News Release

200 - 1627 Fort Street Victoria B.C. | V8R 1H8
Telephone 250.405.5151 | FAX: 250.405.5155
Toll Free via Service BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421 | in B.C. 1.800.663.7867
information@islandstrust.bc.ca | www.islandstrust.bc.ca

September 28, 2026 – for immediate release 2026-11-IT

Islands Trust Statement on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

This statement discusses residential schools, and some readers may find the content distressing. Support is available 24 hours a day through the Indian Residential School Survivors and Family Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419 or through the KUU-US Crisis Line at 1-800-588-8717.

Lək^{w}əŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, BC – On September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Islands Trust remembers the children who were taken from their families and communities and never returned home. Islands Trust also recognizes the strength and resilience of Survivors, intergenerational Survivors, their families, and communities.

Denying or minimizing the realities and harms of residential schools causes further harm to Survivors, families, and communities, and has no place in reconciliation. These truths have been shared by Survivors, often at great personal cost, and documented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Islands Trust is committed to listening, learning, addressing denialism, and supporting First Nations-led efforts in truth, reconciliation and justice.

"Reconciliation begins with truth. It is vital we remember the children who never came home and honour the Survivors and families who have carried these truths for generations. Islands Trust is committed to listening, learning and acting on what we hear, including speaking up when these truths are denied," said Laura Patrick, Islands Trust Council Chair. "We are also committed to addressing the ongoing impacts of colonialism through our work and to building respectful and meaningful relationships with First Nations."

Islands Trust encourages residents and visitors to take time to reflect, listen to Survivors, challenge denialism, and learn more about the history and ongoing impacts of residential schools through the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Many First Nations and community organizations host commemorative events on September 30. Islands Trust encourages people to wear orange and, where invited, attend community events with open ears and hearts.

Every Child Matters.

– 30 –

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, Islands Trust Council - 250.210.2553
Rueben Bronee, Chief Administrative Officer, via Communications Specialist - 250.405.5197