



News Release

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Islands Trust Council gives first reading to the draft Policy Statement

Ləkʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – On July 29, 2025 Islands Trust Council gave first reading to the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement and is preparing to launch a six-month engagement period.

"It's important that the Islands Trust Policy Statement represents the values of island communities, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and the residents of British Columbia. Islands Trust Council is updating the Policy Statement to better address the challenges of our time such as the impacts of the changing climate and lack of housing options – while advancing Reconciliation. These are topics the existing Policy Statement is largely silent on," said Laura Patrick, Chair, Islands Trust Council. "This draft Policy Statement has been shaped by what we heard in previous rounds of engagement, and keeps the Islands Trust preserve and protect mandate at its core. Trust Council looks forward to receiving comments on these revisions over the next six months."

This draft of the Policy Statement reflects input from island communities, Indigenous Governing Bodies, local organizations, and partner agencies. It contains guiding, coordination and Reconciliation principles for Islands Trust Council, and provides policy direction and advice for local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality to use when updating official community plans and land use regulations. The draft Policy Statement has five main goals:

1. Advance Reconciliation
2. Preserve and protect Indigenous cultural heritage and culturally significant areas, sites, and species
3. Preserve and protect healthy and biodiverse ecosystems
4. Foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities
5. Foster sustainable stewardship of lands and waters

Having given first reading of the bylaw, which signals it is ready for public comment, Trust Council is launching six months of public engagement. During this time, community members, Indigenous Governing Bodies, local organizations, and government partners are invited to provide feedback on the draft.

When the public engagement period begins, feedback may be provided in several ways, as outlined on the [Islands 2050](#) webpage.

Feedback will be received through an online survey or via a paper version available at Islands Trust offices and select island libraries, via email, or phone. Members of the public may also provide feedback directly

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

Bowen, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

to Trust Council in writing or by speaking at the September or December 2025 Trust Council meetings. Local trust committees will also host local engagement opportunities to help inform their recommendations to Trust Council.

Islands 2050, a multi-year process to amend the Policy Statement, has been underway since 2019 and marks the first comprehensive update in 30 years. The Policy Statement is required under the *Islands Trust Act* and defines the overarching vision, principles, and policies governing land use within the Islands Trust Area and guides how Islands Trust fulfils its preserve and protect mandate. It guides the content of official community plans and regulatory bylaws, and plays a pivotal role in Trust Council's strategic planning.

Read the draft Policy Statement [here](#). To stay informed about the Islands 2050 process and upcoming public engagement opportunities, [subscribe](#) to Islands 2050 updates and visit the [Islands 2050](#) webpage.

- 30 -

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to many Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique amenities and environment through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies. The Islands Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometers.

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