

March 12, 2026 – for immediate release

2026-03-IT

Islands Trust Council Approves 2026/27 Budget

Khowutzun Heritage Centre, Duncan, B.C. – Today, Islands Trust Council approved a budget of \$11.8 million for 2026/27.

“Recognizing the pressures on the community, Islands Trust Council committed significant effort to reducing the proposed budget. The approved budget balances the ongoing needs of the Islands Trust Area with responsible stewardship of taxpayers’ dollars,” said Islands Trust Council Chair Laura Patrick.

The approved budget for 2026/27 is in alignment with the [2025–2028 Strategic Plan](#) and provides the resources needed to carry out the Islands Trust’s preserve and protect mandate through land use planning, region-wide programs, and land protection.

Key themes reflected in the 2026/27 budget include:

- Support for land use planning projects and maintaining current service levels
- Funding local elections in October 2026 and new trustee orientation and equipment
- Better resourcing relations with First Nations and communications work
- Continuation of Islands Trust Council’s Strategic Plan projects, and the development of a new Islands Trust Conservancy’s Five-Year Plan

The 2026/27 budget supports Islands Trust work on various projects and programs, including:

- Indigenous Relations Action Plan
- Policy Statement Amendment Project
- Freshwater Sustainability Strategy Review
- Islands Trust Council Policy Review
- Denman Island Local Trust Area Housing Review - Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review
- Gabriola Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review
- Gambier Island Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Amendments Implementation
- Hornby Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review
- Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan Review
- North Pender Housing Access and Affordability Project
- Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review
- Islands Trust Conservancy 2028-2032 Plan Development
- Protected Areas Management Software Project
- Accessibility Plan Development

Highlights of the approved 2026/27 budget:

- Total planned spending \$11.8M, with \$11.0M directed to operations, \$588,484 directed to special projects, and \$208,700 directed to capital purchases

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

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

- An 8.1% increase to the existing local trust area tax base plus an additional 0.8% tax revenue expected from new construction and development in local trust areas
- A 13.5% increase to the Bowen Island Municipal tax levy base, plus an additional 1.4% expected from new construction and development in the municipality
- A 5.1% (\$571,929) increase in total planned spending for operations, projects, and capital purchases
- 2.4% (\$285,358) of overall budget funded by approved external grants
- \$198,100 in application fee revenue
- \$193,000 in investment income
- \$477,400 in planned transfers from Island Trust surplus and reserve funds

Further details of the approved 2026/27 budget are available on the Islands Trust website:

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

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Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to many Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies. The Islands Trust 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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