



# News Release

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## **Islands Trust Offices Open For Business But Closed to the Public**

Lekwungen, METULIYE/Victoria, BC – To ensure the health and safety of the people we serve and our staff, we are monitoring public health agency and government information about coronavirus (Covid-19), and adapting operations and taking precautionary measures to address. We know it can be challenging to keep up with the many changes taking place right now, so we appreciate your patience and support. This news release provides new information from our previous release on March 13, 2020.

### **Offices Open For Business, But Closed to the Public**

We are open for business and invite the public to contact us by phone or email. To accommodate prevention measures, all of our main offices (Salt Spring Island, Gabriola Island, and Victoria) are closed to the public effective March 18, 2020 and all planner hours at our smaller on-island offices (Denman Island, Galiano Island, Mayne Island, Pender Island, Saturna Island) have been cancelled. We continue to welcome your calls and emails.

### **Local Trust Committee Meetings**

Local Trust Committee (LTC) meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future. We are seeking alternatives to live public events, such as electronic meetings, in order to maintain public business. Please visit our website and your local media outlets to keep up to date on the activities of your LTC.

### **Trust Council and Islands Trust Conservancy Board Meetings**

As necessary, we will adapt, change or cancel Trust Council and Islands Trust Conservancy Board meetings in alignment with recommended public health practices.

### **Meeting Cancellations**

Meeting cancellations will be announced through:

- Islands Trust subscriber Notices. To sign up, click [here](#)
- The Islands Trust [website](#)
- The Islands Trust Conservancy [website](#)
- Our [Facebook page](#)
- Our [Twitter page](#)

We appreciate your continued support and acceptance of the changes we are making to help contain the spread of Covid-19.

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*Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment*

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

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## **Trusted Sources of Information**

During this time, we recommend using trusted, evidence-based sources for up-to-date information about COVID-19.

Anyone concerned that they may have been exposed to, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, should contact their health-care provider, or call 8-1-1.

### Coronavirus Information Line

Government of Canada Coronavirus Information Line: 1-833-784-4397

HealthLink BC 8-1-1

### About Coronavirus (Covid-19)

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19>

### Travel Advisories and Information

Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

### Commonly Asked Questions

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/common-questions>

### Testing and Isolation

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing-isolation>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing-isolation>

### Childcare and Schools

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools>

### Event Planning

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/event-planning>

### Global information about COVID-19

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/>

The Islands Trust is a federation of government bodies representing 26,000 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. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, co-operation 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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