. The government will save money by having the islanders take over various areas. This is not helpful to the landowners. This will mean more red tape, more hassles and overall frustration. The islands trust should be abolished since they no longer care about the actual residents of the islands. This seems to be only about power and

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
control. Very sad really. If the trust took on say in issue like trying to create more affordable housing I think they would have more backing from the residents. Trying to change everything at once is not a financially sound idea. Those struggling on the islands cannot afford to pay for all the dreams of the trust.
I put off doing this survey because I thought making choices about the budget would be something that would be over my head. I'm a very smart person and a professional, I just don't have a detailed understanding of what's happening at the IT to make decisions about the budget. I was encouraged on FB to fill this out before the deadline, so I finally had a look and I was right all along. I would like to have the questions asked to me about what's important to me without the numbers.
When I answered questions with "remain the same" I meant the same as in previous years. The proposed budget increases are well above inflation. There are no savings proposals or completed project spending reductions noted. Also, it would be helpful to see some numerical measures against operational budgets.
Preserve the rural nature of the community. Housing density is appropriate near cities where water infrastructure is established and where arable land is no longer available.
This is not accessible to most residents of the islands - the language used is not appropriate for many individuals.
Just to point out that I am concerned about the growth of animal ag on water-scarce Gulf Islands. More education (evidence-based) around the many negative impacts of animal ag of all kinds (not just factory farms) and the need for the Global North to shift towards a more plant-based diet/re-wilding of our islands...
I am requesting the following: 1. Moratorium on bylaw enforcement for "illegal housing " until adequate, affordable housing solutions are available on each island to meet the needs of every community member 2. Hiring freeze, staff reduction through attrition, to 40 staff members by 2035, cut back on all activities outside of the Islands Trust core mandate, including areas of overlap or duplication where the jurisdiction belongs to another government entity 3. All staff know and adhere to policy regarding land use planning, permitting, rezoning, development - this will greatly improve efficiency and reduce time waste, delays, unreasonable costs to landowners 4. Eliminate inefficiencies; a minimum standard of 95% efficiency should be achieved and maintained
Too many paper pushers and planners at the trust 5.5 million dollars worth, I don't see any positive outcomes from this burden. We need more marine enforcement!
I find this survey much too vague. Indicating numbers without an outline of where that money is allocated or more specific project details makes it very difficult to decide if it's a good idea to increase or decrease funding. Furthermore, I know of many people on Denman who don't regularly use the internet and who would have difficulty accessing this survey. All residents should have this survey mailed to them directly with the option to complete online or by hand.
Streamline and speed up processes, planning that takes years is clearly ridiculous. Find out why, sort it out. Streamline staffing, yours grows whilst everyone else's shrinks. How many people are really doing very little? Stop being based in Victoria, outside the region you represent and super expensive. No one needs to work in an office anymore, stop that. Look at the work from home people, what are they actually getting done. Stop over reaching your mandate, treat all three pillars equally. Without the strong communities there will be nothing for you to control, and hence you will become redundant. The pillar of community is as important as the others. Do some proper engagement with

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
first nations peoples. Loose the tokenism. Figure out the endgame for that. How, exactly are we going to hand land back, start thinking about that now.
Survey too long & complex to make good, well considered and researched choices in an hour, let alone 20 minutes. Good job of presenting information, however.
Given the current economic problems due to ongoing COVID mitigation protocols, and the continuing controversy over the proposed new Trust Policy for Salt Spring Island, I think it behooves us to curb spending for a while, take stock of our most pressing needs and await the outcome of our 2022 election. It might be best to revisit the proposed budget increase for next fiscal year.
As I do think that the mandate of the Trust should primarily be focused on preservation and protection of the natural environment, that affects my choices. With many others, I believe that the Trust has no business spreading itself to "affordable housing" concerns, beyond bylaw enforcement restricting short-term rentals and so on (i.e. if a good deal of the housing shortage for island workers is due to people who would in the past have rented to them now aiming for AirBnB-type rental, then that needs to be restricted and restrictions enforced). I therefore selected answers corresponding to a wish not to have budget investment in enabling or providing housing developments. I didnt comment on (increase to) trustee remuneration, as I am not sure whether remuneration to individuals is increasing or what exactly the increase is due to. I will say that I dont have the impression that the trustees do very much, and would rather see them work harder for us - whether the lack of activity is due to low remuneration I have no idea. I would expect there to be much more communication from and interaction with our local trustees. It may be the case that our trustees do more than I am aware of, but in any event they are not talking to us.
Cut bureaucracy and let people live their lives without more regulation.
I like the question and info format this year.
It was difficult to take a position based on the information you provided because it was very detailed and complex. So my responses were based on the pragmatism required during tough times.
The Trust has become involved in far to many areas where they have created huge red tape and cost in home building, land and housing planning and bylaw enforcement.
I think the IT needs to keep its core purpose in mind whenever making decisions. On Gabriola, supporting 'affordable' housing is resulting in a complex that will be market based rental except in 1 or 2 units. This is not affordable housing. Does not protect the island environment, and is only one example of where the IT has lost sight of its mandate.
Question: If the Islands Trust completely disappeared, who would be adversely affected except the bureaucrats currently employed?
Personal concerns about the apparent reduction in the implementation of the "preserve and protect" principles of the Islands Trust Act.
We do not need an Island Trust Government. CRD provides all the services we need. If we need "land use" Bylaws - let CRD decide what bylaws we need and/or let CRD hold referendums on the bylaws we need.
Island Trust has been building an empire and trying to expand their mandate into new areas for too long. Let the provincial and federal government cover their areas of expertise, don't overlap.
The rampant rate of development undermines the IT mandate. Seems there is no shortage of elected reps and consultants willing to allow development. Seems there is a shortage of energy required to preserve and protect.
Please reduce the budget by at least 10% from last year's levels. Too much effort (and money) is spent on effort that duplicates accountabilities of both the province and the federal government

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
I support the Preserve and Protect mandate. I do not agree with IT getting involved with promoting housing development for ANY REASON.
No, no, no, to the islands trust period. Keep your out of touch nose out of things you don't understand. Btw, why are you funding NGO special interest groups? Because they support the fringe eco nuts that are trying to ruin our islands? You need to be stopped. Now.
Preserve and Protect is a simple, easily understood mandate. For me this includes the land which people impact and which Fallow deer devastate. I realize the importance of consultation, however I'm dismayed at the number of people that wake up once consultation moves to draft policies then spout outrage on social media. I also realize consultation will forever stall a viable Fallow Deer management plan - consensus between animal lovers, gun haters, land owners and we who live the devastation will never be achieved. Please put funds into action, push for or take control of a plan that culls the Fallow and thus saves and protects the land, flora, birds and small animals that need a vibrant landscape understory to survive.
I have been on Mayne Island for over 55 years and have seen a continuous decline in property owner rights to meet the flavour of the day special interest groups. We need less government telling us how we should live.
It seems like you're got a 10 million dollar budget to support admin and planning costs — and not actually doing anything that benefits people. That money could be so much better spent actually doing things.
Environmental protection is so key in these challenging times of environmental changes especially when economic factors encourage the degradation of natural ecosystems
The Island's Trust budget is out of control. Staff levels and creepage into area that the Trust are not legally responsible for needs to be reduced.
I am a supporter of IT but want it to return to it's original mandate of protecting the Gulf Islands from urban and suburban encroachment that results in further environmental damage
I am a believer that the Islands Trust is too involved in our community. I also feel the we have too much costly cross over between Provincial Government protection and Istand Trusts. We may have different regional eco systems but they are all have protections in place.
Climate change mitigation and marine protection and restoration, as well as addressing water issues should be the highest priority over bureaucracy, as these are critical issues .
There are many survey questions were we answered do less as there are currently other government departments that do these. We do not wish to allow budget for additional programs to be continued, implemented or suggested when these activities already belong in the hands of the government. This is unnecessary over-reach at our expense.
Islands Trust planners do not accept much of what local trust area (APC, Lasqueti) include within their OCP reviews. The Trust planners appear to be shaping municipal development policy, not rural sustainability.
Everyone is being asked to do more with less. Cost of living is going up. The trust must also do more with less.
Sensitive ecosystem protection deserves a much higher budget allocation.
I think that Islands Trust needs to have the input on what the community WANTS and balance it with what the communities NEED to grow and sustain. If there is communication and trust in those n]making the decisions, the decisions should be made for the islanders.....on their behalf. The mindset of island inhabitants is one that is very righteous and judgemental. There needs to open dialogue, but firm decisions with explanation. The islands will stagnate without reasonable growth.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Too much money and time is wasted on this. Our islands are not being protected, instead it seems it is more like the islands trust is trying to protect people from the island. Too many safety nets. No one has any common sense anymore.
i do have opinions, but all choices do not reflect. At this time the Trust should endeavor to keep expenses and taxes at a zero increase
meaningful and therefore useful answers to many of these questions require a much greater level of knowledge than most respondents/residents are likely to have.
Island Trust , like the Reg.Districts, have increasingly become a huge self-serving bureaucracy, attempting to govern every facet of our lives, leaving long term Islanders disillusioned.
Over 4% increase in taxes is unacceptable when prices are up on everything yet salaries and pensions are stable or decreasing. Get real here people. Certainly don't need to spend money on advertising, for instance,
the decrease of funds from reserve are not explained and are made up by tax increases. This looks like bureaucrats increasing their powerbase at the taxpayers expense, with no benefit to the taxpayers.
I truly do not think we get good value for the money we put into IT. Moreover, we can expect to pay higher Prov & Fed taxes for COVID supports, and our pockets are only so deep. A rise in assessments doesn't equal an increase in our bank account. You need simply to spend less of our money.
spend less money!
It seems so much work is done community planning, analyzing, discussing, arguing and rewriting documentation, instead of actual heavy lifting. Get er done type stuff. Burocracy, Burocracy.
There are too many objectives spread too thin to not make a meaningful difference noticeable difference and then executed in a way that frustrates islanders because they aren't fully clear on how it has actually helped their community. A focused effort with a smaller team could be very effective that acknowledges their strategic orientation fully with the public with planning and engages other government teams to conduct the implementation.
I think this survey was too quick and general to be of much detailed help.
A lack of sustainable rental housing is the greatest threat to the long term health of my community
Not clear if money for a swimming pool on Gabriola would come more from Nanaimo city council or Island Trust but let's make it happen. :) We have a population of 5000 now which is the magic threshold for small towns in Canada to get a pool.
I think the islands trust should be disbanded and whatever sévices they provide be delivered by the regional district who have staff the deliver services
I believe the IT is essential for sustainability of our ecosystems and diverse, year-round communities where everyone can thrive. We need more conversations, education to get people onside and understand that they don't have to lose if others gain - and that we have nothing if we destroy the land and water. OCPs are Our co-created documents, which need both moral persuasion and enforcement
Stay within mandate. Leave social issues to other levels of government, that's their domain.
Issues such as water management, groundwater management, affordable housing, conservation, marine conservation and others are also the mandate of specific provincial and federal agencies. The Islands Trust should focus on making sure these agencies comply with the Island Trust Mandate rather than do the work for them.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Islands Trust should review their original charter and founding principals in todays context, then stick with it. Hire more staff. People are breaching the rules all the time. Hire a bunch of summer students for surveillance, Hornby Island is rampant with people breaking the rules especially with STVRs
All my answers were decrease or do none with the rationale is reduce our cottage taxes they are currently ridiculous, obviously I want Keats and gambier to have equitable service to the other islands I. The trust but would prefer to do with out service and programs if it reduces our tax load
we need more emphasis on water preservation and new discovery/implementations of additional reserves of water for the very near or should I say immediate future planning
The Islands Trust tends to put things in place that they are unable to actually oversee or do not follow up on. Protecting our islands does not mean stopping owners from working their property the best way for them - consultation and working with the owners would help keep tempers from flaring. Keep your mandate to Preserve & Protect, but don't make things difficult to actually follow through on or set it up that another governing force (by-law enforcement or similar) have to do the work and possibly be faced with initiatives that really don't work. Please look closely at some of the major disasters on Salt Spring (Channel Ridge comes to mind) that took place under the IT watch and has been left in a state of broom overgrowth, unfinished EVERYTHING and no one held accountable for cleaning up the "town" site. Look closely at the Vortex and the fact that you are allowing variances in a coastal marsh area that NO private citizen would be allowed and it goes completely against your own mandates - yet you are going through with it?????
The Island Trust mandate is to deliver land use planning. Mission creep into other areas is causing exponential increase in tax burden.
I do not see Island Trust providing services and working together with residents of the islands.
Keep costs down. All i ever see is the ever expanding footprint of IT on every aspect of the islands life. I fear that IT is always looking for ways to expand their reach. Not to forget virtually all IT staff do not live in the gulf islands.
There is too much duplication of service since we are a municipality AND part of Vancouver Region.
Environmental protection offered by Islands trust is not effective as we have so many agencies now involved.
It seems like there are a lot of studies done yet little action is taken. The same issues are continuing. In Gambier my priority would be protecting our forests and watersheds & and preventing commercial fishing.
Would like to see IT focus on core services and spend less on politics and controversial changes like the Trust Objective changes
I was of the view that the Islands Trust initially provided a useful function for Bowen Island, but no longer does as Bowen Island is now a municipality. BIM is the only municipality in the Islands Trust and it provides the same functions as the Islands Trust. Over the past 4 years, Bowen Island has provided tax revenues of \$1,283,000. to the Islands Trust. These monies could have been more usefully used by BIM to fund other programmes including water, affordable housing, etc. Bowen Island is presently governed by 4 levels of government: the Province, The Islands Trust, Metro Vancouver and BIM. This is an unnecessary and wasteful use of public monies, and the Islands Trust is the worst example of this.
Several comments: - IT is exceeding its mandate - IT needs to ALSO needs preserve and protect OUR COMMUNITY (people's livelihood, culture, arts, etc.) and not just trees (we have TONS of trees)

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salt Spring provides a disproportionate amount of funding for IT compared the amount of input we have for local matters/IT expenditures - IT should relocate its Head Office to Salt Spring and keep IT \$'s in the communities where the tax base exists - Salt Spring governance is atrocious... Salt Spring SHOULD be a municipality with IT doing ONLY what the BC government intended it to do back when it was first created - IT funding should also be funded in part by BC Provincial govt.
<p>Personally, many people think the trust is a waste of money. I did not support this until actually seeing how the budget is profiled. No organization should spend 90% of their budget on basic operations. I have worked for and audited many Not-For-Profits and have never seen a number so high. I think if you intend to serve a useful purpose programs should not duplicate other areas of government. Focus on water and preservation of nature/natural beauty.</p>
<p>It's unclear what the full scope of work is for the island trust. What are you yearly goals and deliverables etc. Knowing this could be beneficial increase the engagement of the public in what you do.</p>
<p>We feel the islands trust has turned too top heavy and is extending its reach far beyond its mandate. We do not support many of the new bills that are trying to be passed, and feel the lack of transparency and inaccessible meetings very frustrating. IT seems like it has turned into a bureaucratic nightmare that is trying to control every part of property owners existence.</p>
<p>You really need to get your costs under control. At present, we pay almost as much property tax for Islands Trust as we do for both Police & Fire Protection. And, here you are wanting an additional 6.1% property tax increase in what are already very difficult economic times for many local residents.</p>
<p>The Islands Trust mandate must be removed. Their mandate serves no purpose as other levels of government already cover anything that they are doing. A complete waste of millions of dollars.</p>
<p>keep up the good work</p>
<p>Go back to your original mandate to preserve and protect. Stop duplication of other government agencies including social housing, native reconciliation, global warming etc.</p>
<p>As a relatively engaged citizen I don't feel well informed enough to meaningfully respond to this survey, so am conflicted whether or not I should hit "submit" .</p>
<p>I'm sorry I cannot offer more feedback. I don't know enough about any of this to have any kind of opinion.</p>
<p>Scrolling down to go through each question loses the top of the page where the 'Do more, do less, do none' etc. choices are - I had to keep flipping up to make sure I was picking the choice I wanted.</p>
<p>Prefer keeping costs with minimal increases</p>
<p>Keep any increases reasonable.</p>
<p>Thank you for your work. As Islanders we have a responsibility to care for and steward these islands and waters for the people of BC. Is it our duty as Islanders to look after these places in which we live and the Trust is the way we do that. Best wishes for another year of preserve and protect.</p>
<p>please reduce the Trust's requests for studies, consultants, engineers, lawyers, surveyors, architects, etc. The rezoning I did 30 years ago required none of these expenses.</p>
<p>I don't think the Islands Trust needs to be involved in affordable housing initiatives, Bowen Island Municipality already undertakes their share, also primarily a Provincial responsibility.</p>
<p>Need to decrease bureaucracy and endless studies. Keep budget under control.</p>

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
We're in the middle of a pandemic, millions have lost jobs, and you're raising taxes like it is 'business as usual'.
The Trust should be terminated or completely restructured following a comprehensive community survey of opinions and current/future needs, taking account of changing social, economic and financial conditions.
<p>The should be no request to increase the budget until the following are provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comparison with other similar organisations in BC with similar complexity and population. 2. Await until the results of the Governance & Management Review shows that the organisation is optimised. If the results do not come to the conclusion then optimisation and cost saving measures should be implemented and no budget increase should be implemented. 3. Identify the cost saving measues have already been implemented and their cost savings. <p>During the budget webinar it was stated that it is impossible to reduce the budget by 10%. Having gone through similar exercises in my professional life I know that is not true. It will take some work, but reductions can be made. I also heard in the webinar that the is supporting what the Trust has been mandated to do by the province. Although true, the individual projects and tasks assigned to staff are the decision of the Trustees. Therefore, the workload can be reduced that would reduce the costs.</p> <p>In this time of inflation and reduced incomes the Trust must take into account the financial situation of all residents of the Trust. Scaling back the ambitions of what should be done would be a prudent action that demonstrates that the Islands Trust is here for the residents.</p> <p>Therefore, any budget increase should be delayed until it has been proven that they really are necessary.</p>
The Trust wastes so much money on its bureaucracy. It has become so bloated that it basically exists for itself and its staff. I feel that it also does not care about residents and their needs as long as it can protect the flora and fauna.
<p>It is important that the culture of the bureaucracy evolve to be more prosocial and transparent. Taxpayers don't like to feel as though we are paying for our own oppression. Taxpayers prefer to feel well-represented and served by our government. We want our government to be on our side. We're all on the same team, so why do Staff waste our hard-earned taxes by putting up endless paperwork roadblocks and splitting hairs? Come on, lets work together--it'll be so much more efficient and cost effective, and we'll all be so much happier. And much better planning will be the result.</p>
The Trust has failed in response to affordable housing
Bowen should leave Islands Trust. Too much governance. Your budget, especially administration/salaries are far too high. Out of control spending.
The IT has been increasing the scope of what it wants to do without having the mandate to do so. It is frustrating to feel that the IT is asking applicants about water, when they do not deal with water officially, and that some of the wording on water usage is actually contrary to the government body that does deal with fresh water in BC. We do not need more building services on Denman Island, we do not need a freshwater specialist when the IT is not responsible for water, and we do not need more permits for everything, which then makes staff cost skyrocket. Suggesting that someone would need to hire an arborist to cut any tree on your property, and get a tree cutting permit for it? We live on a lot that was clear-cut 20+ years ago, but there are lots of trees that grew back that need to be thinned out, as well as cutting trees close to your home for fire safety.
Please stop expanding mandate and services, and reduce to core land use.
I would like the Islands Trust to use most of tax money for services related to the protection and preservation of the natural environment

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
I believe IT is overly influenced by special interest groups that do not reflect the community at large. They are over-staffed and the budget is not justified.
Much of what i see in this budget is already covered Provincially and Federally. Additionally Gabriola's planning is through the RDN so that is enough red tape.
I think it is inappropriate for the local government to spend money on spending 52,000 so spend on additional staffing for conservancy staff to beg for more money
Too much of your budgets are spent inventing projects to keep staff levels. Are they invented by that staff??
You are a bloated disfunctional (self admitted), barely competent dinosaur that has outlived its use. Time to shut it down.
The mandate of Island Trust is use of the land, stick to that.
I believe that it would be very beneficial to slow down the grow of Islands Trust involvement and take a serious look at what Islands Trust really has authority to deal with and get more focused on that. It feels like Islands Trust is spread to thinly and has taken on causes that, although noble, are not in direct alignment with Islands Trust's mandate. With elections on the horizon it would be a good time to rethink where to focus your resources.
The Trust should stay within its mandate to preserve and protect the environment. The trust should not involve itself with issues outside its purview.
The Groundwater Sustainability Science program should continue to ne funded
The LTC of Salt Spring is a Tyrannical organization, and should be abolished.
I took substantial time out of my personal life to write a letter to IT when there was an issue. No one acknowledged that it was read or received. It feels like my private property rights are being taken away from IT. It is assumed that we want to destroy & harm the environment. The multiple layers of rules & bureaucracy that are growing yearly are overwhelming to me as a land owner. I just ignore it now unless I am forced to learn it. There is too much duplication too.
Protection of the natural environment is why the Trust exists; do not hamper or lessen this purpose by getting involved with services like housing which is covered by other agencies
There is a growing sentiment that this is the Wild West. Ignore bylaws, dump sewage in water table, build illegal structures without inspection, sewage and water connections, etc. Scofflaws are allowed to drag out enforcement for years, with no or minimal consequences. At the very least, the Islands trust should make an example of those flagrantly in violation, and publicize the outcomes.
Please be responsible in the present times to respect those who have suffered a loss of income or assets due to the shut downs and extra costings from Covid. We are all trying to keep our heads above water and care for our homes. Large increase in the operating cost of the Trust are not appropriate at all.
Too much overhead and wages for services provided to Bowen Island Municipality.
There are many areas of concern that you have identified in your mandate that currently overlap with provincial and regional jurisdictions. We should not waste precious monetary resources in duplicating services.
The Island's Trust overreach working to mold the Gulf Islands into the image of a utopian Shangri-la may seem well and good for those who are redefining the Gulf Islands from afar , but it has become a grave concern to many who value their Gulf Islands lifestyle that a faction of the Trust who live in Victoria are imposing what has become the equivalent of an autocratic dictatorship. In appreciation for those within the Trust who are putting on the brakes and looking to find a means of becoming more inclusive and transparent may be the first step toward a rebuilding of a Trust that is fifty years

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
old and out of touch with the very reason that it was created in the first place. In actual fact it has become a very expensive white elephant sucking the coffers of the Gulf Islanders dry and giving very little back.
You waste too much money on trying to stop the improvement of the island for its residents we need small business to survive so our island can thrive and a lot of what the island needs is tourism and a workforce that can find accommodations
Islands Trust needs to do the job that they have jurisdiction over & not be over reaching into other departments & should not do any advocacy.
I am disappointed that you only asked for more information of the reason for my response in the first question. My reasoning for the others would have been helpful to you in understanding this survey. Given the primary "object of the Trust to preserve and protect the trust area ... for the benefit of the residents of the area", too much of what you are doing seems to push this aside and put a singular focus on activities that do not consider the residents at all. Many of the objectives of the Trust have the unintended consequence of being at odds with other objectives. I have never heard any discussion or explanation of how you would prioritize these objectives. This makes looking at isolated budget lines difficult to comment on - they may make sense in isolation, but they would have a detrimental effect elsewhere. The Trust must start reviewing this and communicating your actual priorities within the myriad of things you are doing. And please, do something about the terrible inefficiencies that exist in your administrative systems. I suspect these are people issues not process issues. Without proper direction, your staff will focus on minutia and details that are not important and lose perspective on what actually benefits residents and the Trust area.
I worked in a Senior Government position so am aware of inefficiencies in the Island Trust organization.
You are overregulating and a huge financial burden
Far too much is spent doing things that have no reason; building permits come from the regional district, so make them responsible; Stop doing things that are not within the mandate of the trust, such as intergovernmental issues, aboriginal issues, mapping, affordable housing (the list is long...)
Island trust tends to put their nose where it doesn't belong. Stop taxing everyone and tax the vacation homes more.
The only issue I am about right now is the terrifying lack of housing for working individuals and families.
Protect me from the Trust. Get the Islands Trust out of my life.
Decrease the bureaucracy and paper pushing. It takes forever to achieve anything.
Your continuous increases to your budget is a concern. You are grasping at increasing your relevancy/power and people are sick of it. Stuck to your mandate. Do better.
Island Trusts needs to refocus on its mandate - Land Use Planning!
Trust needs to focus on OCP, land use applications and community engagement . Leave climate change, affordable housing and reconciliation indicative s to the other government agencies already engaged . Reports that no one reads are a waste of taxes.
I'm not happy with the current state and aims of the IT - too bureaucratic and no locals employed. I no longer think the IT is of value to me and my fellow islanders. The islands are just too different to be all lumped into a collective entity like IT. IT has done a good job of preserving land in Denman. Historically, I see and appreciate it's value. However there are gaps in our governance that can only be addressed by a municipality. I am open to being persuaded otherwise, but that would involve in-

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
person discussions. I want to say that the latest shenanigans by trying to ram through major changes at such a time makes me very distrustful of the IT leadership, including the staff.
There needs to be more education from IT as well as the province on the state of the CDF and how climate change will impact our area. We need more information on how to be self sufficient in water (such as rainwater capture) and how to manage water for all not just humans. You need to take more action of prohibiting the killing of beavers as they are key in maintaining water on the landscape.
Essentially I feel that Bowen Island is currently paying an outrageous amount for Trust services that the municipality provides already and we as taxpayers are being hosed!
need more programs for environmental protection and for water science
Island trust needs to be more accountable with money they spent and stop encroaching in areas that are non of their concern and already covered By other government agencies
Your options are quite vague .
I believe that the Islands Trust 22/23 budget is excessive, and that the relevance of the Islands Trust now, after almost 50 years, should be reviewed and overhauled to bring it back to a more reasonable and manageable place. The Islands Trust is now reaching well beyond its mandate.
do not raise taxes and work within the budget
Hopeless feeling really. This survey, as all others, is another attempt to validate out of hand spending (9.7 million for duplication of services - already provided by regional districts, but not available to islands). I understand that as employers you need to provide a "safe working environment" for any staff, which you define as without criticism. Why don't staff understand that they are tasked with providing a "safe living environment" for residents and communities? Balance is difficult to find. I pray the IT finds it, and I pray for our communities to have the resilience to withstand the consequences of this out of balance insanity. Get back on course IT!
It is important for the Island Trust to stay within the 4-corners of its mandate and not expand into areas which are outside its mandate, overlap with other government levels, or are political in nature.
THE TRUST DOES NOTHING FOR BOWEN IS.
The survey portion as a table that allowed 4 ranking options for multiple actions of the trust was done poorly. From left to right it was do less, right, do more and the fourth, next to do more was "do none" - it should have been far left to follow sequentially. Now you have introduced uncertainty about the ranking.
Clearly not a professionally designed survey. Instead it seems structured to deliver the answers that it wants to receive.
Interesting way to do a survey, providing information between questions. One hopes the information is factual.
This survey is an affront to the intelligence of your constituents. Simplistic “do more, do less, do none, stay the same” check boxes don’t recognize the thought that “do differently” or “leave to other agencies who have authority” are viable and likely far better options. Instead the Trust attempts to manipulate results by forcing respondents to have to choose “do less climate change” when the real answer is let those agencies with responsibility, authority and power to do so. There is little wonder that the Trust is rapidly losing the trust of those it is meant to provide a service to.
I am newly familiarizing myself with the Islands Trust
I don't closely follow IT deliberations and decision-making except in respect to issues that I'm most interested in: affordable housing, environmental protection.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
IT has lost a lot of public trust and credibility over the last year - poor communication etc. Much in the new mandate interests me but I am loath to give IT any more tax monies or areas of concern until trust is re-established.
The information in the survey was inadequate and misleading. Impossible to get a true sense of what \$8M is really being spent on. It seems there is a lot of duplication with other government agencies so do try to be a bit more efficient.
I believe the islands trust is not taking the residents interests into account as much as they should. I hear a lot of complaints and confusion from residents.
The budget needs to be decreased by at least 10% if not more. The increases are not sustainable to residents.
Make housing a priority. There are hundreds of unhoused and under houses people and many renters cannot find housing. Salt Spring is not just for rich Tesla drivers.
Islands trust is getting far out of there designated mandate they need to allow the provincial and federal government to follow through and not overlap existing policies
I believe the has out lived it's usefulness
Bowen island doesn't need any help or input from the Islands Trust
The taxes currently charged for IT even before proposed increases are excessive and out of like with other tax and wage increases. The proposed increases are simply ridiculous!
Bowen is our own municipality and we do not need a very expensive trust wasting our tax dollars when we are trying to develop more municipal programs and facilities
Crippling working class property owners, larger and multigenerational families and home businesses operators (holy hell limiting house sizes!) and small businesses isn't going to do anything but gentrify us right off these islands, that is NOT how to preserve rural character. It's also not meaningfully addressing climate change.
The Regional Project should be broken into articulate categories.
In my opinion the Municipality of Bowen Island gets little if any value being in the trust.
Bowen Island should not be in the islands trust. The islands trust does not serve a useful purpose- except to provide income to its employees and trustees for their valueless work
The steady and considerable increase in the budget should result in the reduction of costs and services - fewer activities, fewer employees - not growth and expansion. The Trust seems to be constantly increasing its activities beyond its mandate.
Public engagement: did not list public meetings or well researched science driven emails from residents for available information. The trust is failing to listen to local residents and respect their areas of expertise and to involve them in the decision making process. In this way public engagement should be increased. Policy statements should not be altered, changed or added without direct, in depth and lengthy involvement with the island residents
more funding for of initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater
spending is out of control. Soon only wealthy people will be able to afford to live here. Taxes are already too high for what we get.
Bowen Island municipality urgently needs to preserve funding for our own local priorities. Islands Trust is a drain on our finances for programs of highly questionable value.
The best way how to protect environment is to reduce the expenses in other areas and in this way saving money to invest into the environment.
Thank you

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Being on Islands Trust Committee should not be a "forever job". Sue Ellen Fast [REDACTED] She does not speak and should not speak for the average Bowen Islander.
Other government agencies and focused conservation groups do better work protecting sensitive ecosystems on Bowen Island than the Islands Trust. We do not benefit from IT red tape and bureaucracy.
Need more funding to protect groundwater and aquifers
1. We are a municipality, relevant land use decisions must be made close to home, on Bowen, by our Council. Second, the Trust overarching policy statement overreaches by having, in terms of direction for land use action, an override. Our Municipal governance must follow your directions. Too many "musts,". Need more "should"
This level of government, created for stewardship, is attempting to blossom into another level of government.
See below. Plus - I frankly think it invalid for anyone to comment on other islands' areas runnings unless they are part of that region. It must Skew survey accuracy results. Thanks for at least asking. It must be nightmarish deciphering results.
Reduce the budget! It is out of control. Time to trim the fat!
Islands Trust needs to refocus on excellence in performing its current mandate. Do not artificially inflate that mandate and become distracted by a perceived need to solve problems which are the responsibility of others. Do not be overly influenced by loud but minority voices.
Decrease everything by at least 10%
The Islands Trust does nothing for Bowen except take money. The entire organization is a typical Governmental waste of TAXPAYERS money. How many Islands Trust employees actually live on an Island within the Trust control?
We request at least 10% less of All Island Trust
All I can say is I can no longer afford ANY of the Trusts expenses. I demand a reduction in ALL spending area including any potential new hires.
We expect, under these financially stressful times, that you DO NOT create ANY new jobs or hire any new people. We CAN NOT afford to support this. Also, we would like to see a decrease in a ALL areas of spending going forward.
Please reduce the Island Trust budget by 10%.
We need to develop a community that encourages and welcomes young trained / skilled people who are willing to stay and work here. The BC Ferries can't be the only employers.
Steady increases in taxes, IT budgets, IT staff levels are unreasonable and unsustainable. We can't afford 3 layers of government let alone 4. When and how do you benchmark your operating performance? How is this communicated to the taxpayer? What have you done for me on Thetis Island? We pay these excessive costs and you cannot even enforce your own rules. There is an autobody junk yard in plain site on Pilkey point road - has been there for years. Get rid of it. Why am I still looking at dozens of freighters in the waters around Thetis, Ladysmith, Galiano, Valdez. Get rid of them. Do something useful and leave people to steward their own land in conjunction with local conservancies who are far more effective and cost efficient. People live in the Gulf Islands primarily because they value the natural beauty and scarcity of the ecosystems.
I don't know what this question means. I find that the survey is biased and presented in a specious manner. In short, it is not a fair survey.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Island trust is taking on too much and has become overreaching and bloated
Involved in too many things!
Staffing levels compared to other government entities appears to be high. This leads me to believe there is a significant bureaucracy that could be addressed. I disagree with increasing staff levels and suggest a reduction is likely more productive.
Back away from projects that more accurately belong to/with provincial or federal jurisdictions. The IT planning department far exceeds planning departments in regional districts that cover greater areas.
The IT has gotten too big. It is time to reign in these expenses.
The Trust staff have grown unreasonably in relation to the services it provides and the area that it services. Other local governments do not only planning but also servicing with far less resources.
Call me a cynic - who listens - Not the IT that's for sure.
The Islands Trust is suffering from serious over reach into other jurisdictions that they have no authority or mandate. The IT should stick to land use & OCP services.
Please stick to your mandate of " preserve and protect" and stop advocating for " land use policies and regulations " that reduce the value of the natural environment through the destructive results of development.
There is a possibility if the Trust had a smaller budget it would be forced to be more efficient. The concept that an affordable housing rezoning application is required to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on studies, consultants, engineers, lawyers, etc without any progress is immoral. BC Housing understands and comments that land use planning has failed in the Trust area. Although the Trust means well any increase in funding will mean an even less functional organization.
Less government, less taxes.
More information on salaries: how many employees?
I question the need for IT given the bloated, ineffectual organization its become . Reread your original mandate and let others take care of the other roles you've assumed. Your not our local government! You should reflect back and exam whether the 200 million spent of IT from local taxpayer is money well spent. I think that you are going to have to admit that as a Value for money the IT is a failure
Expenses, especially salaries, are too high. Programs should stay at same level or decrease slightly. Under no circumstances should there be an increase in the IT budget.
As stated earlier our home was assessed for 2022/23 with a 71% increase although absolutely nothing has changed. I'm a retiree and concern for marine life, sensitive eco systems, protection of shoreline, and the general beauty and preservation of the islands are key in my opinion. But to add unnecessary costly programs that don't address the real reason why people chose this special place is a waste of our tax dollars. This budget is unaffordable for average folks here including ourselves.
The Trust needs to narrow its focus to preserving what's left of the ecosystems in the gulf islands and stop trying to do the job of the existing municipal authorities. Problems such as affordable housing have nothing to do with the Trust's original mandate. Let the Province and/or the CRD solve those contentious political issues. Wherever tax dollars are already being spent on solving problems the Trust should stay away.
I believe the Islands Trust should be defunded completely because they are ineffective and fail to address meaningful issues like creating more freshwater storage, desalination and support of alternative power sources.
This bloated bureaucracy no longer serves the needs nor represents the values of our community
Taxes and restrictions are becoming to intrusive to stay on the island!

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
I'm quite satisfied with how things are.
stop wasting our money and doing nothing!
This survey is likely to be ignored for discussions before the "vote". The Islands Trust has been on a mission to ram this through without consultations with residents of the Islands. It's too bad the committee cannot be trusted to represent all voices.
Trick questions. Example. Regulations limit low end supply to greater extent.
Raising our taxes totally unneeded
\$17,000 for a reconciliation initiative ? Seriously ?
I think the Trust is out of control and is a single focus extremist organization that should be abolished. Unlike most places in the world there is no balance between development and conservation. The anti development bias makes everyone poorer and deprives people of opportunity. The Islands Trust seems to take its intellectual leadership from North Korea. It is a disaster and ineffective and should be abolished. They would all be fired immediately in any functional setting.
Seems to take years for Island Trust to approve worthwhile projects. 10 to 12 years in some cases. One example is still ongoing and has probably cost in excess of \$125,000 with no outcome.
Stop enacting policies on unceded territories!!
How do past FY expenses account for number of paid staff primarily in Local Planning (\$3,848229)? There appears to be too many planning positions for 'all' of IT's area of responsibility!
Having grown up first nations and in logging and fishing families I am grateful for the protection of our islands, trees and environments that the islands trust has provided despite them being seen in a negative light by many. The work islands trusts do are invaluable and their progressive directions are commendable, however I feel funds are out of control. I see much in wasted funds. Budgets for things should be audited by a 3rd party to control wasted funds and direct them in better places. Having had family work for and on the islands trust I know of these issues. With a rapidly changing environment it is important to realize these funds are going to be needed in to many directions more quickly than before, so we can't afford waste or higher tax rates
Once again Island trust has lost sight of their mandate to preserve the island lifestyle and is becoming too controlling over property owners rights. You have moved from preservation of the life stile to direction it and We need less rather than more government control, especially when you focus primarily on the wishes of self serving special interest groups and vocal activists
we need to defund the islands trust. they are not useful and not needed
I do not feel served by the IT. You obfuscate every issue to the point where all I sense from your organization is inertia.
The Trust has taken on tasks which are not in it's mandate and is a duplication of provincial and CRD services.
That Island Trust is attempting to expand it's mandated core areas of responsibility is a nature process that must be kept in check to avoid duplication and overreach. Stick to your core responsibilities and learn to do more with less as we all must. Expansion is not inevitable it is a decision.
Reduce Spending minimum of 10%
See above.
Please seek funds from others beside residential home owners who are getting increases at every turn and will be forced out of homes at these dramatic rates of increase--every one has hand out now--all good things but we can not carry all on taxes on our only home.
Stop allowing the development of housing subdivisions. Protect the land.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Please reduce your services, In the past years any increases have not resulted in better service
I feel that the proposed budget increase is excessive when compared to similarly populated regional districts that actually do more to provide services and infrastructure for the people that live within, and also may be paying for both regulatory bodies.
I oppose all changes to the original Islands Trust mandate, and I am in favor of lowering the budgets, costs, and taxes accordingly. The Islands Trust taxation base is too high as it is; we don't get hardly any value for our tax money.
Please decrease the proposed budget by at least ten percent (10%)
Thank you for all your hard work to protect our beautiful islands from over development, and habitat loss.
Any activity outside the 'preserve and protect' should be eliminated. Preserve and protect does NOT include cultural heritage nor community sustainability nor 'affordable housing'.
Still trying to understand the policy statement changes
Islands Trust is becoming too big as an other level of bureaucracy
as always there is too much bureaucracy in Government and not a great deal of action ... too many meetings on meetings. My work career was with the BC Gov. and that is where I formed my opinions expressed above.
please be proactive instead of reactive as our community planners....promote density in town above business. work with not against other government agencies.
The increase in cost is frightening. In 5 years the budget doublet. Staff and processes have to become more efficient. The budget should stay the same but focus can be shifted.
I'd very much like to see Islands Trust focus on planning services. Leave advocacy to other organizations.
Proposed increased permitting is outlandish
Need more funding for initiatives to preserve and protect freshwater
The Trust is a waste of taxpayer dollars. It should be disbanded, or at least get the heck out of Salt Spring. It is by far the worst thing about living on these islands by contributing nothing at maximum expense.
The IT should continue to focus funds pertaining to the already existing mandate and stop wasting money with scope creep and trying to grab power in areas already under other jurisdiction's mandate
I can't emphasize enough that instead of adding staff positions you look at developing grants in aid program to partner and help local conservancies achieve the preserve and protect mandate . Local conservancies have much more flexibility to match those dollars and achieve ITC objectives
Land use planning. What exactly goes into land use planning? EVERYTHING! The islands trust is supposed to coordinate this messig island world we live in. SO, let's get to it. Plan plan and PLAN.
Housing!
Staffing costs are increasing dramatically in the past 2 years- reduce staff especially for unnecessary crap like the conservancy. Do not increase taxes!!!!
Good idea
With our current two-Trustees-per-island setup, and the Chair as the same tiebreaker for every LTC, all decisions get made as a binary with zero nuance. With staff focussed on being bylaw cops who have to memorize dozens OCPs with hundreds of pages each, I have very little confidence that any feedback or input the public gives can make *any* impact whatsoever on decisions the Trust makes -- especially not around the small stuff that matters in tangible ways to our community's evolution and

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
future. Heck, we have to scream at the top of our lungs to even be heard on the big stuff. But I appreciate the survey; it's a start.
The new website is much less useful than the previous version. It has an illogical menu layout and is difficult to read and navigate. There was nothing wrong with the old website.
Enough taxation
You need to find a way to stop increasing the budget every year. A little more control over how you spend our tax dollars would be appreciated. You seem to have a bureaucracy and staff which just keeps growing every year. I think your budget should be reduced by about 10% then capped. Like all govt agencies you seem to think more is better. Try living within your means for a change instead of putting your hand out for every year for more. Most if not all of your tax base must live within our means. We don't have the luxury to ask for more disposable income every year. What little I do have seem to go for higher taxes every year.
The local property taxes are much too high and we receive no services for the money we pay. No road improvements. No garbage pick up. No registered fire fighting coverage or wild fire prevention. Just increasing regulation and bureaucracy.
i support investment in our community
The Islands Trust has way over stepped its bounds. Myself and many others are working collectively to stop you.
surveys like this are helpful
The mapping (according to our planner) is inaccurate and not acceptable for variance applications. Either do it right or not at all. The increases in the budget are beyond acceptability. I await the management review to be completed and shared with the public to verify my feelings.
Island trust is not wanted!!
Stop making Bowen islanders pay for islands trust
Making a decision on what to do with various budget areas is difficult when one wants part, but not all, of certain areas to be continued and other parts discontinued/ not started at all. The options in each question are severely limited .
I just feel that a lot of what the islands trust purports to do is accomplished by other governmental bodies, such as the CRA, Parks Canada, etc. I also don't know what impact any spending by the Islands Trust will have on arresting climate change. In short, I question the relevance of the Trust.
Listen more to the needs of local communities and facilitate the growth of local economies to help them survive. Work more with existing government services rather than duplicating them. The existing budget for staffing is out of control and administration is exceeding its mandate.
Far too much money is being spent on administration and there are too many administrators.
I suspect that if IT keeps up it's beaurocratic overreach then there will be pressure on the politicians to eliminate or neuter IT. That would be a shame when IT could become more responsible with it's operations and mandate by itself.
Stop trying to stick yourself in areas looked after by other levels of government
Does this survey, very shortly before final budget decisions are made, really make a difference?
This survey should be designed with question showing the cost of each choice so people can make a balanced choice. Of course people want more services but at what cost?
Islands Trust is a socialist state that infringes upon my rights and freedoms and should be dissolved.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
You have lost your perspective on the meaning of to serve & protect. You are paid by the tax payers, which means that you serve us. We do not serve you. You are not in charge of tankers in the Strait, you are not in charge of climate change. I could go on.
Please stick to your original mandate providing cite services. Why you feel the pressing need to burn through taxpayers money to promote advocacy issues that are already covered and funded by provincial and federal Government is beyond me!
Increase funding and staff support for freshwater sustainability and watershed protection.
I would like to see the Trust return to the community-based decision making that characterized its formative years. We need to reduce the influence of urban staff members. We don't need multiple staff members journeying all over the Trust area to attend LTC meetings etc. Nor do we require the deluge of long-winded reports by hired consultants wielding fancy maps, full-colour brochures etc. The recent revised Trust Policy Statement was a classic case of expensive bureaucratic bungling. Cut this type of out-of-touch swagger completely! Lean, clean, down-to-earth and relevant is what we require.
Assessment is skyrocketing. Therefore revenues will increase without tax increases.
The Trust is overstepping it's original purpose and spending way too much money in the process
I think electronic meeting platforms going forward are very important for inclusivity and cost savings. I think the Trust should offer Hybrid meetings so that any and all may attend. i think the trust should allow more work from home options for their staff to reduce leasing expenses and travel costs.
As I am new to the Islands Trust area and its mandate, I don't have a very strong understanding of current spending levels so it's hard for me to have an opinion on them. However I am generally in support of reconciliation efforts, climate change mitigation, and stewardship education. These are very important issues to me and with my limited experience so far, I think I'd support an increase in funding to these areas.
Island Trust overlaps current Bowen Island Muni committees and community group activities.
The Islands Trust is too expensive, and ill equipped for current challenges. Time to turn things over to the Pro.a at the Regional District
Please take action on the housing crisis
The resources allocated to housing should be increased in order to meet current and future needs and not to penalize residents. Create programs that help residents improve their living conditions where they reside.
Docks, water supply, water collection, tourists, vrbo. You just turn your back on bowen
Other than the LTC the functions of the IT are largely opaque to me. But I moved to an island to be apart. I just want to IT to maintain the spirit of Preserve and Protect.
Many people can't afford any more increases in anything these days. If the job can be done by keeping increases to a minimum for property owners that's best.
Abolish the islands trust
Please reduce Islands Trust funding to conservancy associations and Islands Trust funding
I can see I need to learn more about how the trust operates. I admit I do not see your impact locally so to see your budget and then know that islands like Denman/Hornby are excluded from social planning processes like poverty reduction and housing needs assessments is frustrating.
There is quite a bit of overlapping of initiatives of those proposed to those already provided for by our provincial and federal governments. It was disturbing to see the lack of transparency about the draft new policy statement. The trust has lost trust!!

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Please provide more details or links around specific initiatives you are seeking funding input on. There was too little here to make informed opinions.
Given the growth of the tax base the proposed increase is indefensible. Bureaucracy has a way of growing and sapping resources from the core mission of the Trust.
Stay focused on protecting and preserving the natural landscape and stay out of housing issues. We already have Provincial and Federal government for that.
Our services consist of having our garbage picked up once a year. That is it. You seem to consider all islands and areas of islands the same. We are not.
Many services contemplated by the trust are already adequately provided by federal and provincial governments.
Thetis Island residents are taxed and receive little to no benefits from the extremely high taxes that Islands Trust takes. Most of the criteria laid out in this survey are not applicable to Thetis Island in any way and we should not be charged the same as islands such as Salt Spring, etc. since we receive nothing in return for the exorbitant taxes. It is unjust and morally reprehensible for anyone in good conscience to charge such a large amount of money in taxes and give little to nothing to those who are paying. It is disgusting that we pay more than \$1200 per year to the Islands Trust and do not receive the equivalent in benefits.
It seems as a senior with a fixed income and owning a home on SSI the increases never stop yet income gets eaten up by inflation and taxes. Average folks are running out of money trying to support more studies and workshops and initiatives . Property taxes are going up this year due to increased values which eats into everyday budgets. These days folks are worried about getting by with LESS taxes not more . Way to many gov fingers in this complicated pie with to few services . Don't care what gov agency responsible for what area . Reduce gov layers and lower costs so we can actually afford to live here . How do you make affordable housing when your costs and taxes keep going up ? Have decided to sell and move to a much less complicated and expensive form of gov that actually fixes roads and has garbage pickup and sewage systems as a priority rather than endless studies we can't afford to act on. Peace out.
Many services or current processes require or are time consuming and require a lot of administrative work/input. Making processes and services more effective without increasing the cost should be possible when the system/services is/are more streamlined online. Thinking out the box!
I request a across the board DECREASE in costs, taxes, funding, and a cessation of Islands Trust expansionism into housing, infrastructure, and community issues that are beyond its mandate to 'preserve and protect the environment and basic amenities'-- Saturna Island is a good example, a great example of a FAILED Islands Trust plus CRD involvement, where we have nearly '60 committees' for a population of 350, and almost all of the TAX FUNDED COMMITTEES are dominated by a few landowners, to include [REDACTED] [REDACTED] These developments have contributed to a near collapse of our economy, social and cultural activities, and can't be 'blamed on Covid' as is usually the excuse around here.
Heritage preservation is overfunded
I would like Island Trust to align with their purpose and not get involved in unrelated political or social agendas.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):

The area/islands that the IT govern is too diverse/large and islands such as Salt Spring /Bowen requiring too much servicing/planning. The economy gained by managing many small islands together is no longer being achieved by the IT. IT should be broken into different sub zones and taxed according to the \$\$ spent in that zone. You currently try with special assessments but its far from equitable for small islands like Thetis who dont receive and dont WANT this excessive goverance with studies and projects which are unrealistic for our small a population.

our island services are almost non existent compared to other islands and we are bearing the brunt of severe tax increases ... for nothing.

please stick to core service and stop wasting taxpayers' money on advocacy.

My main comment is that the Islands Trust needs to stay within its mandate and stop splurging into the areas of other government responsibilities. You are wasting tax payers money.

The Trust has become bloated and is vastly overstepping its mandate. Leave federal and provincial governments to do their work; don't overlap and duplicate their work! Stick to land use planning, and reduce staff and specialists.

Property owners are taxpayers: not identified by 'full-time, part-time residents.' This is an example of poor survey preparation. The Islands Trust has somehow managed to go beyond it's scope/mandate and the time has come for this to be made known/understood broadly in the community of taxpayers it is meant to serve, and to evaluate it's current worth in efficiency and effectiveness.

I support funding OCP review on all islands. I do not support the high cost of Task Forces on SSI which are actually OCP reviews but without consideration for protecting the environment.

The Islands Trust Area is supposed to be protected as a special area, but wasn't given anything other than traditional planning tools. This must change in order to truly "preserve and protect". IT should hire regional environmental planners, increase ecosystem protection in development applications, and focus on reducing fragmentation of remaining natural areas

During hard times like Covid has presented us with is the worst time for upping taxes. It is also not logical for islands trust to fund low income housing while doing everything they can to block people from adding rentable areas on to their property. We are planning on building and would love to have a caretaker suite for our elderly parents. But this goes against zoning. The way that the trust would see this done is that the low income person should have their own chunk of property but the minimum property size in my area is 2ha which is not that affordable.

I strongly suggest the trust change the zoning to allow rental units but stipulate that the rental charge for those units can not go above 25x minimum wage +25x minimum wage per bedroom. So a one room suite would cost \$750 and a two room would cost \$1,140. Pricing is just a suggestion, but it should be tied to minimum wage with minimum quality and features of the suite specified. If people choose to add a suite like this, they should get tax adjustments to warrant it without it being so significant that it causes an excess of rental suites. This may mean more or less revenue for the Trust to keep that balance, but would cost much less than funding any projects.

The Trust should also do what they can do to allow tiny homes and other environmentally friendly accommodation that would suit the gulf islands form and character. This should be allowed through application on any land that has sufficient water and sewage for the added density. Each application could last five years and could be reapplied for two years in advance to ensure that the low income residents have time to move out if the application gets denied. These applications could also be used as a minor income, again tied to minimum wage, for the Trust.

40 years of living on Pender has made me realize that you are doing irreversible damage to a once vibrant community. Our young people can no longer afford to live here and raise a family. The rich and wealth people are taking over because your rules aiding to dissolve our community.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Reduce costs and red tape
My hope is this won't just get tossed and these surveys will actually play a part in the decision making process.
I do not think that jacking up permit costs and tightening the bylaw chokeholds on struggling working families is good for our communities. What I'm seeing is the Trust perpetuating a gated retirement trend here, making it increasingly impossible for working families to survive let alone thrive here.
Obviously, some regulation is desirable. However the Trust has gotten out of control. See my further comments below.
The Trust needs to get back to basics and get out of the advocacy and science business. "Cooperation" with other levels of government does not mean replicating what they do. It means finding ways to work together. It includes reliance on other levels of government. The Trust needs to get back to the islands and pay attention to residents. Advancing important social causes from Victoria supported by strong advocacy from off island NGOs such as Raincoast is offensive. It belies a sense that we islanders cannot manage our own affairs. It is time the Trust worked with and for islanders rather than over us. It is entirely unclear why a staff complement of 60 people is required for land use planning and reviews of development applications on 12 island areas since Bowen is excluded. The provincial government should engage in a thorough and deep review of its core purpose. This should not be directed or controlled by the Trust directed by some virtue signaling ambition aimed at securing the responses desired to support the current and desired growth of Trust Services.
Zoning changes & land use have been decreasing while Islands Trust over reaches their authority dealing with building permits, by-law infractions & advocacy increases & increases the taxes.
There are so many projects the Trust are seemingly working on that are a lot of fluff and feel good rhetoric but in reality are just a lot of continuous talk and no action. Cut out all the useless mandates and concentrate on what really matters to the citizens. In these difficult times of inflation, covid, etc. no one needs any tax increases, especially in light of the affordable housing problem.
Is the \$141 K in election expenses an increase? If so, why? The grants totalling \$769 are not guaranteed. Do you have a contingency plan if the grants are cancelled? Budget has gone from \$7 million to \$ 9.5 million in 8 years. Does a long term plan exist or will be subjected to more and more increases? With \$ 5.7 million in salaries and benefits it seems staff are "served and protected". \$367K for a new development application process should be done with existing staff, trustees, volunteers. Website improvements should be done in house.
The Trust should focus on land use planning, too much over the top advocacy work - advocacy is writing letters, not endless staff time chasing issues not within the mandate of the Trust.
Why does Island Trust not ask for input WELL IN ADVANCE OF PREPARING BUDGET PROPOSALS. Inefficiency is always expensive.
My responses were informed by my experience with the IT planning department which is bloated, inefficient, incapable of moving things forward, and wades into jurisdictions it has no business or expertise in.
We need as much environmental protection as possible
Less is more.
Thank you for the survey and keeping the public informed. In the recent past certain trust members have attempted to sneak through proposals and rush first readings. Don't do this.
The IT should pull back from wasting expenditure on advocacy directed at trying to duplicate what is done much better and more appropriately by senior levels of government. Think of being a responsible cost efficient municipality rather than dancing to the tune of Eco-activist groups.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
It would be helpful to see what the CRD, the actual managers of our water supply, are also contributing to groundwater studies. Why should IT do it? Residents are seriously concerned about the ever-rising costs of pretty much everything associated with island life, on top of the notable inconveniences of power losses, ferry and supply issues, etc.
The Trust only plans and reviews development applications. Other than bylaw enforcement, the Trust is not responsible for any physical improvements or maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, bicycle trails, parks, schools, hospitals and medical clinics, paramedics, policing, fire response and the other services that make our community work.
If the IT significantly reduces environmental initiatives like the CDF studies which are based on biased science and does not use those biased results to create a lot of new costly initiatives, then all the areas of expenditure will be reduced. Do not ask for more powers from other governments which will cost taxpayers more. Only advocate to those governments the interests of the IT as mandate intends. Simplify the minimum mandate: Land Use and Advocacy and do them well first before expanding unrealistically and putting unrealistic burdens on staff.
It's time for the Islands Trust to stop overstepping other jurisdiction's responsibilities. Don't duplicate federal, provincial and regional district efforts.
I'm exceedingly frustrated with the Policy Statement updates. This initiative has indicated that the Trust intends to step outside of its fruitful purposes in several areas, including environmental policies regarding marine practices, first nation reconciliation and advocacy for policies and initiatives that are not specific to land use management. Furthermore the construction of this survey itself really missed the mark on the use of radio buttons. In the section in which respondents were asked to "Do Less", "Do the same", "Do More," or "Do None", the designer should have opted for a linear graduation from one position to the other, rather than the mix of positions they chose. It's a minor inconvenience, but indicative of how well the IT works outside of its core competency.
Islands trust has gone way past their original mandate by duplicating governance in a way that unjustifiably builds up its costly bureaucracy to the detriment of each islands evolution .
Trustees need to align and work together which I don't see happening. Maybe the Trustees need to have Trustee school and understand their roles. Hopefully with that IT will make a difference to their Islanders.
many projects are beyond jurisdiction or capacity to impact. quit asking the public what your policies are, no other government does that. trustees are elected to make decisions not ask permission. conservancies around the world raise their own funds so should yours. decide what your job is, the mandate or permitting development, can't do both. get trustees to do more work, most do nothing except go to meetings and cash cheques. get rid of staff that do little or are redundant.
Your budget and spending is CRAZY for the very little action that actually happens. So much redundancy. So much saying NO to people who have great ideas and creative solutions all in the name of protecting the "fragile" ecosystem of the Gulf Islands. That ecosystem continues on the mainland and into the USA without all the millions you are being paid. All of the grandstanding from the environmentalist extremists are very limiting to the reality of having a happy community of people working together on the island. I'm very tired of hearing all the fluff without any meaningful, productive, logical or common sense solutions. Grossly overdone studies, bylaws that are antiquated and seemingly aimed at getting rid of lower/middle class people on the island. Bylaws being used to fine and find reason to fine people, by IT peeps who go out of their way to snoop on people and find reason to make their lives hell when they are just trying to live on land they own. so no, I'm not in favor of your millions for you to sit in offices in VICTORIA and govern the islands with too many staff and not enough action.

Comments on your choices in this survey (optional):
Please reduce budget, and services.
The IT is a waste of resources.
If the trust must do mire planning consider how to reduce the number of use restrictions on private land related to existing structures and agricultural activities on residential property.
I do not think we islanders should be paying to run the conservancy. It should be a non profit. I would likely donate to it. But it is totally innapropriate to be forever to donate to it. You need to stop the advocacy for now. Stop the stupid new policy statement , learn in communicate with us (not that hard to send an email or two ?) no major increase in budget till next election! No big policy statements abs trying to expand your role till next election.
You are over extending your mandate into areas not in the original mandate that are redundant and covered by other governmental agencies.
We need affordable housing We need correct industrial zoning for local business
How much did this survey cost me?? Reduce the Trust or abolish. Get out of my taxes. Abuse of government.
The Trust is straying well beyond it's mandate, when you talk about banning things like desalination and private docks you are actively working against those who live and enjoy these islands. "For the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia" - somehow you guys forget this part.
Don't see very much attention being paid to Gabriola Island in this budget.
Do not expand the Island Trust mandate or staffing levels
The Trust needs to focus on its core mandate as per the Islands Trust Act. The trust has become increasingly gay u focused and is failing to meet its core mandate. The cost for the current staffing is over \$4m per year; staffing should be reduced to the bare minimum to meet the core mandate of the Act. I do not support the hiring of new staff for areas such as endangered species, marine management, etc that are already handled by provincial and federal agencies — agencies that have the regulatory mandate, experience, expertise, knowledge and resources to do these well. Focus on your core mandate of land planning, development review, and the Trust conservation areas and get better at advocating to other agencies for all other areas.
We feel that the IT is stepping outside of its mandate and increasing taxes to do so. In my opinion, this is not an acceptable reason to increase taxes.

Question 14: Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.

- 246 participants (19.5%) of 1,256 who participated in the survey completed question 14

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
There should be No BYLAW CHANGES or Implementation of Island Trust changes, hirings or additional expenditures UNTIL AFTER the next ELECTION DATE OF FOR ISLAND TRUSTEES.
Increase set backs for new structures
Please refocus your efforts and resources on zoning, where you have jurisdiction. This includes aiding business rezoning and affordable housing.
It seems that property owner's rights to manage it's own property are evolving to the opposite direction limiting individual's freedoms and involvement. Hence, I would like to have seen if the survey also covered more streamlined questions regarding the degree of desire/opportunities/involvement/participation of homeowners on the matters regarding private property bylaws and management.
Why do we have to pay for garbage stickers when we pay for garbage pickup in our taxes?
Notwithstanding the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems in the Islands, I feed at this point in time, with ever escalating property prices and ongoing severe lack of affordable housing for low and even middle income workers and families, -many of whom have lived and worked here, providing essential services to our community and local businesses for many years already- that it would be unconscionable for our community and Island Trust government, to take any position now that would compromise the ability of any longterm Island residents, (or newcomers who are offering to provide essential services), from finding safe and appropriate affordable accomodation. I strongly disagree with any Islands Trust position going forward that would disallow secondary dwellings on ALR properties,(or require additional permits for same), or on any other non ALR properties of appropriate size (eg perhaps >2 hectares) if there is demonstrably sufficient source of potable water and a proper sewage management plan in place on those properties. Our Island has already lost workers (including those with families) who had skills that are in high demand in our community, owing to complete lack of any affordable housing options. Our community and businesses simply cannot function without these crucial community members. Many thanks for your attention to this very serious issue. I would like to state that I have been a staunch supporter of the Islands Trust over the 28 years I have lived here.
Most of the information here is on a specific issue (conservancy), when most of the issues within the islands has to do more with proper infrastructure, water, and housing. The communities at at risk of losing their identities due to a lack of support for local business, an increase in non-functioning boats polluting the waters, a rising homeless problem, and an ever present lack of access. The latter 3 issues are within the trust's purview whereas most of the former 3 issues are outside the trust's boundaries and therefore we should consider shifting some money from the trust towards the bodies of government that are able to address these issues.
Forgot to ask a direct question about tax increases. I can not afford more taxes. No to the increase in the 2022 budget.
Needed.... Massive tax increase on unoccupied buildings Massive tax increases on homes with unoccupied potential rentals (basement suites, cabins, trailers, etc). Or funds from IT to help a homeowner make a "potential space" into livable rental (ie- help to clean and fix damage within reason)

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
You forgot to ask how IT could find its way back to serving the local residents, reverse the bureaucratic overreach and assist in supporting sustainable local communities through planning. You forgot to ask about your website. All the imagery show a visions of resort communities with well-to-do retirees and people frolicking in nature. Don't you think that there are working people on the islands?
Need to allow written commentary on conservancy. This is a fundamental conflict with tax payers. Should be run arms length. The conservancy uses distorted information if not misinformation in its fund raising.
Keeping people housed, especially children.
Cost-benefit consciously focus on encouraging citizens' informed collaborative action for higher values as a core approach for the islands' success in ecological/climate-change action.
Planning priorities should include more emphasis on recreational trail and bikeway connectivity across the islands, and promoting economic and cultural opportunities.
we keep forgetting that we are all connected, and that people are connected to the environment and the environment is part of us. There is too much emphasis on protection of watersheds and shorelines, and not enough realization of how we integrate people into the solution. The protections and preservations minimize the people who are connected to the land.
See above. Like every public union sector, you have become a bloated organization with no capability to address poor performance and mismanagement. I recommend that staff read why Islands Trust was founded in the first place....and to always look for ways to bring that into every action/decision they make.
Ban on clearcut logging with strict timely enforcement is what we really need right now.
I think the trust is trying to over reach its intended purpose.
I am alarmed with the high costs of administration as well as the use of consultants, most of whom do not live on any of the Gulf Islands. I think the IT has made the mistake of many organizations in that they have over-professionalized their programs and services. When this happens, the 'heart', resourcefulness, and fluidity of an organization is diminished. Communities are strongest when they are engaged in meaningful ways. A big mistake that organizations make is assuming a lack of community engagement signifies concurrence with the status quo. Not so. Rather, seeming disinterest is more often linked to disempowerment and disenfranchisement. We need some big steps back, intelligent discourse, humility and courage as we move forward. Finally, I'm distressed and discouraged to see what I interpret as punitive approaches to bylaw infractions. This is not helping our communities on any level, it's destroying them. Such simplistic, bureaucratic approaches to solving problems only serve to create reactive responses, including fear.
YES: your budget is NOT taking into consideration the HUGE amount of additional taxes that will be coming into the coffers because of the average property tax assessments that have increased 25% over last year. WHY is this not being considered? That is why I say reduce the budget...do not increase it. Covid, loss of jobs, income, businesses under duress....HUGE mistake for the Trust to increase its budget. You must make adjustments the same as the rest of us.
I am very disappointed that the Island Trustees have gone way beyond the unique mandate that was given to them. If you want to effect social change then run for election as an MLA or an MP.
what limits do you tink should be placed on what we do?

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
The attorney General has admitted that raising taxes will not pay for services and other revenue opportunities explored and other options have to be introduced . Your survey does not even address what is obvious the answer to funding what services need to be provided. You need to seek revenue and to do that your current policies do the opposite and if you do not change your minds, you will fail to provide services and you will continue to be a another contributor to homelessness, and continual decline in providing services
How about reconciliation efforts?
Yes you should have ask the following question. Are you satisfied with how the Islands Trust is being run and are you Satisfied with the currant policy's and bylaws! It is the Islands Trusts mandates that have made properties more expense. The Islands Trust is not alone one this. There are other factors. This is what we should be talking about! The more barrier you put in place the more expensive it will be come! I said this years ago at a Trust meeting and to Peter Lamb and George Ehring (bless his sole) I was told by that I did not know what I was talking about! Well I was right! So keep on the path you are going and you can double property values again with in next 5 to 10 years. Kiss our youth good bye!
Stay within your limits and the scope of the IT Act.
we don't get the services you state you offer. I have never been so disappointed in a Gov'y agency, as I am with the IT !!!!!!! You've lost your way in the real world, & we want you out of Bowen for ever !!! Thanks
When will you stop allowing foreign developers to destroy ecosystems, develop on cultural sites and watersheds, and clear mature forests with old growth trees? Please stop pretending to protect and rolling over for every wealthy developer. If you are a development arm of Victoria and Vancouver be more transparent, some people are very disgusted with the amount of ecocide and cultural genocide that you continue to participate in.
No mention of economic sustainability or support for local business.
Focus on what the the Purpose of the Trust was in 1974 - Preserve and Protect. Get the hell out of !. Reconciliation. 2. Housing 3. Climate Change.
There could be questions directly about: -Growth of staff esp with the proposed policy statement. - Generally insufficient level of public input sought. - Satisfaction with trust staff level of accountability to the public..
With increasing populations in the trust areas I am concerned about the level of local representation. Locals need more representation and access to it. In short, I think the Victoria Office should be closed and work done there should be done ON the islands and I think we need to reconsider the number of trustees elected.
You did not ask about the fairness or appropriateness of the allocation formula for cost sharing. To base this on relative property values is unfair and unjust. Bowen Island property values reflect proximity to and alignment with Vancouver property values. In no way do the property values on Bowen Island reflect any benefit from programs and services it receives from the Islands Trust which I would argue is negligible.
We need more housing for low income families that provide our island with a diverse population of workers
Make it easier for people to comply with regulations; if you add land, be sure you can manage it appropriately. Find a way to let people and land coexist. Help with intelligent housing options

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
instead of being a road block. Don't be so wedded to policy that you lose opportunities. Start accepting amenities to help the community on development applications!
I would like to build secondary housing on my 36 acres to help generate income as I grow older and to help with the housing shortage. I cannot stand the hoops you have to jump through to do this Also I have a large property, I don't like people saying I can or can't do things , such as cut a tree down. I am conscious of the environment and this world we live in. But I need to be able to use my judgment and cut a tree down without asking permission.
This budget is based on both across the board tax increases as well as increases to fees. There were no questions asked or specific information provided about fee increases. There were no questions on proposed savings. I would note the increase to enforcement last year without a plan or bylaw review was not welcome.
Fire all executive branch, bylaw enforcement, and planning dept., get rid of high priced offices and staff - have local ELECTED trustees deal only with the issues the IT is mandated to do.
There is far too little attention paid to the increasing presence of animal agriculture, something we need to be moving away from rapidly given global climate change, and finite fresh water supplies. Propping up the animal-ag centric locavore myth is counterproductive when what we need is not to be clearing more land for grazing, but greater protection of existing forest cover, finite fresh water sources and to secure habitat for wildlife impacted by human encroachment (including farmed animals).
Stick with the bylaws you currently have, inventing more bylaws that don't get enforced is a waste of time and taxpayers money
A giant, bureaucratic organization is never going to be fit for purpose in directing small, grass roots islands. Reflect on this.
Asked or not, what is meaningful to me is understanding what you do without having to wade through copious graphs and financial data. On the surface, I see very little cost/benefit to increasing your budget. So if you can justify one, please back up all the data with a clearer message of why you exist and how you make a difference. Now more than ever, people don't have the attention spans to absorb all the information you provided to complete this survey as informed participants. I know you have a responsibility to share all the data you did, but can you make your messaging simpler? We have so many new resident on our islands who have no idea what the Islands Trust does.
We need to become a municipality to have control over our property taxes to improve our infrastructure which is crumbling.
Did you notice the bias in our survey?

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
<p>The increase you propose does not reflect the retired status of many islanders who are not receiving increases in their pensions and other income - and who are also seeing other costs rising in all aspects of their daily lives.</p> <p>Over half of the proposed budget appears to be directed to staffing issues. Is it possible that there is too much duplication and too many administrative costs?</p> <p>Perhaps Islands Trusts is also undertaking too many projects at a time when we should prioritize those areas that are attainable and will really make an impact on the lives of island residents. In other words, focus spending on essential services that will really make a difference.</p> <p>Finally, many residents are not seeing the benefits that a significant portion of our tax dollars should be providing. Given the surpluses that have been generated in previous years, there is little evidence that the monies are being well used.</p> <p>Too many residents see Islands Trust as an inefficient organization which is often a hindrance (slow processing of permits) rather than a benefit to those who live on the Gulf Islands. Accordingly, I do not support any increase in the upcoming budget.</p>
We should not have to be paying residential taxes for two governments (CRD and Islands Trust).
Many of the new initiatives proposed by Islands Trust do NOT fall within s.3 of the Islands Trust Act. Preservation and protection means just that. A 50 percent cost increase (adjusted to inflation) does not preserve our resources or is it conservative in nature. This must stop now!
Property taxes are getting out of hand. Needs to be controlled.
Tourism in the islands - this is critically important to many residents and local businesses
Believe in thinking of the future. I lived on Gabriola in the 80's and 90's. We fought for the 707 acre park. Attending meetings, etc. I have returned to live on the island full time again. Now my children are grown up and can see the benefits of what we fought for. When you are young you forget you are planning the future of a special place. We can replace buildings, but not nature.
More recycling options and trash removal like old appliances, electronics and metal scrap
You should ask whether we agree with you sticking your out of touch nose into things you have no expertise in. And duplicating other government agencies who already do most of the things you are sticking your nose in. You are a problem looking for a solution. The solution is dissolve the islands trust
Fallow deer problem as it has as much of a negative impact as we humans have.
All septic systems on HI should be checked asnd monitored. Bylaws for STVR are fine, but not followed or monitored. They should be. Summertime RVs shoukld not park on the roads and defacate in hte woods. Too much of this is happening. Bylaws are fine but should have compliance.
Options to cut the budget instead of increasing it yet again. Options to approach other government departments to let them do the work their departments were created to do instead of increasing your staff and programs adding additional layers of beauracracy and taxes onto us. How about Options to streamline your processes to reduce costs. How about to allow islands more authority in our decisions instead thereby cutting your costs.
IMO the biggest single issue that affects most of the areas in which the IT budgets money expenditures is directly related to or associated with density. Each Island community has its own
The issue of cutting trees on private property is an important one to me and I believe the trust should have no place to interfere in this issue. Thank you
Please, no more empire building, and no more policies that will lead to increased density

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
The Islands Trust ORIGINAL mandate is very important. Preventing excessive development on the SGI. However expanding the Mandate as Trust Council appears to now be doing is overreach and out of its jurisdiction.
This climate change nonsense is hogwash and not to be funded
Thank you for offering this survey. Please let's focus on finding a solution to the housing crisis here on Hornby Island.
Get rid of that [REDACTED] water license [REDACTED]
Your mandate is to preserve the character of the islands. It seems your mandate has become "make the islands the preserve of the rich and entitled". Your activities have made home ownership impossible for young families and working people. You actively work against housing opportunities and economic opportunities, preserving the "environment" for gray haired people of wealth and privilege that want to LARP the bohemian fantasies of their youth. You are failing the young families on these islands.
Prioritizing the critically prioritized efforts that are most urgent with an all hands on deck approach is required. Although the climate and preservation of the islands is important for the future, there are citizens of the communities really suffering in crisis. The health of human beings need their basic needs met 1st with some stability so that they can be calmer to be able to think and discuss the strategic environmental moves for the future. All the priorities proposed absolutely should have more done however in the time we are in, it appears oblivious the issues happening locally on these islands. the immediate needs must take priority then the next steps should be voted on by each island for what to plan or act on next in certain order after basic needs met. Being a jack of all trades islands trust for a lump of islands that are diverse in people and land is difficult to be a master of whole. Is it appropriate for Islands trust to be the lead on solving the housing issue or should it be an other entity or rather be a partner to support and collaborate with ? Who needs to own the accountability for the issue fully? I feel very concerned that Salt Spring and all other islands are in an extremely dysfunctional governance structure that is doing the opposite of what I believe most would like to see. How can this be fixed? What can we do to begin doing better? Governance structure changes need to be taken seriously again in the next few years in a way that people can understand and connect well with their families and community. Thank you.
Lots. Think outside the box and at current/growing issues, like housing affordability and vacant homes in your area, pollution outside your area, the impact of tourism, and so on and so forth.
I'll read up on the budget to be better informed in the future. I'm a new resident but basically happy to get more public land for hiking, foraging etc. Would also like to see open responsible hunting programs for turkeys and deer to feed family off the land and help control population.
I think it's important that the Islands Trust stick to their core purpose, not increase bureaucratic procedures and paperwork for local residents, and not increase taxes.
who is in charge of governing the amount of mills operating on an island who is in charge of the amount of new subdivisions in Sechelt which impact the water resources who is in charge of how many trees can be cut down on a persons' property and then overall who gives the churches their tax free status while they are making monies from retreats and seminars and using ground water resources - also selling food and coffee, ice-cream, etc. while noone else on the island is allowed to why are we reliant on the BC govt for roads services - poor why are we reliant on the BC govt for water taxi service -poor
Since residents of the islands are funding this Island Trust, why aren't offices and staff located on larger islands. Instead we are being governed by an office in Victoria.

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
yes. we believe a question should be asked every year if Bowen Island should continue to be a member. Bowen is experiencing major cost increases dealing with infrastructure and every \$320,000 counts.
There should be an annual review re opting out of the Islands Trust. We can used the \$300,000 for other infrastructure repairs.
IT appears to have been "captured" by special interest groups with an agenda of conservation at the financial and well-being expense of actual residents. Mandate is for residents as well as other British Columbians. Get back to finding a balance between the two, and stop trying to wrestle control from duly elected local councils. Proposed Mission Statement is a power grab and is unconscionable
Easier and better ferry service
I would like to maintain my right to decide what trees I want to chip down without the trustees involvement
Islands Trust seems to have little or no presence on Bowen Island except when it's time to collect tax dollars. Have lived here 30 years and can't think of any pro-active policy or program that has been implemented.
How many staff do you have employed and what are the range of salaries paid?
I am sure this survey is not going to do anything at all to take away your ability to keep handing yourselves millions of dollars out of our pockets. The residents of these islands are sick to death of the Islands Trust and we don't support your mandate in any way whatsoever.
Policy decisions should benefit the whole community not just special interest groups.
Development pressures must be kept in check. That is the fundamental purpose of the Trust. What I see on the ground indicates that the Islands Trust has an identity crisis and no longer understands what it was created to do. The quality of life on my Island has diminished, salal, cedar even song birds are in decline or dying as well, ferries have overloads, water trucks are year-round necessities. When will the Trust understand that there are limits to growth on the Islands? There should be a moratorium on new growth on at least 3 or 4 of the Islands NOW!
600k on office space when most of this work can be done from home!? 52k for a new part-time position!? Seems out of touch.
no mention of your proposals to change the edit and mandate of your unelected organization also no explanation as to why you are so heavily staffed for a comparatively small number of residents. You as an organization should be asking yourselves "why do the residents and taxpayers we purport to serve dislike and distrust us so much?".
Anything that preserves the integrity and original intention of the Islands Trust Act, for this unique area in B.C., deserves the appropriate budget expenditures, and it seems the province should be spending a lot more to support the Islands Trust.
option for an island to opt out of the Trust.
I would like the Trust to confine itself to those areas where it has clear legal jurisdiction. Stay in your own lane.
Yes! Why should we allow the Trust to continue and expand when we don't like what it does?

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.

The way public engagement is framed as "education" in the question above is problematic. There is an elitism whereby the Trust bureaucracy seems to keep treating the public as if we are unintelligent and uneducated. It is as though, instead of governing *with* us, the residents, as is fitting for a small local participatory democracy, residents are to be 'educated'. There is a deep disrespect in the assumption that public engagement entails educating the public. The job of Trustees is to govern for the benefit of the residents (and British Columbians), which can only be done with our meaningful input and inclusion. Residents don't need to be educated by Staff. We need to be engaged as intellectual equals, listened to, and respected. The Trust bureaucracy would be so much more efficient if, for example, Staff consulted with the public, and listened deeply to what various factions of the public want and are saying, prior to drafting resolutions and bylaws. Then the resolutions and bylaws should be drafted from a place of having deeply listened to and respecting public input. Although the initial public engagement may be a bit costly, in the long run it is more efficient to have good bylaws and resolutions that residents feel they can get behind, because they were consulted before the drafting, and thus their desires and concerns are addressed in the draft. It is counterproductive, and terribly inefficient, to either simply 'borrow' inappropriate bylaws from other jurisdictions and then have an unhappy public fighting them, or giving up in dismay and simply feeling alienated by a bureaucracy that doesn't seem to care about residents, and thus ignoring the bylaws...which is what happens on SSI.

I think you could have asked if land use planning should be moved to regional districts.

Now that Zoom meetings have become more normal, will the IT be reducing the budget for the Trust Council to travel to their yearly meetings, which incur hotel costs, ferry costs, etc, and is travel (mainly in non-electric vehicles) and CO2 emissions that they likely do not need to spend/emit. I understand that there are regular tech expenses, like the budget for new computers which was listed, which would be needed even if they did not travel.

Regarding affordable housing, if the Islands Trust did not get in the way of a true empty homes tax, or even a more restrictive multiple home taxes, all of which handled by other BC departments, then affordable housing could be handled by existing housing stock. Building to catchup to affordable housing is an impossible task... but filling existing homes with fulltime residents makes sense.

I think IT needs to rethink its future and get back to its original mandate or perhaps IT has outlived its usefulness and a new governance model should be considered for the islands

Conservancy should not be funded by tax payers

How does the Islands Trust effect my life on the Island.

The questions are of too narrow a focus. Another useless survey intended to use the ambivalent results to do what it wants.

I would like to know what the Islands Trust has actually achieved. For example, has an OCP actually been implemented as designed.

No

Please do not lose the federative aspect of the Trust - this is still a unique area that must be protected in its integrity...This is what was meant by the original Islands Trust Act

Yes, the trust encourages residents to turn people in for what they perceive to be a bylaw violation. This system abuses the rights of individuals, they are considered guilty and have to prove their innocence over pettiness.

How many people have been turned in because of dislike or self interest of the accuser.

Put your eyes on the bigger picture of what matters for people to live here in peace!

Do your own work!

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
The Islands Trust has outlived its usefulness causing unnecessary duplication and and levels of governance. Four Trustees for Pender Island is totally unnecessary and bloated.
If it is within the mandate of Islands Trust much more is needed to be done about the huge increase of large commercial vessels anchored in the waters of the Gulf Islands before there is more damage done to the Island environment or heaven forbid, a major oil/fuel spill.
Thank you for your question: It is much appreciated. What is meaningful is the fact that the Gulf Islanders are required to cough up the motherload financially without ever having been given a referendum as to whether or not they wished to carry such. If the Trust is in fact operating on behalf of all British Columbians why are they not being taxed acccrdingly?
Time to rebuild our community Time to think about the workforce on this island time to increase housing and allow more density to reduce the cost of housing this is a great place to live but there are to many restrictions on ways to improve the place
You should ask whether I feel that Islands Trust is serving the communities they work for well & within their means. My answer to these would be NO.
I wish there was a way for me to print out my responses. By not providing any information on how changing other revenue sources (grants, application fees, etc) would affect the overall budget requirements I am forced to respond from the perspective that any increase in your budget is going to come on the backs of taxpayers. You must be more open to being more efficient and not spending your money on lower priority issues. (Or even just letting us and your staff know what the actual priorities are.)
We are interested in preserving a rural farming community
None
Is there a plan for you to start responding in a timely manner to Residence requesting your services? Of not, might be time to move on to another model.
Yes. Please regulate yourself into oblivion.
Paper pushing is not the answer to our issues with affordable housing and land use. It just costs us a great deal of money.
How can the Islands Trust become more involved with the provision of drinking water on Saturna Island. We have had a boil water advisory off and on for nearly 3 years - winter and summer. Isn't drinking water and water to wash (we are not supposed to take baths) as important as communication budgets?
Your strategic plan speaks to affordable housing but one of the key things missing on Bowen is housing diversity. So we have lots of value in our homes....most residents on Bowen...and when we can't maintain our homes anymore we'd like to know that there might be approvals by Island's Trust for clustered housing, townhomes, apartment buildings, attached homes etc.
Have you seen Island Trust projects or programs in your community?
I appreciate that you have asked for feedback.
There needs to be a concerted effort by the Islands Trust to operate more efficiently with fewer priorities and maintain the budget for the next 3 years at current (2021/22) levels.
Originally the cost of the Islands Trust was to be shared between all the residents of BC, the Gulf Islands being for the benefit and enjoyment of all British Columbians. Why now is the entire cost of the Islands Trust being carried by only the Gulf Islanders?

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.

The trust mandate talks about protecting community and that means people. I didn't see questions pertaining to that aspect.

I used to stand up for the Islands Trust, when it was a local grassroots form of government, who held committee meetings that included the community, and checked in from time to time. It was like a flotilla of islands trying to keep each other on course, or just commiserate with how different our experiences were from the outside world. We had part time pilots (staff) to bring us into port when needed. But each LTC commanded it's own ship, within the IT flotilla. In the past decade the Islands Trust has become more centralized, and relies more and more on staff knowledge bases, which predominantly centre urban lived experience, and metrics. We are now like one big cruise liner with a whole lot of staff here to control our collective experience, to the best efficiency, and a whole lot of staff wages paid. Meanwhile, the realities of island communities change at drastic pace, everyone wants their piece of paradise! Rather than hold us together, strengthening our local communities and helping us to better steward our home environments, the Islands Trust is dividing us into classes. The IT prioritizes individual development applications, enabling some to access accumulations of financial and resource wealth. The IT provides practical supports to the real estate MARKET (lobbying for exemption from speculator's tax), while supporting anonymous complaints against neighbours, and punitive action by the growing team of BEOs. Our community diversity would be better served (including the complainant) by community justice processes, at a fraction of the cost. Colourful individuals who used to live (quite safely, thank you) on the margins, and children of our working class, live insecurely because of decades of inaction by the IT. We are on the Titanic, Islands Trust. Please get your out-of-touch city-staff out of our rural ways. Staff are locking people into steerage. Please don't repeat history. Find some good pilots to lead us back into port. Or pull ALL residents (not just first class) out of the water. Or do whatever you need to do to get our flotilla back on track. Each island already has its own vessel (OCP, LUB) as suits it. We have the solid ground of knowledge bases within our individual communities, we have only to draw on them. Or step back from your mission to "preserve and protect" our communities from other jurisdictions who may be able to help and keep us from drowning - while protecting our waters, lands and wild creatures.

HOW CAN WE GET BOWEN IS OUT OF THE TRUST

IT is a bloated self serving bureaucracy that needs to be dismantled. They accomplish little at great expense and basically make life way more complicated than it needs to be.

The Islands Trust should keep their noses out of Housing initiatives. You have no mandate for such operations

Mandate scope 'creep' is a critical issue in many government and non-government organizations and agencies. A number of the proposed activities push the boundaries of the organization's scope. These need to be curtailed or significantly limited.

Please stop this insanity and just focus on the original mandate which is to be a basic agency to preserve and protect not to regulate us the tax payers out of our homes by ever increasing taxes and mandating that each of our islands MUST all be ruled exactly the same way. We must be given the freedom to choose. What's good for one location does not necessarily work in another.

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.

My central concern with IT is the focus on regulation of housing density and minimum lot sizes through an increasingly intricate system of regulations intended to apply to all cases. Historically this was a result of the small-lot subdivision rush that triggered formation of IT. This focus was necessary at the time and was successful but has resulted in two probably unintended results.

1. A bewilderingly complex system of regulations that require special expertise to navigate. This requires a large staff of expert planners, alienates many landowners, and rewards professional developers who have staff, experience, and financial incentives to learn to navigate the regs in their interests.
2. Inevitably the complex regulations fail to fit many actual cases well and impede implementation of innovations to meet unforeseen community needs like expanding affordable housing, as well as reversing the suburban sprawl and habitat fragmentation resulting from build-out of 1 -4ha minimum lots whose zoning was designed to prevent small-lot commercial subdivisions.

I can see that solving these largely unforeseen issues arising from IT's fundamental approach to zoning and land-use planning will be very complicated and controversial, but it seems to me that continuing to intensify the same approach is doomed. For me the central principles in reforming the system would be

1. Rely primarily on statements of principle like the Policy Statement and the OCPs as the basis for decision-making, while
2. Empowering local authorities like LTCs to develop specific plans case-by-case considering environmental protection and restoration along with immediate community needs like diversity of wealth, culture and also long-term planning to meet changing environmental, economic, and social conditions. I think the current LTC model could be improved by more reliance on permanent as well as ad hoc advisory groups, whose selection would need to be carefully thought-through: perhaps some combination of election, appointment, and screening/stratification by criteria like age, wealth, term of island residence, ...(??).

I believe there should be more consideration to new Residential docks being approved. There needs to be more federal dock space along with a new dock in Bennett Bay & more dock spaces in general. The dock at Miners Bay should have been given quite a few more spaces when it was done! I feel there is an over abundance of commercial crabbing/fishing as well. For all the tax money collected there is so many things required on the island. A dedicated trail to the ferry would be great along with proper drainage on the roads.

Why have the islands trust for a municipality such as Bowen island

You guys need to find ways to engage more working class people in your planning. Find a way to engage with working class thought leaders, and to hear their input.

Stop the expensive face to face Council meeting 4X/year. Once a year is enough.

These questions are not appropriate for Bowen Island

Please do more for affordable housing, our community is dying over here. THANK YOUUUU!

Disband the islands trust

Please understand that Bowen Island has its own governance structure and does not need another over reaching, expensive with no benefits government body. Please leave our island as you are neither needed or wanted.

I think budget reviews usually start at the top...you ,by definition,are a service organization and most such organizations are going to smaller Boards...usually 7 to 9...makes them more efficient...and saves dollars for remuneration,travel and administrative support...more importantly sets the organization tone.

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.

It would be very helpful to know which Trust activities overlap with or duplicate those of the Federal and Provincial governments. Climate, shorelines, marine areas, Indigenous relations etc. all seem to fall under one or other government department. Isn't land use the Trust's primary mandate?

Decisions on land use need to be made based on local knowledge and science. Not, as the current practice allows being based on the "Professional Reliance", paid for by applicant, system. This system is broken and is driving rezoning and density increases in areas that are incapable of supporting more build outs.

On many of our islands a decrease in potable water and contamination is coming from densely placed and inadequate wells and sewer systems. The islands have finite resources and can't sustain larger populations. They do not have the infra structure to deal with water or septic problems and shortages.

Moreover, cisterns are not the solution, as they are expensive and contribute to the overall use of the groundwater and their output becomes septic outfall and seepage.

Due to mis-management by the Trust three Islands are over the tipping point of environmental health and this is not reversible due to the numbers of build-outs that have been rezoned in the past 10years.

Removing the trees for build-outs have contributed to soil erosion and water problems. Trees hold the water in the soil and create a cooling effect to the land, while the matriarchs are a carbon sink. Following the precautionary principle a moratorium on all development is advisable on environmentally stressed islands.

Until, such time as we have all three: water, septic and eco system mapping completed, there should be no new densities approved through rezoning. Instead the "Conservancy" using "Planning Services" funds should be buying up the existing undeveloped densities for protected "Green" lands.

Additionally, "caps" (housing and build out limits) must be placed on every island, based upon: water availability, potability and yields (using data based on local knowledge, water mapping and density intensity); sewage (low density, soil depth, perc, "Drastic", distance between wells and septic need to be increased in slope and marsh areas, no septic fields placed in recharge areas); and the health of the eco-system. During mapping important data shall be collected to determine the maximum capacity of build-outs on any given island.

This is where the Trust's Budget should be spent: water, septic and ecosystem mapping, preservation and protection.

Absolutely, "No rezoning" for new developments until we have all this information to guide the approval process in land-use planning.

The budget for "Planning services" and land use development, including the applications process, must be reduced and a large share of this reduction diverted to the Land Conservancy. The rest should go back to the taxpayer to give them a break.

During this difficult time of Climate Crisis, most islanders realize that to support and equip the "Land Conservancy" with the essential tools that it needs to restore the eco and groundwater systems to health, and to maintain the rural nature of the islands should be the most important focus for the Islands Trust. The more buildouts the more pollution is created, creating more seepage from septic fields, that eventually, leach into the water courses during the rainy months and flow down to the ocean causing acidification.


Now and into the future, preserving and protecting the environment should be the Trust's only job and directive. If you look at your own surveys you will see that this is supported by the majority.

Addressing the housing shortage by making me evict someone due to an outdated bylaw which does not consider either the pandemic or the ability to help our fellow man (woman).

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
Bowen Island should not accept this huge budget and exit its involvement with the Island Trust.
Yes. I would like to have a robust discussion on increasing taxes on Thetis Island. Who is the best person I should contact on Thetis to raise my concern?
Not increasing housing taxes please
Increasing scientific staff within the organization.
Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.
I believe STRONGLY in environmental, ecological, sustainable living. Having additional arms of authority such as IT's confuses and muddies an already mucky relationship navigating the path of progress and environmental awareness. ITs assists in maintaining 2 camps - pro-development vs anti-development when in fact we need to work together. The fact ANYONE can report an island property owner to IT's and thus create angst and stress causes IT's to be viewed as a threatening bully group organization with too much power and not enough interest or respect for individual land owners. Very "McCarthy-era" feeling trying to be a resident knowing a fellow islander "neighbour" can report you at anytime without consequence or accountability to their action. Questions relating to the "reporting" aspect of ITs needs to be acknowledged.
Decrease your presence and taxes.. you are ruining the Islands and the future.
What do you do for Bowen?
10% LESS
Like any "organization", the primary mission or goal is self-perpetuation, and the goal of being most "useful" is lost in the background. Any private sector organization must face, and deal with the reality of eliminating non-functional work and initiatives to take on more useful ones. It is time that the Islands Trust becomes more respectful to the taxpayer and other constituents.
Most people who living in the Gulf Islands are thoughtful in their land use. They don't need a bloated bureaucracy with extremist opinions telling them what they should be doing with their land.
Stop talking about first nations reconciliation unless you are prepared to give your land away to so called first nations
Reduction of IT staff
The budget is presented in a manner that hopes to keep all of the existing programs and services. The survey does not show programs that might be reduced or eliminated to achieve no tax or budget increase. The premise is that we have to spend more to have effective government. The reality is that we do not. There is no indication that the proposed budget contains any efficiencies or tax savings. There is no recognition for normal inflation levels or the budget increase projected by other local governments. 6.1% is non responsible and and unreasonable starting point. It is best to start at zero, eliminate or reduce existing programs, and propose new programs so that we can see why our taxes are required to increase at all. Personally, we are opposed to budget items which are handled more effectively by higher levels of senior government. Local responsibility is for the benefit of the residents.
Be realistic - the IT cannot fix housing limits. There is only so much land, combined with the IT direction in making houses smaller and harder and the increased cost of traditional housing it is time to be adaptable or back away from the initiative. You cannot fix this issue while you continue to use by-laws, OCP and increased fees to decrease population and development on the Islands.
Preserve & protect what? The IT has served its purpose. Time to let regional districts take over!
How did we feel about the IT's bloated budget increases as tax payers? Our answer would have been "Very Unhappy with the IT".

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
It was my hope that you would consider the huge rise in the rate of inflation and the fact that we are in the midst of a runaway pandemic that has reduced household incomes, and that you would put off any changes to the budget until such time as we are all living in a more lucrative world.
Reconciliation is probably the most important thing to work on at the moment. And yes I know water, housing etc are also important. But first we need to work on a new relationship with the first nations
As said by many here we pay too much for too little . Our island needs housing, roads and many other essentials and our focus and funds should be directed there rather Flaky administrative organizations unless they provide solutions. Unfortunately the IT has the reputation of saying no ,due to influencing special interest groups, rather than saying yes and facilitating what the island needs for its residents.
Stop trying to manage everything in our lives. Stop interpreting your mandate to include anything and everything that happens on the island
By what means can the Islands Trust be completely shut down? They are ineffective, divert resources from more important topics, and create more problems than they seek to address.
We need municipal government on Saltspring Island!
No
Lower your budget.
Your website is difficult to navigate around and search for specific items. Just try to find the “building permit application review form”.
More tax revenue will increase the bias to intervention
You didn't outline ideas about how IT could reduce expenditures
Island Trust seems ineffective when dealing with semi-complex issues. Also need to look at rethinking their priorities.
What is General Admin Department Cost Recovery (\$2,007,726)? Why do you need over \$2M in GA across all Services? How many paid staff in General Admin? \$1,432,779 How many paid staff in Financial, HR & IS? \$1,168,055
Yes. First nations are being included more now in islands trust issues and programs. I feel there is untapped \$ via grants through first nations bands that can be utilized to not only ly include them but provide jobs to them and remove financial constraints and not impact the budget of the trust
What is the overall level of satisfaction with Island Trust services and policies?
should we get rid of the islands trust? YES
why do we spend such huge \$ on multiple studies for a given topic. It often appears those in control are victims of the “ Peter Principle “.
Are you a land owner... the ones who actually pay the taxes
There is no review of farm tax status to separate the real farmers from the tax farmers which results in an unfair tax burden on the rest.
Did not address any reductions and savings to property owners and tax payers. There is an effort here to create unnecessary jobs and spending programs catering to a minority whilst property owners pay with higher rates.
You did not include the ability to comment on the provincial funding that is totally inadequate.

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
The objectives of the Island Trust need to be revised. The status quo of 1970 is not sustainable and should be abandoned for a more progressive "keep the island habitable for us and our children" objective. In the mean time I would like to reduce the number of bodies that spend tax money.
The Islands Trust is becoming a large bureacracy that is really focused on perpetuating and expanding its own bureacracy! It needs to be reduced in size and streamlined to be more agile and proactive.
Two areas I would like to see more resources invested in are: 1. deer overpopulation problem - advocate for more hunting 2. advocate to Province for increase in NAPTEP from 65% to 100%
You could have asked the respondents "if they approve of Islands Trustees also working on behalf and under appointment with the CRD Director Howe, as we have this case of both an "unelected CRD administrator" in the name of [REDACTED], acting as admin for CRD in island committees, to include our local water system of which he is neither a user [REDACTED]. This is clearly a 'violation' of duties, roles, and functions and a "conflict of interest". The tax payers, islanders should be ASKED specifically "DO YOU APPROVE?". Otherwise, this matter might end up in litigation in the future if nothing is done.
Can Islands Trust not do something about reducing or removing container ship anchorages in the Gulf islands. At least removing those closest to island residential properties. For many, this issue is the biggest and most distressing issue in the Gulf Islands today. Noise from generators running 24/7 and bright lights all night and dumping of pollution into the ocean should surely be addressed by a body such as the Islands Trust. At least monitor and research the situation and publish full and accurate findings and information on your website. Do they pay anything for parking here? If we can't get rid of them, the islands should at least benefit from their presence. Many of them are parked for months on end, dumping goodness knows what into the ocean. Are there any regulations protecting our environment from these vessels? If so, are they enforced? Things like this need investigating. The Islands residents are entitled to accurate and up to date information and addressing these sort of issues are something I would like to see in an Islands Trust budget. The Gulf islands are surrounded by the ocean, so what happens there affects us all just as much as what is happening on the islands themselves.
Does the IT 'serve' the people of the area of 'serve' itself? Time to think about ways to REDUCE the budget and activities not continuously looking for more things to get involved in. The people want LESS 'government', LESS taxation, LESS telling us what we can/cannot do.
oh my .. no. (he said hesitantly)
How about if the residents feel protected and preserved? IT you are our planners....we don't have any other options
Stimulation for agriculture. Making it possible for young people to live and work on the Gulf Islands, not just wealthy retirees!!
Please stop spending people's money on things they don't want, and then stop adding bylaw's to every thing that happens on our islands.
Housing!
Why are the roads on Mayne worse than when you spent over \$ 30000000 on them ?
The survey talked a lot about 'public engagement' as 'education' as if that is a one-way street. But the Trust has a serious credibility problem, and fails to meaningfully engaging with citizens with any reciprocity. Staff needs to include citizens in their solutions as partners, not adversaries.
Jamming this thru during Covid is not Canadian or democratic in its mindset

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
The opening of all conservancy lands to selective harvesting and value added operations (sawmills) To be run and managed by the up and coming Salt Spring Forestry and sawmill operators association.
Get a real job and quite harassing islanders
Yes! Probably the most important item is the freighters parked on our doorstep despoiling our natural environment. There has been a lot of talk but NO EFFECTIVE action. What is Islands Trust doing to resolve this long-standing issue?
Our names and address. 
Islands Trust needs to stick with it's original mandate and not try and expand into many other areas that are not it's jurisdiction. The 2050 long range plan is a prime example of that, and the opposition to it, proof that it is not welcome! If it focussed on local land use issues only, perhaps it could accomplish more on issues like affordable housing in a timely manner.
Freedom to live my life without government interference.
stop increasing taxes...my pay did not go up 6%, why would I want my taxes to go up by that much?
Keep the Islands Trust in the Islands - employees should preferably live on the Islands.
Islands trust staff need to sharpen their pencil ... taxes are completely outrageous for the return to the islands core services . We are already paying more than our share for the minimum services . And also the bad (lazy) attitude. As a group. A huge disappointment of late. Please get back to basics!
Did not ask about the Islands Trust Freshwater Sustainability Strategy, need more funding for that initiative.
When the Trust was formed in 1974 it was fully funded by the provincial government. If there was a \$5 parcel tax on each property in BC there would be plenty of money to manage the affairs of the Trust.
I don't think climate change issues are worth spending money on since they simply clone from various government and non-governmental organizations and levels and provide no new information or utility. Freshwater and marine water are more locally pertinent issues that are more controllable. If the trust wants to reduce carbon then go electronic!
Get back to basics. Stop messing around in other jurisdictions. Abandon your quest to control tree cutting on private property. Better still stop stealing private property rights through exaggerated claims of endangered and sensitive ecosystems. The only thing that is endangered in the trust area are private property rights that you folks are stealing.
Please cease compliance and enforcement against housing related infractions, please make it easier for landowners to provide housing.
My major complaint with IT is that it takes sooo long to make any decisions. If a LTC makes a decision on land use and passes a bylaw why does that bylaw then have to be passed by the Trust Council then approved by the Ministry. It makes me wonder about the value of having IT at all....
Why is your overhead so high for so little service, you have clout use it and save bowen
Hopefully we won't start developing these Islands as a way of making extra revenue. They are not making any more of them so don't let's spoil them.
I would like to see more partners between Islands Trust and the Comox Valley Regional District on projects like the Housing Needs Assessment and Poverty Reduction Strategy.
Housing on Salt Spring Island needs some serious attention - start by adding the BC speculation tax to Salt Spring and evaluating some core areas to add some "gentle density" such as duplexes. It is unacceptable to have young families living in vans!

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
I don't know how you would address this, but the speed of government is painfully slow.
Staffing levels should be frozen and then reduced over time.
Nope
Yes. I would like the Trust to explicitly share in each budget cycle how much revenue comes from Salt Spring Island and how much of that revenue is spent on Salt Spring Island. I am not in support of SSI subsidizing the Trust when our community is so encumbered by the bureaucracy and has such limited representation on Trust Council.
Less CRD involvement with more decision making for each individual island given to that island's Island's Trust. Executive's on Vancouver Island often do not know what's best for the small islands.
I am not overly impressed with the quality of work I have seen from Trust planners and officials. A survey of the effectiveness of the Island Trust and , quality of work and usefulness would be very informative
We have been here for 3 generations and have seen changes in zoning and land use that make it impossible for the next generation to continue. Too what point?
It would be more meaningful if I felt that the citizens within the Islands Trust area had any say in how the Islands Trust operates, and the focus it puts on various things. Petty action by bylaw officers, ridiculous initiatives to stop cutting trees without permits, absurd delays and difficulties working within the Salt Spring Island bylaw 355 - everything about the Islands Trust on this island is bloated and unwieldy, all while it is administered out of a non-conforming building. It is frustrating to live in a jurisdiction where there is such a huge denial of change. It is saddening to see regulation as the only way to build sustainability, rather than looking more creatively at the evolving world. The Islands Trust, as an organization, is like a parent who wishes its children would never grow up and still views them as infants, through a hazy, unfocussed lens. We don't live in a vaccuum, and technology and improvements and awareness about environmental systems leave such a huge opportunity for the IT to truly be the novel, preservation-oriented entity it wishes to be. Instead, it is like a lumbering, monstrous dinosaur that can't evolve because it is too big to be nimble, and too self-absorbed to trust that citizens might share the vision of sustainability, but not the manner in which it is wielded over us by the Trust. The giant, absurdly huge budget to administer something that is unnecessarily complicated, is part of the problem. Throwing increasing amounts of money at a terribly run organization with terribly written bylaws and inflexible staff and operations will not create more protection and assist in the sustainability of the Gulf Islands.
You need to divulge exactly where every dollar is being sent to the residents paying these unjust taxes as they relate to each specific island. Thetis Islanders need to be shown exactly how and where their money is being used because according to your data and planning, we do not benefit from these exorbitant and unjust taxes. Remedy this and stop bleeding people dry of their savings.

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.

How will the trust area tackle the increasing water needs due to weather/climate? The current programs are just a drop in the bucket.

A long term budget/program to improve sustainable and conserving living on the islands need to get started - e.g water tanks requirements per property. Small things are important! Water of covered sealed land(roof) has to be capture for use or slow release. Property owner should NOT get money for this but instead get a decreased property tax over the years. That should be a long term investment!! Something else would be like property owner who are or are willing to produce their own food - should be recognized in the property tax. Keep the islands nature unique!

Like currently shipping/hauling all kind of soil(compost!!!), flower (and so insects all kind of gritter) and not native plants to the islands doesn't help with any sustainability effort. People who live on the island should consider it as 'living to protect'.

I know any changes to the regular 'old fashion' ways are certainly difficult to implement but without meaningful changes the islands unique way will be lost in long term.

Technologies of the 21st century can help - not only in communication but in monitoring and transition too. eg likeshare-your-views/

And don't forget sitting on a desk or do a meeting to find solutions are not effective ways or result in a quick fix. 'If you stand in the forest you can't see the trees because of all the trees'!

Create a continuous/evolving online platform and use the help and ideas from all the islanders. A web link is only one way.

Islanders are willing to form and build a sustainable future. BUT getting them together or getting them communicating is the difficult part. A good example is Island Trust survey. This has certainly room for improvement too. In the content and the way how. Shorter and bringing it to the point may get results faster.

There are not many who like to read pages first to fill a few questions in a survey.

But please don't understand this as criticism!! Problems will not be solved over night but the solution process need to get started.

It is clear that non elected, privately funded, special interest groups are guiding trust policy. We see what you are doing and we are watching you closely.

Please provide our community with core services - and leave the rest to the province and the federal gov't. Sadly, you are OVER reaching into areas outside YOUR skill set. This is dangerous and unproductive.

1. Make the website easier to find information.
2. Drastically reduce the size of agenda packages...who has time or inclination to read 3-400 pages?!

It seems that you are not even considering a principal of not increasing the budget year after year after year, despite the fact that many taxpayers are on a fixed or declining income and that our planet cannot sustain every government, household and business operating on the basis of more + more + more. The Island Trust does good work, but not vitally important work like other levels of government that can address real needs, inequalities and injustices. I am happy to pay more taxes that will tackle overdoses, compensate for halting old growth logging, implement meaningful reconciliation, house the homeless, etc, but not for more meetings, policies, procedures, positions etc.

Thanks for providing this opportunity for input.

The new website--some improvements from before but hard to find detailed information now

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.

The 75% donation to change F1 to RR zoning is extreme and does not completely do what is intended. We bought in knowing this, but the long term forestry owners were for all intents and purposes, robbed. We have horses and need a large amount of land so that they live in harmony with it. Too small of an area and they will damage the land. We want to keep it treed, want to increase diversity, and we have already put in a significant amount of effort to protect against forest fire. To keep land we need, we need to switch to F3. Since that means keeping forestry status, we actually are theoretically more likely to harvest which is not what the community wants. Putting it as residential would give it more protection but this is discouraged by the significant loss of land. Not being able to build a secondary structure or separate suite in the primary structure, even for employees or low income residents is a net loss to the community as well.

How about asking “ Does the Trust represent what you see as a plan to protect your island’s community and soul. “

I love everything to do with organizations buying land to conserve it. This makes much more sense ecologically, I consider that an excellent use of my tax dollars, than putting up impossible impediments for individual home owners and small businesses. Want to prepare for climate change? Hook up homes with water catchment systems and battery operated external sprinkler systems for when the fires strike. All the melted toxins from our homes would destroy these islands ecologies. How about preparing for actual climate change problems we are at immediate risk for, rather than bylawing, permitting, and taxing the working class off the islands?

The Conservancy is largely a waste of money. I know two of the biologists who either currently work or previously worked for the Conservancy and I was shocked by their high wages. I see the work they do and cannot believe my taxpayer dollars are being used in such a wasteful manner. I'm not sure how to reorganize the Trust to address the lack of value we get for the money spent. Obviously the Trust itself is conflicted and cannot restructure itself. Maybe some of the Trustees who are extremely value conscious could be tasked with how to make the Trust a much leaner and more efficient organization.

You should have asked: Is the Islands Trust supplying good governance?

By law enforcement. I would gladly pay more taxes for proper bylaw enforcement. The longer I live here the more the Island is turning into a garbage tip with people living in unsuitable shacks and trailers. Also abandoned boats, cars, garbage and trailers on vacant lots everywhere. Complaints never seem to go anywhere. The next issue coming will be the supposed "tiny home" movement already starting here with no proper bylaws or regulations controlling them. I can't get a permit to add a cabin to my acreage yet neighbours have two tiny homes on their small lot complete with auxiliary shacks and shipping containers yet pay no taxes for buildings on their property. My taxes go up yet the quality of life here goes down!

Reconciliation is being handled by the federal government as it is their responsibility. Not your mandate,

Preserving and protecting en danger species is a federal/provincial responsibility.

Why is the Trust obsessed with banning desalinization? Why is the Trust not opening up rainwater harvesting opportunities?

The Trust, even with hiring, does not have the knowledge, expertise, experience or resources to take on these roles. Plus these new areas are outside the Trust’s core mandate of land planning, development review and permitting, and managing the Trust Conservancy areas. The Trust should be advocating in these new areas — as directed in their Act — not expanding roles and staffing.

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
Planning is essential, but hamstringing the people who reside here is counter productive to a healthy environment. Don't forget that we tax paying humans are part of the environment and care for the environment.
Yes, By-Law enforcement has generated significant community discussion, and yet there is no mention of either a reduction in mandate, or of an appeals process that can be followed without resorting to judicial remedies. Why isn't that being addressed in the budget?
Where is the question on whether the Islands trust is a positive or negative effect on the well being of both the islands populace and environments and whether it should continue at all !
Why is there so many administrative employees in Victoria? How many of those employees make the IT home, even part time?
how does the budget actually achieve the mandate. seems it only runs a bunch of offices and pays employees really well, a lot more than most residents earn. i don't think you will listen to any of this and will carry on as you like
How is it wrong for someone to seasonally vacation rent a portion of their home as a B&B. Middle class people who serve the island should be allowed to offset their incomes by doing so. The B&B bylaw is so antiquated. Why can B&B guests not cook!? Where the heck do you think they buy their groceries and shop??? The whole idea of B&B has changed from what it once was when the concept began in Europe. I'm against home owners buying property solely for Vacation Renting, but if people own it, live there and part-time rent it to tourists - why is that wrong? If I or anyone else wishes to rent out my suite or casita part time, that is ENTIRELY different than having someone living there full time as a renter. Do a survey like other islands have done to find out how your residents feel about part-time vacation rentals. You have alienated it by your own creation. Taking a stove out of a house that is to be B&B'd is just stupid. Whether they buy dinner downtown or buy groceries, I don't see the difference. AND I will not long term a portion of my property as I don't want a full time presence, nor do I want to deal with the tenant favored BC Tenancy agreement. Been there, got burned on more than one occasion, and will NOT do it again. So removing people's ability to part time or seasonally rent out a portion of their home or cabin/casita does not equate to a full time rental opening. AND... trees have a habit of growing back. Even Douglas Firs.
To address affordable housing, please consider supporting by other government authorities: high empty home taxes, banning stvr, and banning or severely taxing homes as investment properties. People should not be allowed to own more than one home...they are a scarce public good.
Increase Bylaw enforcement on marine water general area. The ocean is for all who live in B.C. NOT !! Just for those that drop a concrete block or anchor into a sensitive ecosystem and declare it their personal domain!!!
You guys are totally failing at communication. Maybe wait to do changes till you have fixed this problem. I just can't understand why I have nor been sent this survey either by island communication networks or my email that I have given you so many times.
How do we get rid of the Islands Trust? Waste of hard earned taxpayer dollars. Shameful.
Why is the office in Oak Bay? The main office should be closer to the islands (ie: Sidney) and most staff should have the option of living and working on the islands where their wages and families would support the local economy. Our taxes go off island and those funds are stripped from our economy - at least the Province and CRD hire people on the islands and we see the money circulate locally. The Trust takes money from the islands and spends the money elsewhere - how in any way is this in our best interests?
The IT culture needs improvement. End the we/you attitude. I hardly ever hear anything from my local Trustees!

Did we forget to ask something that is meaningful to you? Please provide any additional thoughts.
If you really want to do something about ground water protection then look at a program that would provide existing well dependent dwellings with rain water collection systems. A solution is required to provide affordable housing. Both these issues are problems that impact all islands and should be made a high priority. I certainly don't feel that I am getting my money's worth from our Islands Trust. I do not want my taxes increased.
Advocacy, legislative services and climate initiatives are all done by regional districts...the trust is just duplicating services and wasting our tax dollars. Land use planning is the job...LTA projects are wasteful.
Yes you didn't mention anything about how you continue to shut down small home based businesses while your own office is not zoned to be where it is and has used more than the allowed TUP's. You need to act on that and move offices or issue the same amount of TUP's that you continue to use for your location on saltspring island
How about the number of Trustees and the associated cost for expenses. The number of Executive Members and their associated remuneration. The number of staff, their roles and responsibilities, and their total cost per individual (l.d., salaries,benefits, expenses).
Are you a land owner within the Islands trust, or a resident.

Thank you for taking the Islands Trust proposed budget 2022/23 survey!

Gathering input from the people we serve helps us to understand different viewpoints. Your contribution to the budget process is greatly appreciated!

Send Us Feedback Anytime

We'd like to hear from you! Any time you'd like to give us feedback, go to:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/contact-us/share-your-views/>

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