



## News Release

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### **Islands Trust Launches New Islands Trust Applications Portal**

Lək ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust is introducing a new online Land Use Applications Portal to provide applicants, and the general public the ability to more conveniently submit and track development land use applications within the Trust Area.

“The new Islands Trust portal for planning services will improve the applicant’s and public’s experience throughout the development application process within the Islands Trust. We are all looking forward to a more seamless and efficient experience for residents in the Trust Area,” said Russell Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer.

The implementation of the new portal was funded by the provincial Local Government Development Approvals Program, which is funded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, with the aim to implement best practices and to test innovative approaches to improve development approval processes.

Visit the [Islands Trust’s Land Use Guides and Forms](#) webpage for more information on the portal and to register for an account. The Islands Trust portal will provide step-by-step instructions on creating an account, submitting an application, and making a payment. Applicants, and agents with an upcoming planning-related project, are encouraged to sign up to use the new system. People with questions about the new online portal are encouraged to read the Help Guide or contact Islands Trust for assistance.

In 2018, Islands Trust undertook an internal review of application processing and planning service delivery. The results of the review led Islands Trust to develop this new portal to improve application processing systems. It also led to a reorganization of staff in the planning department so that some members of the planning team are now focused on proactive long-range planning while others are focused on processing applications.

In the last five years Islands Trust has processed a total of 2735 applications and referrals that included 51 rezoning applications; 85 subdivision applications; 262 development variance permits, 171 development permits; 121 temporary use permits; 34 agricultural land reserve applications; 1672 building permit referrals for the regional districts; and 339 other applications and referrals.

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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’s 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.

#### **Contact:**

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***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

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