



MAR 24 2020

Mr. Peter Luckham
Chair
Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Luckham:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 23, 2019, inviting me to visit the Gulf Islands and the Islands Trust Area in British Columbia. I appreciate your kind words of congratulations on my re-election as a member of Parliament and appointment as federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and I regret the delay in responding.

I truly appreciate your invitation. The Government of Canada strongly supports the mandates of the Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Conservancy, and places great value on their work to protect, manage and celebrate the natural environment and amenities of the Gulf Islands in the Salish Sea. Indeed, the Islands Trust Area is a priority for the federal government given its situation at the intersection of the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, the Southwest British Columbia Priority Place, and efforts under the Oceans Protection Plan.

I understand the Islands Trust Conservancy has been a partner making use of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, and other funding to further our mutual mandates and interests. I also understand the Islands Trust plays a prominent role in the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Program to help identify and prioritize lands for securement. The Department is proud of this partnership, and hopes to continue working with the Islands Trust Conservancy to further its work in these and other areas, including protecting the Garry oak ecosystems and the species at risk that depend upon those nationally rare and at-risk places.

For any matters involving Parks Canada and the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, please follow up with the Field Unit Superintendent for Coastal British Columbia, Ms. Helen Davies, at helen.davies@pc.gc.ca or 250-654-4048.

.../2

For any matters relating to funding and tax relief programs to support private and Crown land securement, restoration, and species at risk recovery outside the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, please follow up with Dr. Darcy Henderson, Head of Stewardship with Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific Region, at darcy.henderson@canada.ca or 250-491-1507.

I appreciate the Islands Trust Council's ongoing work in the Gulf Islands area. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Wilkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.