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## **Islands Trust Council Approves 2025-26 Budget**

Lək'wəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust Council approved a budget of \$11.2 million for 2025-26.

“Sensing the challenging times, staff and the Financial Planning Committee put a great deal of work into reducing the proposed budget ahead of Trust Council’s meeting. The approved budget supports the ongoing work directed to the well-being of the Trust Area while minimizing the impact on taxpayers” said Islands Trust Council Chair Laura Patrick.

The approved budget for 2025-26 assumes that Islands Trust will maintain existing land use planning service levels, and support various ongoing major projects and initiatives in the Islands Trust Area:

- Denman Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review (housing options focus)
- Gabriola Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review
- Gambier Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review and Implementation (heritage preservation/protection, and shoreline and forest ecosystem protection focus)
- Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review
- Mayne Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review (housing options focus)
- North Pender Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review (housing options focus)
- Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review (housing options and equity focus)
- Continued coordination of implementation of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Plan (2022-2032)
- Hornby Island Local Trust Committee relationship building with K'ómoks First Nation
- Islands Trust Policy Statement Review and Amendment (Islands 2050)
- Stewardship education program
- History and heritage conservations grants-in-aid program
- Reconciliation Action Plan update and implementation
- Administrative support to regional coordination groups (e.g. Southern Gulf Islands Forum, Howe Sound Community Forum)
- Species at risk protection program through the Islands Trust Conservancy
- Improvements to bylaw compliance and enforcement services

Highlights of the approved 2025-26 budget:

- Total planned spending of \$11.2M, with \$10.2M directed to operations, \$704,000 directed to special projects, and \$261,100 directed to capital spending
- 5.8% increase to the existing local trust area tax base plus an additional 2.5% tax revenue expected from new construction and development in local trust areas
- A 17.6% (\$68,740) increase to the Bowen Island Municipal tax levy, of which 1.2% is expected to come from new construction and development in the Municipality, with the remaining 16.4% representing a true increase to the existing tax base
- 2.0% (\$219,500) increase in total planned spending for operations, projects, and capital purchases
- 5.3% (\$596,000) of overall budget funded by approved external grants
- \$198,100 in application fee revenue
- \$211,000 in investment income
- \$471,500 in planned transfers from Island Trust surplus and reserve funds

Further details of the approved 2025-26 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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