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July 08, 2022

File No.: 0400-30 Ministries/MLA

Via email: MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca; nathan.cullen.MLA@leg.bc.ca

The Honourable Nathan Cullen
Minister of Municipal Affairs
PO BOX 9056,
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W9E2

Dear Minister Cullen:

Re: Request for Provincial Review of Islands Trust

Thank you again for your recent meeting with the Islands Trust Executive Committee. It was a pleasure to meet you. I am writing to you today on behalf of the 26-member Islands Trust Council to request that the Province of British Columbia conduct a review of the Islands Trust's mandate, governance and structure.

We are requesting that you, as the Minister responsible for Islands Trust, kindly bring this request to the attention of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (Cabinet). We make this request under Section 8(2)(e) of the *Islands Trust Act*.

The requested review could include, but need not be limited to, an assessment of:

- a) the optimum governance model to preserve and protect the Trust Area pursuant to the Province's vision for the future of the Trust Area;
- b) the object of the *Islands Trust Act* and clarification of the mandate of the organization;
- c) the governance structure of the organization;
- d) the alignment of decision-making processes and structures with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;
- e) the geographic scope of the organization and, in particular, authority over marine areas; and
- f) the funding mechanisms provided to the organization in light of a clarified mandate.

This request comes after much deliberation and debate at the Islands Trust Council table this term. In our efforts to update the Islands Trust Policy Statement and respond to a Governance Review conducted by external consultants, we have encountered some divergent viewpoints and core questions related to our unique mandate and the efficiency and effectiveness of our governance model and structure. As we approach our fiftieth anniversary, it is vitally important that we coalesce around a common vision and that we have a supportive governance structure and sufficient resources to realize this vision now and into the future. However, we cannot do this work alone. As an agency of the Province, we require provincial leadership, direction, and resources to ensure that we are honouring the vision of 1974 while also addressing the new realities and challenges facing the Islands Trust Area today.

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 Council has passed a Reconciliation Declaration and is working towards better acknowledging treaty and territorial rights,

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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

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better protecting Indigenous cultural sites and harvesting areas, and building stronger collaborative relationships with First Nations to preserve and protect these special islands in the Salish Sea. Aligning the Islands Trust's governance model, structure, and mandate with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* will be key to fulfilling Islands Trust Council's (and the Province's) commitments in this regard.

It has been nearly 50 years since the *Islands Trust Act* was initiated and 35 years since it was last meaningfully reviewed by the Province. Islands Trust Council is grateful for the amendments to the Act provided in 2021 but believes that it is now time for a comprehensive provincial review of Islands Trust's mandate, governance, and structure to ensure that these special islands and waters are protected now and into the future. Islands Trust Council stands ready to assist and, to that end, has recently established a new Standing Governance Committee with seven elected members who will be well placed to advise a provincial review process, as needed.

Thank you for considering this important request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham

Chair, Islands Trust Council

pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc:

The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant
Governor of British Columbia
The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British
Columbia
B.C. Cabinet Ministers
BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin) First Nation
Cowichan Tribes
K'ómoks First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
Lyackson First Nation
MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) First Nation
Qualicum First Nation
scəwáθən (Tsawwassen) First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
səilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nation
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation
shísháłh (Sechelt) First Nation
Skw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Songhees First Nation
Spune'luxutth (Penelakut) Tribe
SḶÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation
Stz'uminus First Nation

łəʔəmen (Tla'amin) First Nation
T'Sou-ke First Nation
Ts'uubaa-asatx (Lake Cowichan) First Nation
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation
W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation
W̱SIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation
Xeláłtxw (Halalt) First Nation
Xwémalhkwx (Homalco) First Nation
Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) First Nation
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nation
First Nations Leadership Council
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society
Nanwakolas Council
Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council
Te'mexw Treaty Association
W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council
Islands Trust Area MLAs
Islands Trust Area MPs
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust Website

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