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September 23, 2026

File No.: 11-5500-30-10

Via email: INF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Infrastructure
PO Box 9021 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Ma,

Re: Request for amendment of *Infrastructure Projects Act* to exempt Islands Trust

I am writing on behalf of Islands Trust Council to request that the Islands Trust bodies be exempted from the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, in recognition of the legislated mandate of the Islands Trust and the Province's recognition of the unique environmental value of the Trust Area.

The Islands Trust was established through provincial legislation with a specific object: *to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations, and the Government of British Columbia.*

Ministry staff have confirmed that it is the Province's intent that Divisions 2 and 3 of Part 4 of the *Infrastructure Projects Act* would apply to Islands Trust bodies. It is of significant concern that application of this legislation could result in approvals that are not consistent with the Islands Trust Policy Statement or island official community plans. The islands are special places with unique needs and characteristics that may not be adequately reflected in expedited processes. In addition, until such time as the Islands Trust is exempted, we would welcome confirmation that:

- the Province intends for all provincial decision-makers to respect the spirit of, and rationale of the statutory object of Islands Trust when exercising authorities under the *Infrastructure Projects Act*;
- the *Infrastructure Projects Act* is not intended to displace or diminish the Islands Trust preserve and protect mandate,
- there will be early engagement with Islands Trust Council and the applicable local trust committee(s) or Bowen Island Municipality on projects designated as provincially significant in the Trust Area, and
- there will be appropriate opportunities for collaboration and coordination between the Province and Islands Trust bodies as infrastructure projects are planned and advanced in the Trust Area.

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

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

The *Islands Trust Act* establishes a cooperative relationship between the Province and Islands Trust. Islands Trust has longstanding working relationships and agreements with provincial ministries, and we value the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Province on infrastructure projects affecting the islands. It is important that this work be undertaken within the mandate and framework set out in the *Islands Trust Act*.

We thank you for considering this request to exempt Islands Trust bodies and look forward to continued collaboration with the Province to ensure that infrastructure projects in the Trust Area are advanced in a manner that recognize both provincial priorities and the legislated mandate to preserve and protect the Trust Area.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Patrick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Patrick
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council