



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](mailto:information@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Web [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

March 4, 2025

File No.: 08-2905-02

Via email: [HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
PO BOX 9074  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Kahlon:

**Re: Introduction to the Islands Trust**

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council, I would like to extend our congratulations on your re-election and on your appointment as Minister Housing and Municipal Affairs for the Government of British Columbia.

As you know, the Islands Trust falls within your portfolio as a special-purpose government created under the *Islands Trust Act* to protect the unique nature and amenities of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands and the surrounding waters in the southern Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound. As defined in the Act, the purpose of the Islands Trust is to “preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.”

With that context, there is significant alignment between the Islands Trust and the priorities identified in your mandate letter, including the need for creative solutions to provide increased affordable housing options in island communities. The challenge of responding to the demand for safe, secure, diverse and affordable housing options while upholding our preserve and protect mandate is at the forefront of much of the work we are doing.

The unique mandate and structure of the Islands Trust in some ways makes this challenge all the more complex than it is for B.C.’s local governments. In November 2024, the Islands Trust Council wrote to your predecessor, the Honourable Anne Kang, requesting the Province initiate a review of mandate, governance and structure. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your reference. In summary, we see a pressing need for the Province to address issues related to:

- The Islands Trust’s capacity and mandate to advance meaningful reconciliation with the multiple Indigenous Governing Bodies with interests across the Trust Area.
- Whether the unique governance structure established for the Islands Trust in 1974 remains appropriate in today’s context.
- Clarity of the interpretation of the legislated Object of the Islands Trust.

.../2

***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 funding model for the Islands Trust in consideration of its mandate to work for the benefit of all British Columbians and not only those who live within the Trust Area.

On behalf of Trust Council, I would like to request a meeting between you and members of our Executive Committee at your earliest convenience to discuss the review request and how our work can better align with government's priorities into the future.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham  
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Conservancy Board  
Islands Trust Council