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Islands Trust Council Approves 2022/23 Budget

Lək'wəḡən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust Council approved a budget of \$9.1 million for 2022/23.

"This budget responds to concerns and priorities expressed from across the entire Trust Area," said Islands Trust Council Chair Peter Luckham. "Trust Council made some tough choices in response to public feedback. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation. Your input was heard and carefully considered when we made final decisions on the budget that will guide the coming year's work."

The approved budget for 2022/23 (\$9.1 million) assumes that Islands Trust will maintain existing land use planning service levels, add a part-time Conservancy fund development specialist, and will implement the following initiatives from [Trust Council's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#):

- Official Community Plan update for the Hornby Island Local Trust Area
- Official Community Plan update for the Gambier Island Local Trust Area
- Housing project for the Denman Island Local Trust Area
- Ganges Village planning project, Coastal Douglas-fir zone and associated ecosystems protection project for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area and a housing action program for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area
- Improvements to development application processing services
- Affordable housing model bylaws project for use by local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality
- Groundwater Sustainability science program in 2022/23 is focused on mapping recharge potential on Bowen Island, and Gambier, Lasqueti, Thetis and Salt Spring Local Trust Areas as well as select associated islands in the Islands Trust Area.
- Heritage preservation overlay mapping and model bylaws project for use by local trust committees, Bowen Island Municipality and Islands Trust Conservancy
- Stewardship education program
- Administrative support to regional coordination groups (e.g. Southern Gulf Islands Forum, Rural Islands Economic Partnership)
- Species at risk protection program through Islands Trust Conservancy
- Administration of trustee elections

In addition, Trust Council will continue to implement its [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

Highlights of the approved 2022/23 budget:

- 2.0% increase to the existing local trust area tax base plus an additional 1.25% tax revenue expected from new construction and development in local trust areas
- \$323,769 Bowen Island Municipal tax levy. This is a 4.0% (\$12,581) increase comprised of 3.09% increase to be levied against the existing tax base plus an additional 0.95% tax levy expected from new development and construction in the Municipality.
- 2.9% (\$259,238) increase in total planned spending for operations, projects, and capital purchases. This includes \$141,000 for administration of trustee elections
- 8.3% (\$760,501) of overall budget funded by approved external grants
- \$264,724 in application fee revenue (increased from 2021/22)
- \$395,500 budgeted for transfers from Island Trust surplus and reserve funds (reduced from 2021/22)
- \$60,000 Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area special tax levy (reduced from 2021/22)

Further details of the approved 2022/23 budget are available on the Islands Trust website:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/budget/>

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Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 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 environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation 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 5,200 square kilometres.

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