



## News Release

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### **Thetis Local Trust Committee approves legal action to respond to unsafe property conditions**

*Lək'wəḡən*, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – The Thetis Island Local Trust Committee has pursued legal action to respond to serious concerns about health and safety, including fire hazards on a residentially-zoned lot that is used for auto wrecking and salvage on Thetis Island. Despite prolonged efforts by Islands Trust bylaw compliance and enforcement staff to encourage the owner to seek compliance regarding several bylaw violations, the owner has not complied. As a result, the Islands Trust has obtained a court order for compliance and the property owner has until November 12, 2022 to comply.

“The Thetis Island Local Trust Committee is mindful and considerate of the financial impact and personal difficulties that could be preventing the owner from complying with current bylaws”, said Laura Patrick, Chair of the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee. “However, the health and safety of those living on the property, visiting the property, and neighbouring property owners is a priority for the Local Trust Committee.”

Should the property owner fail to comply with the court order, the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee will consider potential further actions to be taken to clean up the property.

Islands Trust Council and local trust committees may adopt general bylaw compliance and enforcement policies to set priorities for investigations. Local trust committees create the bylaws that the bylaw compliance and enforcement team enforces. Like local governments, Islands Trust uses a ‘complaint-based’ bylaw enforcement process. This means that almost all investigations result from community complaints. Through this system, Islands Trust gives priority to bylaw infractions of greatest concern to island communities.

Local trust committees and local trustees are not involved in specific investigations except when the bylaw compliance and enforcement officer recommends the local trust committee approve legal action. Bylaw compliance and enforcement officers do not proceed with legal action unless the local trust committee approves of the action and the Islands Trust Executive Committee approves of the expenditure from the Islands Trust legal budget.

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For more information on Thetis Island Local Trust Area regulatory bylaws, visit [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/thetis/bylaws/](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/thetis/bylaws/)

#### **About Islands Trust**

Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing over 30,000 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. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation 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.

#### **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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