



200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8
Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 660-2421
Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**
Email information@islandstrust.bc.ca
Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

July 9, 2026

File No.: 11-5500-30-10

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

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kahlon:

Re: Island Coastal Economic Trust

I am writing, on behalf of the Islands Trust Council, to express our strong support for advancing legislation to modernize the Island Coastal Economic Trust and to position it for long-term impact through provincial investment.

The work to renew the Island Coastal Economic Trust represents a *Made on the Coast* initiative shaped and championed by coastal First Nations, local governments, and regional leaders working together toward a shared economic vision. We understand that over the past several years, your Ministry's partnership has enabled meaningful engagement and co-development, resulting in an unprecedented level of regional alignment. This work provides a potential model for the Islands Trust Council to follow when pursuing options for governance changes.

We understand that across 53 First Nations governments, 35 local governments, and elected MLAs in the region, there is broad consensus that the Island Coastal Economic Trust should evolve into a modern, co-governed regional economic development institution that reflects partnership, reconciliation, and shared responsibility.

To carry this work forward, we respectfully urge the Province to bring forward legislation as soon as possible to formalize the renewed governance structure and provide long-term certainty for the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

As government focuses on economic resilience, regional development, and disciplined spending in a period of global uncertainty, the Island Coastal Economic Trust represents an established and accountable mechanism to advance those shared priorities. Over nearly two decades, the Island Coastal Economic Trust has leveraged provincial investment into tangible economic outcomes in coastal communities and on the islands, strengthening local economies and fostering collaboration across jurisdictions.

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Strategic investment in a modernized Island Coastal Economic Trust would build on that proven track record, protect prior public investment, and provide a focused vehicle to support economic transition in coastal and rural regions. This approach aligns with the Province's emphasis on strengthening British Columbia's economy while ensuring responsible stewardship of public funds.

As locally-elected leaders, we see firsthand the importance of strong regional institutions in supporting economic resilience, innovation, and community well-being, and healthy ecosystems. With modernized governance and renewed capital, the Island Coastal Economic Trust is well positioned to continue delivering measurable benefits for coastal communities and British Columbians. As it undertakes this work, the Islands Trust Council is confident it will do so in a manner that recognizes that long-term economic prosperity in the Trust Area depends on conservation of natural systems, the protection of community character, and the well-being of the people who call these islands home.

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 residents and 10,000 non-resident property owners within the Islands Trust Area. Guided by its legislated mandate to preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of present and future generations, Islands Trust advances conservation-oriented land use planning, stewardship, education, and cooperation with First Nations, local governments, and other agencies. We recognize that healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, and sustainable local economies are interdependent and essential to the long-term well-being of the islands.

We believe that thriving coastal communities are built upon healthy ecosystems, and that investments which strengthen both economic and ecological resilience will deliver lasting benefits for British Columbians. Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Patrick
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Islands Trust Council
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Area MLAs
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Islands Coastal Economic Trust