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Islands Trust Council Adds its Voice to Elbows Up for Climate

Ləkʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, BC – At its September 2026 quarterly meeting, Islands Trust Council announced its support for Elbows Up for Climate, a national campaign of local elected leaders calling on the federal government to prioritize climate actions that strengthen communities in the face of both economic pressure and climate impacts.

Elbows Up for Climate is advocating for federal investment in clean, nation-building projects that help protect Canada from the dual challenges of climate change and economic instability, and that support safer, more prosperous communities. Nearly 300 mayors, councillors, and other local elected leaders from across the country have joined the campaign, representing half of all Canadians.

“Island communities are already experiencing the effects of a changing climate, from water shortages to extreme heat,” said Laura Patrick, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “These pressures also affect the sensitive ecosystems of the Islands Trust Area — the shorelines, forests, and species at risk that make these islands so special. Adding our voice to Elbows Up for Climate is a way of standing alongside community leaders across the country in calling for nation-building projects that reduce Canada's dependence on fossil fuels, as well as a national strategy that supports communities in building resilience to climate impacts.”

Islands Trust Council considers matters of Islands Trust Area-wide significance at its quarterly meetings. Advocacy to senior governments is one of the ways Islands Trust Council works in cooperation with other governments toward the Islands Trust Object.

At the same Islands Trust Council meeting, Islands Trust Council also expressed its interest in climate change mitigation and resilience by:

- Opposing the proposed West Coast Oil Pipeline being designated a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act* until full details of the project are known and formal impact assessments are completed;
- Supporting the Province of British Columbia in implementing the recommendations of the *Drought Ready: From Crisis Response to Community and Watershed Resilience in British Columbia* report; and
- Expressing concern about a proposed new Ministry of Agriculture and Food regulation, which encourages more food processing on Agricultural Land Reserve lands with Class 5 – 7 soils.

Read the [Islands Trust advocacy letters](#).

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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 and its 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:

Laura Patrick, Chair, Island Trust Council - 250.210.2553

Rueben Bronee, Chief Administrative Officer, via Communications Specialist - 250.405.5197