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March 19, 2019

BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin) First Nation
Cowichan Tribes
Halalt First Nation
Homalco First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
K'ómoks First Nation
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lekwungen (Songhees) Nation
Lyackson First Nation
MÁLEXEL (Malahat) Nation
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation
shíshálh First Nation

Snuneymuxw First Nation
Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation Council
Snaw-naw-as (Nanose) First Nation
SḶÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation
Stz'uminus First Nation
SXIMELEL (Esquimalt) Nation
Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tseil-Waututh Nation
T'Sou-ke Nation
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation
WJOLELP (Tsartlip) First Nation
W_SIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Musqueam

Dear Chief & Councils/Hegus and Legislators:

Re: Reconciliation Declaration

On March 14, 2019, the Islands Trust Council unanimously passed a Declaration regarding Reconciliation at our Trust Council meeting on Gabriola Island attended by our 26 Trustees, our Chief Administrative Officer, and senior staff. The resolution was Moved by Trustee Stamford of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area and Seconded by Trustee Peterson of the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area.

The Islands Trust, as an organization, commits to and acknowledges the important work required toward Reconciliation and will strive through the Declaration to weave the words and intentions into the work that we do. As I stated in our press release regarding the Reconciliation Declaration, it provides a clear and unequivocal message that we will be guided by this historical critical step; this is the way forward for our organization and the community as a whole.

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As we move forward we would like to meet to discuss opportunities to advance the commitment the Islands Trust has to Reconciliation and how we can amend processes and policy now and into the future. My staff will be working on policy, processes, training, and education within the Islands Trust Area for our organization and community and we would like to work on this important work with you.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Lisa Wilcox (Kwakwemtenaat), our Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor at lwilcox@islandstrust.bc.ca, if you have any questions.

With great respect,



Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
250-210-2553
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc:	Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group	Minister of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
	Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society	Bowen Island Municipal Council
	Nanwakolas Council	Islands Trust Conservancy
	Naut'sa mawt Tribal	Islands Trust Trustees
	Te'mexw Treaty Association	Islands Trust webpage
	Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing	

Attachments: 1. Reconciliation Declaration
2. Press Release Reconciliation Declaration



The Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.

The Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to Reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process.

The Islands Trust Council will strive to create opportunities for knowledge-sharing and understanding as people come together to preserve and protect the special nature of the islands within the Salish Sea.

Adopted: March 14, 2019 Trust Council on Gabriola Island



News Release

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March 19, 2019

2019-08-IT

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL MAKES RECONCILIATION DECLARATION

Lekwungen Territory, Victoria—On March 14, 2019, on Gabriola Island, the Islands Trust Council passed a Declaration regarding Reconciliation:

The Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.

The Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to Reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process.

The Islands Trust Council will strive to create opportunities for knowledge-sharing and understanding as people come together to preserve and protect the special nature of the islands within the Salish Sea.

The Declaration acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, and outlines the commitment the Islands Trust has to Reconciliation. The journey to this historic declaration has been long. The Islands Trust honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage of Coast Salish peoples—now and into the future.

“Reconciliation with First Nations is an ongoing process, and for me, this Declaration is a crucially important step in that process,” said Islands Trust Council Chair, Peter Luckham. “The Islands Trust Council had already adopted a policy on First Nations engagement, which has been useful in guiding our work, but we had yet to make a formal declaration about Reconciliation. A declaration like this acts as a mandate or vision statement. It is an expression of intent that provides a clear and unequivocal message that will guide and underpin the work we do towards reconciliation and relationship building with First Nations and communities in the Trust Area.”

The Declaration takes guidance from key documents such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (TRC), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, and Islands Trust Council’s First Nations Engagement Principles.

The Islands Trust Council Chair will be writing to First Nations in the Islands Trust Area to provide Trust Council’s Reconciliation Declaration.

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Preserving *island* communities, culture and environment

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

The Islands Trust is a federation of local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-residents. The Islands Trust is responsible, as mandated by the *Islands Trust Act*, for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, co-operation with other agencies, and land conservation. The 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 5200 square kilometres.

Contact: Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council 250.210.2553
Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, via Andrew Templeton, Communications Specialist
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