



Trust Programs Committee Agenda

Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020
Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - 2.1 Introduction of New Items
 - 2.2 Approval of Agenda
3. TOWN HALL AND DELEGATIONS
4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES/COORDINATION
 - 4.1 Minutes of Meeting
 - 4.1.1 Trust Programs Committee Minutes of June 23, 2020 3 - 7
 - 4.2 Resolutions Without Meeting
None
 - 4.3 Follow Up Action List 8 - 11
5. TRUST COUNCIL BUSINESS
 - 5.1 History, Heritage and Conservation Grants-in-Aid Policy - RFD 12 - 18
 - 5.2 Secretariat Services Policy - RFD 19 - 24
 - 5.3 Community Stewardship Awards Policy - RFD 25 - 36
 - 5.4 Policy Statement Amendment Project Update - Briefing 37 - 83
6. BUSINESS
 - 6.1 Climate Action Update
 - 6.1.1 Climate Action Plan - Briefing 84 - 88
 - 6.1.2 Climate Change Stewardship Education: Project Charters for Fall Webinars - RFD 89 - 92
 1. That the Trust Programs Committee endorse the Climate Change Stewardship Education Program project charter, dated August 13, 2020.
 2. That the Trust Programs Committee direct staff to provide options for stewardship education programming .

6.1.3	Climate Indicators Project - Briefing	93 - 109
6.2	2021/22 Budget Requests - RFD	110 - 113
1.	That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Executive Committee recommend to Financial Planning Committee include \$10,000 in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 for the Policy Statement Amendment Project (Strategic Plan items 10, 16, 22,23).	
1.	That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Financial Planning Committee include in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget \$25,000 for Strategic Plan Item No. 12 - Develop i) a set of climate change, demographic and environmental data and ii) performance criteria in order to identify the effects of climate change in the Trust Area and to measure mitigation and adaption efforts.	
1.	That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Financial Planning Committee include in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget \$15,000 for Strategic Plan Item No. 21 - Develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area.	
1.	That the Trust Programs Committee request staff to prepare business cases for undertaking 2018-2022 Strategic Plan items related to the Policy Statement Amendment Project, Climate Change Indicators and Stewardship Education Program to refine the scope and budgets.	
7.	NEW BUSINESS	
8.	CORRESPONDENCE	
8.1	T. Saxby My Sea to Sky re: tracking & measuring GHG emissions annually - emailed dated July 31	114 - 115
9.	WORK PROGRAM	
9.1	Trust Programs Committee Work Program	116 - 117
10.	CLOSED MEETING	
11.	RISE AND REPORT	
12.	NEXT MEETING	
13.	ADJOURNMENT	

*Approximate time is provided for the convenience of the public only and is subject to change without notice.



Trust Programs Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: June 23, 2020
Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Local Trustee (Chair)
Scott Colbourne, Gabriola Island Local Trustee (Vice Chair)
David Critchley, Denman Island Local Trustee
Doug Fenton, Thetis Island Local Trustee
Kees Langereis, Gabriola Island Local Trustee
Benjamin McConchie, North Pender Island Local Trustee
Timothy Peterson, Lasqueti Island Local Trustee
Dan Rogers, Gambier Island Local Trustee (EC Rep)
Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair (ex officio)

Members Absent: Paul Brent, Saturna Island Local Trustee
Michael Kaile, Bowen Island Municipal Trustee

Staff Present: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services
Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor
Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor
Gillian Nicol, Program Coordinator
Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Chair Morrison acknowledged that we are on the unceded traditional territories of many different First Nations given that members of the committee are participating electronically from their homes on several islands.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 Introduction of New Items

None

2.2 Approval of Agenda

By general consent the agenda was approved.

3. TOWN HALL AND DELEGATIONS

3.1 Kim Dunn, World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Canada)

Kim Dunn spoke to the WWF – Canada partnership with Islands Trust in support of the work of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Marine Ecosystem Forum over the last three years. The partnership created a number of forum events for many First Nations and stakeholders (governments, businesses and communities) to identify challenges confronting the marine ecosystems of Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel and to work toward shared actions that will improve the marine environment. The participants of the forums are working towards becoming self-sustaining with a governance structure, membership and funded capacity to continue discussions. WWF-Canada is ending their participation in the partnership as the funding commitment was for three years and they are embarking on a restructuring of their organization.

There were no other Delegations or Town Hall speakers.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES/COORDINATION

4.1 Minutes of Meeting

4.1.1 Trust Programs Committee Draft Minutes of May 22, 2020

By general consent the minutes were approved.

4.2 Resolutions Without Meeting

None

4.3 Follow Up Action List

The FUAL was provided for information.

5. TRUST COUNCIL BUSINESS

None

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Secretariat Services – Request For Decision (RFD)

Director Frater presented the RFD, noting that the Trust Council has added to the Strategic Plan the function of Secretariat Services to forums within the Trust Area but policy has not been developed to support this function. Director Frater also noted that the budget provided to this relatively new function is not meant to provide grants but rather to support co-operation and co-ordination with other agencies.

TPC-2020-024

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee request staff to draft a policy to guide provision of a secretariat role to forums within the Trust Area.

CARRIED

TPC-2020-025

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee allocate \$3,500 to support the coordination of the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum.

CARRIED

TPC-2020-026

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee allocate \$3,800 to support the coordination of the Howe Sound (Atl'ka7tsem) Community Forum.

CARRIED

TPC-2020-027

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee defer the decision for financial support for the Southern Gulf Islands until after the development of a policy related to the secretariat services.

CARRIED

Trustee McConchie joined the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

TPC-2020-028

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee defer the decision for financial support for the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership until the next meeting of the Committee.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

6.2 Policy Statement Amendment Project Working Groups – Request For Decision (RFD)

Senior Policy Advisor Hippola spoke to the RFD which presented guidelines as to the role, meeting frequency and operation of the working groups who will review the Islands Trust Policy Statement through the lenses of Reconciliation; Climate Change; and Affordable Housing. Staff were also identified who will provide advice and support to the three working groups. As these are informal working groups consisting of less than a quorum of the Trust Programs Committee, meetings are not intended to be public.

Amendments to the guidelines were discussed:

- that the suggested meeting schedule of the working groups can be altered as per the needs and wishes of the individual working group;
- that the number of Trustees involved in the working group is limited to at most five voting members in order to avoid reaching the quorum of the Trust Programs Committee, which is six members out of the total of ten voting members of the Committee;
- that Islands Trust Council Chair Luckham withdrew his participation in the Working Groups; and,
- Chair Morrison will enquire with Trustee Brent whether he would like to participate in any of the Working Groups.

TPC-2020-029

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Trust Programs Committee approve the Guidelines, as amended, for the Policy Statement Amendment Project Working Groups established in the areas of Reconciliation, Climate Change and Affordable Housing.

CARRIED

6.3 Climate Engagement - Community iCoolkit

Chair Morrison introduced the Community iCoolkit which is being used in Victoria and Vancouver to create community conversations in order to foster grassroots activism in communities in regards to climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The providers of this iCoolkit wish to adapt it to rural areas and to know if Islands Trust or Islands Trust communities would want to do that with them.

Senior Policy Advisor Hippola indicated that staff have formed a Climate Policy Working Group who have created a Climate Action Framework that has received management approval. The staff working group will be presenting the draft Framework to an upcoming joint meeting of Executive Committee and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, as well as to the next Trust Programs Committee and members of the newly formed TPC Climate Change Working Group. This Framework will provide a lens to be able to evaluate these sorts of requests.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None

9. WORK PROGRAM

9.1 Trust Programs Committee Work Program

The Work Program was provided for information only. It will be updated and reviewed at the next TPC meeting prior to providing it to Trust Council in September.

10. CLOSED MEETING

The meeting was not closed.

11. RISE AND REPORT

None

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, August 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as an electronic meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Deb Morrison, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

29-Feb-2016

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Implement Crown Land Protocol project charter V2, circulate past RFD to TPC members, keep charter on future agendas until project is complete and consider inventory of current referrals, if it helps demonstrate the need for updating the letter of understanding.	Clare Frater	Target: 05-Nov-2020	In Progress

20-Aug-2018

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that the impact of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road standards agreement on village roadscape be examined as a potential pilot project or case study.	David Marlor	Target: 05-Nov-2020	In Progress

06-Nov-2019

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee request that staff work with the Fraser Basin Council to identify opportunities for coordination in the delivery of secretariat services in the Islands Trust Area.	Clare Frater	Target: 13-Aug-2020	In Progress

10-Feb-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
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Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

10-Feb-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Staff to review the provisions for closing a meeting to the public where negotiations with First Nations are concerned, and including review of the appropriate wording for closing a public meeting in such circumstances.	Clare Frater	Target: 13-Aug-2020	Completed

11-Mar-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 TC requests that TPC reconsider the Community Stewardship Award Policy section on eligibility with regards to open bylaw enforcement files and return the RFD to Trust Council.	Clare Frater	Target: 13-Aug-2020	Completed

22-May-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
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Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

22-May-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee create three working groups around the following lenses: reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing, within the Trust Policy Statement. The three working groups are as follows: Reconciliation: Trustees Colbourne, Fenton, McConchie, and Peterson. Climate Change: Trustees Fenton, Langereis, and Morrison. Affordable Housing: Trustees Colbourne, Critchley, and Rogers.	Clare Frater	Target: 23-Jun-2020	Completed
2 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to develop a project charter for a water conservation webinar to be delivered in September 2020.	Clare Frater Gillian Nicol	Target: 13-Aug-2020	Completed
3 that Trust Programs Committee direct staff to develop project charters for eelgrass and ecosystem-based adaptation webinars for delivery between September and the end of November.	Clare Frater Gillian Nicol	Target: 13-Aug-2020	Completed

23-Jun-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to draft a policy to guide provision of a secretariat role to forums within the Trust Area.	Clare Frater	Target: 13-Aug-2020	Completed
2 that Trust Programs Committee allocate \$3,500 to support the coordination of the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum.	Clare Frater	Target: 13-Aug-2020	In Progress

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

23-Jun-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
3 that Trust Programs Committee allocate \$3,800 to support the coordination of the Howe Sound (Atl'ka7tsem) Community Forum.	Clare Frater	Target: 13-Aug-2020	In Progress
4 that Trust Programs Committee defer the decision for financial support for the Southern Gulf Islands until after the development of a policy related to the secretariat services. (Staff to place on November agenda)	Clare Frater	Target: 05-Nov-2020	In Progress
5 that Trust Programs Committee defer the decision for financial support for the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership until the next meeting of the Committee. (Staff to place on November agenda)	Clare Frater	Target: 05-Nov-2020	In Progress

REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Trust Council **For the Meeting of:** September 15, 2020
From: Lisa Wilcox, SIPA **Date Prepared:** July 24, 2020
SUBJECT: History, Heritage and Conservation Grants In Aid Policy Amendments

RECOMMENDATION: That Trust Council amend Policy 2.1.14 History, Heritage and Conservation Grants In-Aid dated March 13, 2018 with the revised Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated December 15, 2020 to be inclusive of First Nations history, heritage, objects and sites.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMMENTS: The proposed amendments are consistent with Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration and First Nations Engagement Principles Policy. The proposed amendments broaden the scope of history, heritage, and conservation to be inclusive and aligned with both Islands Trust and Provincial mandates toward reconciliation.

- 1 PURPOSE:** To provide Trust Council with recommended policy amendments that align Policy 2.1.14 with the Islands Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration, and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA).
- 2 BACKGROUND:** On March 13, 2018, Trust Council approved the History, Heritage, and Conservation Grants In-Aid Policy 2.1.14 to provide financial assistance grants to individuals, groups, organizations, First Nations, or agencies. Activities supported through the grant include education, public awareness, understanding, and knowledge about the history and heritage of the Islands Trust Area and the conservation of heritage properties.

In December 2016, the Islands Trust Council passed Policy 6.1.1 First Nations Engagement Principles to support and commit to the work of reconciliation (C.2) and integration of activities that support First Nations reconnection (C.3).

In March 2019, the Islands Trust Council passed the Islands Trust Reconciliation Declaration committing to "establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples".

In 2019, the Legislative Assembly passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA). The purpose of the Act is to align laws and policy with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). As noted:

2 The purposes of this Act are as follows:

- (a) to affirm the application of the Declaration to the laws of British Columbia;
- (b) to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration;

(c) to support the affirmation of, and develop relationships with, Indigenous governing bodies.

Hence, the Islands Trust since 2016 has sought to align policies and process to be inclusive of reconciliation and with current legislation noted in DRIPA.

When writing content about the grant-in-aid program for the new website, staff became aware that it would be beneficial for Trust Council to amend the History, Heritage, and Conservation Grants In-Aid Policy 2.1.14 so that it is more consistent with the Islands Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration, and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA).

3 IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: The inclusion of First Nations history, heritage, objects and sites in the policy is in keeping with the direction Trust Council has outlined in the Reconciliation Declaration and the Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022.

FINANCIAL: No financial implications.

POLICY: The recommendation will amend Policy 2.1.14 History, Heritage and Conservation Grants In-Aid..

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: The revised policy will be circulated to holders of the Islands Trust Policy Manual and placed on the Islands Trust website. It will also be reviewed with all staff who are responsible for administering the grant-in-aid program. Staff will update the History, Heritage, and Conservation Grants In-Aid Administration Procedure for the Operations Manual. Communication of the changes be publicized through the new website and via a subscriber notice to notify members of the public and First Nations that Policy 2.1.14 has been amended to be reflective of DRIPA.

FIRST NATIONS: Staff will prepare a notice to First Nations to inform them of the amendment to Policy 2.1.14 and how this change is reflective of DRIPA.

OTHER: N/A

- 4 **RELEVANT POLICY(S):** [Islands Trust Act](#), [Heritage Conservation Act](#), [Policy 6.1.1 First Nations Engagement Principles](#)

5 **ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Draft amended Policy 2.1.14 History, Heritage and Conservation Grants In-Aid

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommendation: That Trust Council amend Policy 2.1.14 History, Heritage and Conservation Grants In-Aid dated March 13, 2018 with the revised Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated December 15, 2020 to be inclusive of First Nations history, heritage, objects and sites.

Alternative:

1. That Trust Council request that staff draft amendments to Policy 2.1.14 that expand and define the definition of property to be inclusive of Indigenous cultural heritage sites and objects.

2. That Trust Council request staff to review Policy 2.1.14 and bring back a briefing on policy amendments options.

Prepared By: Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services / August 7, 2020
David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services /August 7, 2020

Policy:	2.1.14
Approved By:	Trust Council
Approval Date:	March 13, 2018
Amendment Date(s):	
Policy Holder:	Director of Trust Area Services

HISTORY, HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION GRANTS-IN-AID

Purpose

1. To provide support and give financial assistance to individuals, groups, organizations, First Nations communities or members, or agencies engaging in activities to gain knowledge about the history and heritage of the Islands Trust Area, and to increase public awareness, understanding and appreciation of that history and heritage including cultural heritage and/or contribute to understanding of Indigenous Peoples on the islands.
2. To provide support and give financial assistance to individuals, groups, organizations, First Nations communities or members, or agencies conserving heritage property, cultural heritage areas, or preserve and protect archaeological areas or locations.

1. Background

- 1.1. Section 8(2) of the *Islands Trust Act* establishes the discretionary powers of Trust Council. Under Section 8(2)(f) Trust Council may “engage in activities to gain knowledge about the history and heritage of the Trust Area and to increase public awareness, understanding and appreciation of that history and heritage”. Under Section 8(2)(g) Trust Council may conserve heritage property
- 1.2. Section 8(2)(h) of the *Islands Trust Act* allows Council to support and give financial assistance to activities referred to under Section 8(2)(f) and 8(2)(g) that are undertaken by others in the Islands Trust Area.

2. Policy for Granting Funds to Others

- 2.1. Funding will be considered on request by individuals, groups, organizations, First Nations communities or members, or agencies. Approved grants will be considered at the next available Executive Committee meeting taking place a minimum of three weeks after receipt of the application.
- 2.2. Any individual, group, organization, First Nation community or member, or agency is eligible to receive funding for:
 - 2.2.1. undertaking activities to gain knowledge about the history and heritage of the Trust Area, including undertaking activities that increase the understanding of Indigenous Peoples on the islands; and/or
 - 2.2.2. undertaking activities that increase public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of the Trust Area; and/or

- 2.2.3. conserving heritage property, including conserving cultural heritage areas, or preserve and protect archaeological areas or locations; and/or
- 2.2.4. .
- 2.3. To receive funding, individuals, groups, organizations, First Nations communities or members, or agencies must make their requests for funding to the Islands Trust Executive Committee on the prescribed form (Attachment 1). The request must include the following:
 - 2.3.1. The name of the individual, group, First Nation membership or self-identity, or agency making the request.
 - 2.3.2. The dollar amount of the funding being requested.
 - 2.3.3. Specifics about the nature of the activities as they relates to 2.2 of this policy.
 - 2.3.4. For research activities, an outline of the methodology, and/or cultural knowledge or traditional ecological knowledge.
 - 2.3.5. For publications, an outline of the messaging, medium of the publication and intended audience.
- 2.4. The Executive Committee will review each application at the earliest opportunity. In undertaking this work, the Executive Committee will consider the merits of the activities in the funding request and:
 - 2.4.1. the Object of the Islands Trust;
 - 2.4.2. Trust Council's Strategic Plan, Islands Trust Reconciliation Declaration; and
 - 2.4.3. available funds.

3. Conditions of Funding

The following are conditions of funding approval:

- 3.1. For research projects, Islands Trust staff review and approve the methodology.
- 3.2. For publications, Islands Trust staff review and ensure that the publication meets Islands Trust visual identity guidelines.
- 3.3. The individuals, groups, organizations, First Nations communities or members, or agencies must acknowledge support of Islands Trust in all printed and publication material related to the project, event or program.
- 3.4. In the event a project is not complete, the individuals, groups, organizations, First Nations community or members, or agencies must notify the Islands Trust as soon as practical and refund any grant funds that have been provided for that project.

- 3.5. With the approval of affected local trust committees or island municipality.
- 3.6. All applications must comply with and have no impacts to registered archaeological sites or potential sites.

4. Funding Source

- 4.1. For each fiscal year, Trust Council will establish a History, Heritage and Conservation Grant-in-aid budget.

5. Legislated References

- 5.1. *Islands Trust Act* – Section 8(2)(h).
- 5.2. Islands Trust Council Policy 6.5.3 Procurement Policy (B.5 Financial Assistance to Community Organizations and Other Groups or Individuals).
- 5.3. Islands Trust Council 2014-2018 Strategic Plan – 9.2 Improve communications about the Islands Trust Object and history.
- 5.4. Policy 6.1.1 First Nations Engagement Principles.
- 5.5. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)

6. Attachments

- 6.1. Appendix 1 – Application Form

HISTORY, HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION – GRANT-IN-AID APPLICATION FORM

Name of Person or Organization:	
Address of Person or Organization:	
Full Mailing Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	
Contact Person:	
First Nation membership or self-identity	
Primary purpose of organization:	
Service you provide to the community:	
Number of clients or people that use your service:	
Cultural Knowledge Holder or Traditional Ecological Knowledge:	
Amount of Grant-in-aid Requested:	
Purpose of the grant-in-aid:	Conservation History Heritage
Describe how the grant-in-aid will be used:	
Describe how the grant-in-aid will support the object of the Islands Trust, the Islands Trust Policy Statement or an Islands Trust Strategic Plan or Islands Trust Reconciliation Declaration item.	
Have you received a previous grant-in-aid from the Islands Trust:	Yes no (if yes, please list grants received)
Applicant Signature	
Date of Signature	
Internal Use Only: Date of EC Resolution: Amount Approved:	Collection Notice: Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the Local Government Act and is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The personal information will be used for purposes associated with the 2017 Community Stewardship Awards program. Enquiries about the collection or use of information in this form can be directed to Carmen Thiel, Legislative Services Manager at 250-405-5188.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Trust Council **For the Meeting of:** September 15, 2020
From: Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** July 30, 2020
SUBJECT: Secretariat Services Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

That Trust Council adopt Policy 2.1.15 Secretariat Services.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMMENTS: The Islands Trust Act mandates the Trust with preserving and protecting the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, *in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia*. The Islands Trust secretariat role is intended to be in support of the coordination function mandated in the Act. The Trust does not have the ability to provide grants-in-aid, with the exception of grants for history and heritage, which is guided by the [Trust Council History, Heritage and Conservation Grants In Aid](#) policy (2.1.14). In December 2019, Trust Council adopted the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan with Strategy #21: Provide a secretariat role to forums within the Trust Area. The proposed policy will guide Trust Council and its Trust Programs Committee with decisions related to providing support to coordination groups.

- 1 PURPOSE:** To provide Trust Council with background information regarding existing requests for secretariat support for regional forums in the Island Trust Area.
- 2 BACKGROUND:** There are a number of coordinating bodies operating in the Trust Area, largely supported by volunteer or in-kind staff effort. These bodies bring together different levels of government, First Nations and community members on a regular basis to discuss matters of mutual interest/concern.

Over the years, coordinating bodies and trustees have raised concern regarding the lack of funding for the administrative needs (e.g. meeting logistics, agenda preparation, minutes, facilitation, website hosting/posting, shared document drive) for some of the coordinating bodies and/or concern about the sustainability of relying on volunteer and side-of-the-desk coordinators.

Through Trust Council Bylaw 154 in 2013 Trust Council delegated to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the quality and quantity of water resources within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, the power to: coordinate and assist in the determination of regional, improvement district and government of British Columbia policies, and coordinate the implementation of regional, improvement district and government of British Columbia policies, and coordinate the carrying out of regional, improvement district and government of British Columbia policies. Since that time the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has coordinated watershed protection activities through the establishment of the Salt

Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance with funds raised via a local tax requisition.

In June 2018, Trustee Stamford brought a request for decision to the Islands Trust Council and, in response, Trust Council passed the following resolution:

That Trust Council request staff to provide a report to Trust Council with information about the implications of the Islands Trust taking on a secretariat role for the Howe Sound Community Forum that considers the needs of existing and potential regional coordination processes in the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel and Saanich Inlet regions.

Trust Programs Committee support to forums can be via staff support through contribution of staff time, financial support, or a combination of the two.

In December 2019, Trust Council adopted the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan with Strategy #21: Provide a secretariat role to forums within the Trust Area.

In November 2019, the Trust Programs Committee requested that staff work with the Fraser Basin Council to identify opportunities for coordination in the delivery of secretariat services in the Islands Trust Area. This work has not advanced in a meaningful way but staff will continue to reach out.

For Fiscal Year 2020/21, Trust Council adopted a budget with \$12,000 for secretariat services as proposed in a business case from Trust Programs Committee. Trust Programs Committee supported secretariat services by supporting allocation of some staff time and \$1,500 for the May 29th Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum meeting. On June 23, 2020 Trust Programs Committee decided to allocate a further \$3,500 to support the coordination of a fall Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum and \$3,800 to support the coordination of the Howe Sound (Atl'ka7tsem) Community Forum.

On June 20, 2020 the Trust Programs Committee requested staff to draft a policy to guide provision of a secretariat role to forums within the Trust Area and deferred a decision about financial support for the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership and Southern Gulf Island coordination until after Trust Council adopted a policy related to secretariat services.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: Adopting a Secretariat Services policy will define a process for allocating funding and staff time to administrative support for coordination groups in the Trust Area. It will also make clear that Trust Council, its committees or the Executive Committee, may not provide grants-in-aid in support of other organizations, unless consistent with the History, Heritage and Conservation Grants-In-Aid Policy, but may support coordination and assistance in the determination, implementation and/or carrying out of First Nation, regional, improvement district, and government of British Columbia policies.

The draft policy states that where Trust Programs Committee commits to undertaking secretariat services directly, the Committee will seek staff advice regarding availability of staff resources. Generally, secretariat support would be offered via the Program Coordinator position. As this position supports delivery of Trust Program Committee initiatives, as well as other ongoing functions such as housing agreement administration, grants administration and communications support, the workload varies depends on the work program of the Committee and the demands of the ongoing programs.

FINANCIAL: The proposed policy establishes that Trust Council will establish an annual Secretariat Services budget.

POLICY: Will establish a new Trust Council Secretariat Services policy.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Information about the Islands Trust establishing a program for secretariat support for coordinating bodies will be included in a news release, Islands Trust social media accounts, and on the new Islands Trust website.

FIRST NATIONS: The proposed policy encourages Trust Programs Committee The Trust Programs Committee is encouraged to prioritize support for Coordination Groups that work collaboratively and respectfully with First Nations governments and Indigenous Peoples within the Trust Area.

OTHER: N/A

4 RELEVANT POLICY(S):

- History, Heritage and Conservation Grants-In-Aid (2.1.14)
- Purchasing Procedure (6.5.3)
- First Nations Engagement. (6.1.1)
- Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration, March 14, 2019

5 ATTACHMENT(S):

- Draft Policy re Secretariat Services

RESPONSE OPTION

Recommendation:

That Trust Council adopt Policy 2.1.15 Secretariat Services.

Alternatives:

That Trust Council adopt the Policy 2.1.15 Secretariat Services as amended.

That Trust Council request that the Trust Programs Committee amend the draft Policy 2.1.15 Secretariat Services by XXX and return it to Trust Council in December 2020.

Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director of Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date: Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor / July 31, 2020
David Marlor, Director Local Planning Services / July 31, 2020

Policy:	2.1.15
Approved By:	Trust Council
Approval Date:	September XX, 2020
Amendment Date(s):	
Policy Holder:	Director of Trust Area Services

SECRETARIAT SERVICES

PURPOSE

1. To define a process for allocating funding and staff time with respect to administrative support for Coordination Groups in the Trust Area, in accordance with Trust Council's authority to coordinate and assist in the determination, implementation and carrying out of municipal, regional and improvement district and government of British Columbia policies.
2. To reinforce that Trust Council, its committees and the Executive Committee are not permitted to provide grants-in-aid in support of other organizations, unless consistent with, the Procurement Policy and the History, Heritage and Conservation Grants-In-Aid Policy (2.1.14), but may support coordination and assistance in the determination, implementation and/or carrying out of First Nation, regional, improvement district, and government of British Columbia policies.

BACKGROUND

Section 8(2) of the *Islands Trust Act* establishes the discretionary powers of Trust Council for the purpose of carrying out the Trust Object. In accordance with section 8(2)(b), the Trust Council may "coordinate and assist in the determination, implementation and carrying out of municipal, regional and improvement district and government of British Columbia policies for the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment." Part II of the Islands Trust Policy Statement further provides that:

to achieve its object, the Islands Trust must be an educator, coordinator, and initiator, guiding individuals, organizations and other agencies in support of the object. While the Islands Trust can provide the necessary leadership, responsibility for stewardship of the Trust Area rests with many. Individuals, other government agencies, organizations, and the Province itself all have important roles to play. Cooperative actions are required of other agencies, organizations and individuals to ensure that activities are carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of Trust Area ecosystems and island communities.

DEFINITIONS

In this Policy:

"Coordination Group" means a group comprised of First Nations, organizations and/or stakeholders that convene to share information and collaborate or to determine, implement or carry out First Nation, regional district, improvement district, or government of British Columbia policies in the Trust Area.

“Secretariat Services” means the provision of administrative support including, but not limited to, meeting organization, meeting administration, public notices, recording and distribution of meeting notes or minutes, and website hosting and updating.

“Secretariat Services Budget” has the meaning set out in section 1.1 hereof.

“Trust Object” means the object of the trust as set out in section 3 of the *Islands Trust Act*.

POLICY

1. Funding Source

- 1.1. By September of each year, the Trust Programs Committee will recommend to the Financial Planning Committee an allocation for the Secretariat Services budget for the following fiscal year (the “Secretariat Services Budget”).

2. Policy for Providing Secretariat Services

- 2.1. The Trust Programs Committee will assess opportunities to provide Secretariat Services at its first meeting of the fiscal year. If staff resources or funding remain unallocated after this meeting, the Trust Programs Committee may consider additional opportunities at future meetings.
- 2.2. The Trust Programs Committee may only allocate funding to or undertake Secretariat Services for Coordination Groups that:
 - have Trust Council, Bowen Island Municipality, a local trust committee, or the Islands Trust Conservancy as a member or regular participant;
 - invite and encourage First Nations involvement and leadership in a manner that is consistent with the Islands Trust Council’s First Nations Engagement Principles Policy and Reconciliation Declaration; and
 - undertake work that coordinates and assists in the determination, implementation and carrying out of municipal, regional and improvement district and government of British Columbia policies that carry out the Trust Object.
- 2.3. The Trust Programs Committee is encouraged to prioritize support for Coordination Groups that work collaboratively and respectfully with First Nations governments and Indigenous Peoples within the Trust Area.
- 2.4. When Trust Programs Committee allocates funding from the Secretariat Services budget for Secretariat Services for a Coordination Group, the amount may not exceed the direct award commitment spending level in Trust Council’s Procurement Policy 6.5.3.
- 2.5. Where the Trust Programs Committee commits to undertaking Secretariat Services directly, the Committee will seek staff advice regarding availability of staff.

3. Legislated References

- 3.1 Islands Trust Act, Section 3
- 3.2 Islands Trust Act – Subsections 8(2)(b) & (f)-(h)
- 3.3 Islands Trust Policy Statement, Part II - The Islands Trust Object and its Meaning
- 3.4 Policy Manual: History, Heritage and Conservation Grants-In-Aid (2.1.14)
- 3.5 Policy Manual: Procurement (6.5.3)
- 3.6 Policy Manual: First Nations Engagement Principles (6.1.1)

4. Other References

- 4.1. Islands Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration, March 14, 2019

5. Attachments

N/A

BRIEFING

To: Trust Programs Committee **For the Meeting of:** August 13, 2020

From: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** August 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Trust Council request re reconsideration of Community Stewardship Award Policy amendments

PURPOSE: To inform the Trust Programs Committee about a Trust Council request that the Committee reconsider a proposed amendment to the Community Stewardship Award Policy.

BACKGROUND: In March 2020, Trust Council received a Request for Decision from the Trust Programs Committee with a recommendation to amend the Community Stewardship Award Policy by add a clause under the 'Nomination Eligibility' section of the policy to exclude nominees from eligibility if they are subject to an open bylaw enforcement action and define what an open bylaw enforcement action means. This change was proposed because there was concern that this intention could be undermined if a nominee is subject to an open bylaw enforcement action.

Trust Council reviewed the proposed amendments and tabled a motion about amending the policy so TPC could consider the Trust Council discussion about whether someone with an open bylaw enforcement file should be precluded from being nominated for a Community Stewardship Award. The relevant excerpt from the March Trust Council minutes is as follows:

TC-2020-008

It was Moved Trustee Morrison and Seconded Trustee Peterson,
That the Islands Trust Council amend Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated March 7, 2003 with the revised Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated December 5, 2019.

There was discussion on the proposed amendments to the policy and whether to reconsider the section on eligibility with regards to open bylaw enforcement files.

TC-2020-009

It was Moved by Trustee Brent and Seconded by Trustee Busheikin,
That Motion TC-2020-008 be tabled and referred to Trust Programs Committee for further consideration and brought back to Trust Council.

CARRIED

In response to the Trust Council discussion staff have drafted changes to the policy that clarify that a nominee will be ineligible if they have open bylaw enforcement files with a confirmed land-use bylaw violation for which the Trust is seeking compliance.

Previously, Trust Programs Committee had recommended that policy 2 under the Nomination Eligibility section be amended to read:

- A nominee who is subject to an open bylaw enforcement action is not eligible to be nominated as an individual nominee. An open bylaw enforcement action means that their property is under investigation for non-compliance with an existing bylaw(s) for their local trust area. This may also include non-payment of a fine(s) and/or that they may be subject to a court order requiring compliance.

In response to the Trust Council discussion, staff now propose that TPC advance the policy with the following re-worded policy:

- A nominee who is subject to an open bylaw enforcement action with a confirmed land-use bylaw violation for which the Trust is seeking compliance is not eligible to be nominated as an individual nominee.

Staff have re-worded the RFD from Trust Programs Committee to Trust Council accordingly but can re-draft based on the final decision of the Committee. Staff recommend that Trust Council consider an updated motion rather than untabling the previously introduced motion.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft RFD to Trust Council from Trust Programs Committee with attached draft revised Community Stewardship Award.

FOLLOW-UP: Staff will follow-up as directed. Staff recommend that TPC forward the August 13, 2020 Community Stewardship Award RFD to Trust Council.

Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date:



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Islands Trust Council **For the Meeting of:** December 15, 2020
From: Trust Programs Committee **Date Prepared:** August 13, 2020
SUBJECT: Amendments to Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program

RECOMMENDATION: That the Islands Trust Council amend Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated March 7, 2003 with the revised Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated December 15, 2020.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMMENTS: The proposed policy changes respond to issues that arose during the recent delivery of the program and are consistent with Trust Council's commitment to Reconciliation.

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide Trust Council with recommended amendments to Policy 2.1.11 -- Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program.
2. **BACKGROUND:** In 2002, Trust Council initiated an annual awards program designed to recognize individuals and organizations that are pursuing actions in the islands that have made a significant contribution towards the Object of the Islands Trust. Policy 2.1.11 was established in December 2003. Since the program began, seven updates of the policy and/or nomination form have occurred with the last update occurring on December 7, 2016.

In October and November 2019, the Trust Programs Committee reviewed and recommended the attached amendments to the policy and nomination form. These amendments are based on feedback received during the 2019 Community Stewardship Award Program's process. The following issues were identified, resulting in the proposed amendments to the policy and nomination form (see Attachments A and B):

- I. **Issue** – the current eligibility criteria does not exclude nominees if they are subject to a current bylaw enforcement action. The intention of the program is to recognize leaders that support the mandate of the Islands Trust; however, this intention could be undermined if a nominee is subject to an open bylaw enforcement action.

Proposed Amendment – add a clause under the 'Nomination Eligibility' section of the policy to exclude nominees from eligibility if they are subject to an open bylaw enforcement action with a confirmed bylaw violation and the Trust is seeking compliance.

- II. **Issue** – the current policy makes no reference to excluding self-nominations by individuals, businesses, or groups for a Community Stewardship Award. The intention of the program is for the community to recognize individuals, businesses, or groups. Self-nominations may not

be reflecting the feelings of the community if the nominee has not been nominated by someone from the community.

Proposed Amendment – add a clause under the ‘Nomination Eligibility’ section of the policy to exclude self-nominations from eligibility for a Community Stewardship Award.

- III. **Issue** – On March 14, 2019, Islands Trust unanimously adopted a First Nation’s Reconciliation Declaration; however, prior to 2019, the nomination process did not include consideration of a nominated project or work’s impact on First Nations. The intention of the proposed amendments to the policy and nomination form are to better align the Community Stewardship Award with the ongoing commitment of Islands Trust to establish and maintain mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

Proposed Amendments – In the Policy, include:

- under the ‘Nomination Eligibility’ section, add that the program is open to First Nation communities or organizations”;
- under the ‘Nomination Process’ section, add “reconciliation” as a category for which an individual or organization can be nominated;

In the Nomination Form, include:

- in the opening paragraph, add that the program recognizes “First Nation communities or organizations”;
- in the opening paragraph, change the language to clarify that the award is to recognize those that enhance the community or environment in a manner consistent with the mandate; and
- add three questions, focused on the nominee’s work or project’s support of Reconciliation, incorporating traditional First Nations knowledge, and connection to First Nations communities or Indigenous peoples.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION:

ORGANIZATIONAL: Adopting the proposed amendments to the Community Stewardship Awards Program’s policy and nomination form will address the identified issues and bring the program into greater alignment with the newly adopted Climate Change Emergency and First Nations Reconciliation Declaration’s.

FINANCIAL: No financial implications.

POLICY: The recommendation will amend Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program - Policy 2.1.11.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: The revised policy will be circulated to holders of the Islands Trust Policy Manual and placed on the Islands Trust website. It will also be reviewed with all staff who are responsible for administering the Community Stewardship Award program. Staff will update the Community Stewardship Award Program Administration Procedure for the Operations Manual. Communication of the changes be publicized when the next iteration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program is launched.

FIRST NATIONS: Strengthens intention of Reconciliation Declaration since multiple questions on the Nomination Form would be updated to ensure alignment with the Reconciliation Declaration.

OTHER: None.

4. RELEVANT POLICY(S): None.

5. ATTACHMENT(S):

- A.** Draft amended Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program Policy 2.1.11
- B.** Draft amended Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program – Nomination Form

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommendation: That the Islands Trust Council amend Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated March 7, 2003 with the revised Policy 2.1.11 Administration of the Community Stewardship Awards Program dated December 15, 2020.

Alternative:

1) That different revisions to Policy 2.1.11 Administration of Community Stewardship Awards Program be adopted.

2) That Policy 2.1.11 Administration of Community Stewardship Awards Program not be amended at this time.

Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services,

Reviewed By/Date:



Policy:	2.1.11
Approved By:	Trust Council
Approval Date:	March 7, 2003
Amendment Dates(s):	December 5, 2003; September 16, 2005; December 8, 2006; March 11, 2009; September 16, 2009; September 10, 2014; December 7, 2016; December 5, 2019
Policy Holder:	Director of Trust Area Services

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

Purpose

1. To define policies that will ensure a fair and effective Community Stewardship Awards program in accordance with related policies of the Islands Trust Council.
2. To provide an opportunity for the Islands Trust to proactively and positively engage island communities in promoting stewardship within the Trust Area.

Definitions

Not applicable.

Policy Intention

1. The Islands Trust Council has established an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program to recognize and encourage the actions of individuals and organizations that support the mandate of the Islands Trust.
2. The Islands Trust Council offers the Community Stewardship Awards program every two years, on odd-numbered years.
3. The Trust Programs Committee of Trust Council is responsible for initiating the Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program in the first quarter of an odd-numbered year.

Nomination Eligibility

1. The program is open to any individual, First Nation community or organization, school (or classroom), community group, non-profit or business entity that has demonstrated efforts to enhance a community or its environment in the Trust Area in a manner consistent with the mandate of the Islands Trust. A nominee does not need to live on an Islands Trust island to qualify for nomination.

2. A nominee who is subject to an open bylaw enforcement action with a confirmed land-use bylaw violation for which the Trust is seeking compliance is not eligible to be nominated as an individual nominee.
3. A nominee cannot self-nominate themselves, a business, or a committee/organization to which they belong. This policy is not intended to discourage nominations for broad community-type nominations from individuals who are part of that community, e.g. an Island resident, or a First Nation community or band.
4. Current staff members, contractors, and trustees are not eligible as an individual nominee and only become eligible twenty-four months after receiving final payment from the Islands Trust.
5. Organizations are not eligible as nominees if current staff members, contractors or trustees played a leadership role in the organization during the implementation of the nominated project or work.
6. Organizations that provide goods or services to the Islands Trust are eligible so long as the nominated project did not receive payment from the Islands Trust.
7. Projects that have received support from the Trust Conservancy Board are eligible if the value of the Islands Trust Conservancy cash and in-kind support is less than 50% of the project's budget.
8. Nominations can relate to either a single project, or to work carried out over a period of time.
9. At the time of nomination, the project or work must be ongoing or must have been completed within the previous twenty-four months.
10. Nominations must be received by the deadline established by the Islands Trust. Nominations submitted after the deadline will not be accepted unless the delay is due to a technical or logistical error on the part of the Islands Trust.

Nomination Process

1. Nominations will be invited under the categories of individuals, organizations, or additional. The 'additional' category may include, but is not limited to awards for enduring achievement, reconciliation, climate change (adaptation and/or mitigation), youth, or posthumous recognition.
2. Members of the public and other agencies may nominate individuals or organizations.
3. Each nominator may make one nomination per category every two years.
4. All nominators will be required to fill out the Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Nomination Form.
5. Each individual or organization nominated for an award must indicate acceptance of the nomination by signing the nomination form, or by sending an email accepting the nomination and confirm the information provided in their nomination form is accurate.
6. After the close of nominations, each nominee will receive a letter from the Islands Trust Chair recognizing their nomination.

Nomination Evaluation

1. In May of odd-numbered years, the Trust Programs Committee will evaluate and recommend award recipients to Trust Council for up to two awards in each of the individual and organizational categories, and for up to two additional awards in those or other categories while considering:
 - 1.1 the confidential comments provided by local trustees; and
 - 1.2 the following criteria:
 - relationship of project or work to the Islands Trust Policy Statement;
 - benefits to the community or Trust Area;
 - collaboration with others;
 - innovation;
 - community support;
 - time and effort; and
 - ongoing public service.
2. In June of odd-numbered years, the Islands Trust Council will decide upon the Community Stewardship Award recipients while considering the items above, as well as the Trust Programs Committee's recommendations.
3. Nominations will be evaluated based on the information in the nomination form. Letters of support or other supporting materials will not be part of the evaluation.

Award Presentation

1. Local trust committees and/or island municipalities will present the awards to the recipients. If an Islands Trust Council meeting is scheduled on an island in September, the local trust committee may choose instead to present the award(s) at that meeting.
2. The Awards will consist of framed certificates and/or small mementoes that represent the unique nature of the Islands Trust Area and, where practical, are constituted from products distinct to the Islands Trust Area.

Program Costs and Fees

1. The cost for each award will not exceed \$100.
2. Local trust committees may use up to \$100 from their local trust committee budgets to cover the costs of a public presentation ceremony.

Legislated References

1. Islands Trust Policy Statement, Part II - The Islands Trust Object and its meaning

to achieve its object, the Islands Trust must be an educator, coordinator, and initiator, guiding individuals, organizations and other agencies in support of the object. While the Islands Trust can provide the necessary leadership, responsibility for stewardship of the Trust Area rests with many. Individuals, other government agencies, organizations, and the Province itself all have important roles to play. Cooperative actions are required of other agencies, organizations and individuals to ensure that activities are carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of Trust Area ecosystems and island communities.

2. Islands Trust Council Policy 6.5.3 Purchasing Procedure.
3. Islands Trust Policy 6.1.1 First Nations Engagement.

Links to Supporting Forms, Documents, Websites, Related Policies and Procedures

Attachment: Nomination Form



Islands Trust

Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards

Nomination Form

Deadline for submission: **[INCLUDE DATE AND TIME]**.

Trust Council uses the Community Stewardship Awards Program to recognize any individual, First Nation community or organization, school (or classroom), community group, non-profit or business entity that has demonstrated efforts to enhance a community or its environment in the Trust Area in a manner consistent with the mandate of the Islands Trust. A nominee does not need to live on an Islands Trust island to qualify for nomination.

Instructions: Please ensure that you have read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document before nominating a potential candidate, and ensure that your nominee has agreed to be nominated.

Nominator Information

Name of Nominator or Nominating Organization:	
Contact person for Nominating Organization (if applicable):	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	

Nominee Information

Name of project or accomplishment:	
Name of Nominee or Nominated Organization:	
Contact person for Nominated Organization (if applicable):	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	

Acceptance of Nomination

The nominee or representative of a nominated organization should sign below to accept the nomination and to confirm the information provided is accurate. Alternatively, if this form is submitted via email, the nominee may send an email to: csa@islandstrust.bc.ca to accept the nomination and to confirm the information provided is accurate.

Signature:	Date:
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Project Description

Please provide the following information about the nominated individual, project and/or body of work.

1. What was/is the overall purpose of the project or body of work?

Please describe the activities and events of the project or body of work, including the timeline. Provide details about who was involved in the project—planning, promoting and funding it. (250 words max)

2. Describe how the individual, project and/or body of work relates to the preserve and protect object of the Islands Trust:

How did the project or body of work encourage activities consistent with the mandate of the Islands Trust as outlined in the [Islands Trust Policy Statement?](#) (e.g. did the work protect, enhance or restore the natural environment? Did the work support the protection and conservation of cultural, sacred, or archaeological areas?) (150 words max)

3. Describe the benefits of the project to community or the regional Islands Trust Area.

Describe how the project was or will be meaningful and lasting to the local community, or to the entire Islands Trust Area. Who benefits? How much? How long will the benefits last? (150 words max)

4. Describe how the nominee collaborated with others.

How did the nominee collaborate with others and broaden support for the project? How many people were involved in the project or body of work? Did the nominee share knowledge and create learning for the community and others? (150 words max)

5. Describe how the project or body of work was particularly innovative.

How did the project or body of work create new ways of doing things or develop new solutions? Was there innovation in the degree or type of community participation? (150 words max)

6. Describe the degree to which the community supported and became involved in the project or body of work.

How broadly did members of the community support the project or body of work, and become involved in it to achieve success? Did the nominee build community connections and reach out to those who might not be natural supporters of the project or body of work? (150 words max)

7. If the project or body of work addresses climate change, describe how the project or body of work prepares your community to adapt or mitigate to climate change. (150 words max)

8. How or did the project or body of work support Reconciliation or raise awareness of Reconciliation within the community. (150 words max)

9. How or did the project or body of work incorporate understanding about, or enhance education of, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge regarding stewardship. (150 words max)

10. Is or did the project or body of work connect or reach out to First Nations communities or Indigenous Peoples within the Islands Trust Area. (150 words max)

We recommend that you keep a record of your nomination.

Submit by email to csa@islandstrust.bc.ca. You may also submit by fax to (250) 405-5155, or by mail to:

Community Stewardship Awards
Islands Trust
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Collection Notice: Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the Local Government Act and is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The personal information will be used for purposes associated with the 2019 Community Stewardship Awards program.

Enquiries about the collection or use of information in this form can be directed to Carmen Thiel, Legislative Services Manager at 250-405-5188.

BRIEFING

To:	Trust Programs Committee	For the Meeting of:	August 13, 2020
From:	Trust Area Services	Date Prepared:	August 4, 2020
SUBJECT:	Policy Statement Amendment Project Update		

PURPOSE:

To update Trust Programs Committee on: the Islands 2050 Policy Statement Amendment Project; the three working groups on Reconciliation, climate change and affordable housing; and, next steps.

BACKGROUND:

Trust Council's Policy Statement Amendment Policy (1.2.i) states that, each term, Trust Council will identify Policy Statement review and/or amendment tasks.

The Islands Trust Council has assigned the Executive Committee, with involvement from Trust Programs Committee as appropriate, to co-ordinate an update of the Policy Statement. Council has directed that this update include:

- Update to the Introduction, Part 1, Part 2 and Schedule 1 - Definitions sections;
- Addition of climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation policies to Parts 3, 4 and 5;
- Addition of a definition of 'affordability';
- Addition of vision, goal and objectives for affordable housing;
- Greater profile for affordable housing in its role in sustainable communities; and
- Addition of a reference to affordable housing in policy direction to LTCs and municipalities.

In accordance with Trust Council's Policy Statement Amendment Policy, in March 2019, the Executive Committee adopted an engagement plan and project charter to guide the amendment process. To reflect the change in scope to the project and to support increased time for engagement with First Nations, the Executive Committee endorsed a revised project charter on February 26, 2019 (see Attachment 4).

First Nations Engagement: Staff has been meeting with First Nations representatives and governments over the past year and adjusted engagement processes and timelines to accommodate new constraints imposed by COVID-19. Through inter-agency discussions with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, staff has presented capacity funding opportunities and protocol agreements to First Nations to support the Policy Statement review. Staff continues to work to ensure that processes are reflective of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), and are done in good faith, cooperation, and understanding. Preliminary edits that are reflective of the above-noted process have been consolidated into the Policy Statement by Islands Trust staff (See Attachment 3). It should be noted that these edits are not a complete reflection of First Nations Engagement but rather a preliminary first redraft.

Islands 2050 Public Engagement: In Fall 2019, staff conducted an Islands 2050 public engagement process to solicit feedback on priority values and concerns for the Trust Area over the next 30 years. Staff consolidated the online and in-person feedback into a final report on: [“What We Heard - Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area”](#). In July 2020, the “What We Heard” report was posted to the Islands Trust website and shared with email subscribers, advisory group members and First Nations.

Staff will now begin working on Part Two of the public engagement reporting through development of a report outlining “What We Learned” which will incorporate findings and recommendations of the working groups, policy recommendations from First Nations, and staff policy analysis.

Project Budget:

The project has a \$45,000 budget for the 2020/21 fiscal year. So far in this fiscal year, the project has incurred \$4,000 in capacity funding to First Nations and \$1,000 in graphic design costs.

TPC Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP) Working Groups: At its June 23, 2020 meeting, TPC passed a resolution to create two working groups that were to begin a detailed internal review of the Policy Statement through the lenses of climate change and affordable housing, and one working group focusing on Reconciliation and the implementation of UNDRIP as it relates to the Policy Statement.

The three working groups are comprised of the following trustees and staff:

	Reconciliation	Climate Change	Affordable Housing
Trustees	Scott Colbourne Doug Fenton Ben McConchie Tim Peterson	Deb Morrison Kees Langereis Doug Fenton	Scott Colbourne David Critchley Dan Rogers
Staff	Lisa Wilcox /TAS Gillian Nicol /TAS	Dilani Hippola /TAS Ian Cox /LPS (with occasional support from Narissa Chadwick/LPS & David Marlor/LPS)	Dilani Hippola /TAS Robert Kojima /LPS

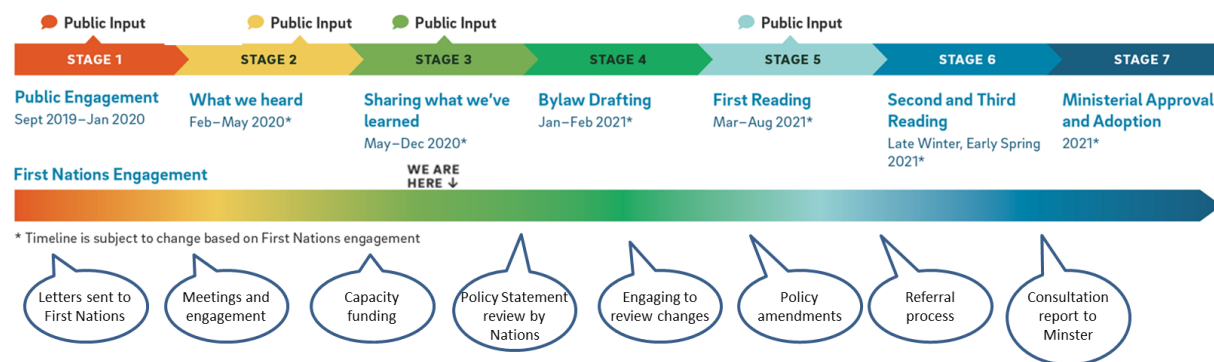
The working groups have each met several times since the June 23 TPC meeting. Discussions to date have served to build and refine understandings around engagement and concerns of First Nations, the Trust Object, the term “unique amenities”, the purpose and structure of the Policy Statement and the nexus between the *Islands Trust Act* and the *Local Government Act*. Attachments 1 and 2 are updates from the Climate Change and Affordable Housing working groups, providing a synthesis of discussions to date and some preliminary suggestions for amendments. Attachment 3 is a consolidation of comments and preliminary staff edits resulting from First Nations engagement. These attachments are meant to update TPC on some of the amendment suggestions and discussions to date, as a basis for discussion and debate at the Aug 13 TPC meeting. Further engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area and further review by the working groups will continue to inform the policy review process over the coming months.

Next Steps:

The timeline below shows that we are now in the early phases of Stage 3 of the project. Staff will undertake the following work over the coming months:

- Ongoing engagement with First Nations
- Ongoing internal policy analysis, through TPC working groups and staff research/analysis
- Developing the “What We Learned” report (Part 2 of public engagement reporting)

The “What We Learned” report is expected to be completed in late Fall 2020. Sharing “What We Learned” with the public would complete Stage 3 of the project timeline. Looking ahead to the goal of First Reading in March 2021, staff advises TPC to set a goal of reaching committee consensus on some preliminary amendment recommendations by its Nov 5 TPC meeting, so that these recommendations can be put forth to Trust Council for consideration at its December meeting. This would facilitate the bylaw drafting and legal review process planned for Stage 4 (January 2021).



ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Update from TPC Climate Change Working Group
2. Update from TPC Affordable Housing Working Group
3. Reconciliation Update: Preliminary Edits to Policy Statement
4. Islands Trust Policy Statement Amendment Project Charter, Version 2

FOLLOW-UP:

Staff will continue to implement the Project Charter, facilitate the TPC working groups and develop the “What We Learned” report throughout Fall/Winter 2020. Staff will prepare a project update briefing for Trust Council in September for approval by the Executive Committee.

Prepared By: Dilani Hippola, A/Senior Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services
Gillian Nicol, Program Coordinator
Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor/Aug 7, 2020

Reviewed By: David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services/Aug 7, 2020
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services/Aug 7, 2020

Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP)

Climate Change Working Group Update

Trust Programs Committee (Aug 13, 2020)

PURPOSE:

To update Trust Programs Committee (TPC) on preliminary key principles and recommendations emerging from the Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP) Working Group on Climate Change.

BACKGROUND:

At the June 23 TPC meeting, a voluntary working group was created to examine the Islands Trust Policy Statement through the lens of climate change. Discussions to date have been informed by previously established objectives set out in the Strategic Plan directing Trust Council to:

“amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement to add climate change mitigation, adaptation and resiliency policies; (and to...) amend Official Community Plans and land use bylaws to foster climate change resilience, including measures to protect Coastal Douglas-fir, foreshore and nearshore environments and groundwater.”

Paradigm Shifts & Principles for Climate Action:

Members of the Climate Change Working Group agreed that some fundamental paradigm shifts and restructuring of the Policy Statement would be needed in order to properly address both climate change and Reconciliation. In particular, it was felt that the existing language reflects an overly human-centric approach to land use planning which has evolved since the original drafting of the Policy Statement (both inside the Trust and globally).

Trustees felt that an ecosystem-based management approach¹ would be more effective at harnessing nature-based solutions and fostering greater climate resilience in the Trust Area in order to better fulfill the Trust Object and address the climate emergency. It was also recommended that the “Precautionary Principle”² be named as a key guiding principle for Trust Council, particularly with respect to climate change. Acknowledging the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable segments of island populations, notions of “climate equity” should also be considered in Policy Statement amendments. Furthermore, efforts should be made to underscore the unique nature of islands, the interface between lands and waters and the interconnections between terrestrial and marine species and ecosystems.

Examining the phrase “preserve and protect”, it was suggested that the Trust has a clear mandate to first preserve (via conservation) and then protect (via planning). In this way, the Trust Object is itself a climate action tool, safeguarding carbon sinks and biodiverse ecosystems, and limiting the rate and scale of emission-intensive growth and development. In the face of the projected impacts of climate change on the Trust Area, there is now a need for more targeted policy directives that can curb or adapt to the growing risks of biodiversity loss, shoreline erosion, wildfire risk, droughts, storm-surge flooding, salinity, acidification, temperature change, etc. Members of the working group generally agreed that, in the rich and unique bioclimatic zone of the Trust Area, conservation and protection of existing natural areas may be the clearest pathway to climate resilience for humans, species and ecosystems alike.

¹ Ecosystem-based Management is an environmental management approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species, or ecosystem services in isolation.

² In an environmental context, the Precautionary Principle can be defined as such: when an identified threat of serious or irreversible damage to the environment or human health exists, a lack of full scientific knowledge about the situation should not be used to delay remedial steps if the balance of potential costs and benefits justifies action.

Clarifying the Trust Object:

Trustees in the Climate Change Working Group tend to agree that ecosystem preservation and protection is the core directive of the Trust Object³ and that the *Islands Trust Act* trumps the *Local Government Act* where there may be conflicts of interest at the Local Trust Committee (LTC)/Island Municipality (IM) level. The Intro/History section of the Policy Statement on “Establishment of the Islands Trust” clarifies that “*The Act established the Islands Trust as a unique land-use planning agency, acting for residents of both the Trust Area and the province generally, and having a special conservation-oriented responsibility*”. Thus, the Trust Object is an overlay lens that supersedes other local government considerations in the Trust Area. This is what makes the Islands Trust Area governance system unique in comparison to other regional districts.

“Unique Amenities”:

The core difference in interpretation of the Trust Object revolves around ambiguity of the term “unique amenities”, as employed in the wording of the Trust Object. Ambiguities persist around both words: “unique” and “amenities”. A historical examination of amendments suggests that the vagueness of “unique amenities” might have been intentional as it was felt that local decision makers were the best placed to define/interpret this term for their own unique areas. Nonetheless, the ongoing debate seems to be compromising Trust Council’s regional governance mandate.

Members of the climate change working group tend to interpret “unique amenities” in the context of healthy coastal ecological communities, where human needs are just one element of community well-being (in addition to species and ecosystems). Working towards a definition, the group discussed what makes the Islands Trust Area unique and in need of special protection, which included some of the following defining elements:

- healthy coastal ecosystems;
- intricate web of biodiversity;
- rich ecological communities (e.g. Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem community);
- model of living lightly in a balanced, sustainable way;
- protection from overdevelopment, overpopulation, urbanization;
- First Nations cultural heritage;
- what was there vs. what settlers have created.

A Case for More Prescriptive Language on Certain Trust-Wide Issues:

Working group members felt that more prescriptive Policy Statement language would provide the policy backing needed for trustees to properly enact the Trust Object in their communities. Leaving too much room for interpretation also leaves room for politically-influenced “policy drift” away from the central Trust Object, which in turn compromises effective regional governance as set out in the Trust Object (“for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally...”). Policy drift frequently occurs in decentralized governance systems and threatens the effectiveness of vision-focused, special-purpose governments such as Islands Trust.

Structural / Implementation Issues:

It was felt that many of the policies in Part V (Sustainable Communities) and the new topic of Affordable Housing relate more to the *Local Government Act* mandate and therefore should not be included in the Policy Statement. This does not preclude Trust Council or LTCs/IMs from creating and implementing Affordable Housing projects through the Strategic Plan or other means. The question was raised: does affordable housing have to be in the Policy Statement to be supported? Trustees generally agreed that the work around affordable housing could still be undertaken within the land use planning sphere, but

³ “The object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia general, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.” (*Islands Trust Act*, s. 15)

that it would not be appropriate to include it within the Policy Statement. Human / community needs could still be contextualized in the intro sections and framed in a wider ecosystem-based management paradigm. Nonetheless, the Policy Statement's directive policies should pertain directly to the fulfilment of the Trust Object.

Trustees proposed that the early sections of the Policy Statement be reordered to place Part 2 (Islands Trust Object & Guiding Principles) before Part 1 (Implementation) - to highlight the what/why before the how. It was also discovered that the Intro/History section prior to the current Part 1 is not officially part of the bylaw, which means that section can be amended at any time without a legislative amendment process. This could be more clearly explained at the beginning of the official bylaw in its next iteration.

Beyond specific amendments to the Policy Statement, issues relating to the implementation of the Policy Statement were discussed. The constraints imposed by only being able to identify 2-3 LTC project priorities per year were highlighted. One possible way to address this would be through the creation of a model bylaw (a suite of land use bylaws related to climate change) which could be adopted in a more timely way into Official Community Plans of LTCs/IMs. These and other implementation related issues do not necessarily need to be addressed within the legislative amendment process and, for the sake of expediency, would best be addressed after the new Policy Statement bylaw has been instituted.

Preliminary recommendations under consideration by Trustees in this working group:

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

- All trustees agreed that the Intro/History opening sections need to be revamped with a Reconciliation lens, reflecting First Nations cultural uses of land, traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous Peoples' relationship with the environment.
- This section could acknowledge the historical elements of settler paradigms at the time the Trust was formed, and how the worldviews of the time were based on extractive objectification and commodification of the environment.
- Trustees agreed there should be much more specificity in the "Increasing Pressure and Amendments to the *Islands Trust Act*" section. This would help new trustees, staff and communities to better understand why the Trust was formed, the role of Trust Council, and the Trust Object itself.
- There should be more historical description of how the regional district *Local Government Act* lens/authority was transferred to LTCs/IMs and how the processes were amalgamated to ensure that the lens of the Trust Object was prioritized (1974...1977 – administrative changes)
- Just before the "Present Context" section, the ecological dimensions of historical shifts should be highlighted – i.e. the transition to use of fossil fuels and resulting cumulative effects on coastal environments (salinity, acidification, sea level rise, shoreline erosion, temperature changes, etc.). It should profile the transition from a healthy Salish Sea to a struggling Salish Sea.
- The human-centric language of the intro sections could be adjusted to provide a basis for ecosystem-based management descriptions of the Trust Area. Settler notions around "amenities" and "ecosystem services" could be highlighted.
- The introductory sections could attempt to situate terms like "amenities" in settler concepts of that time; the worldviews that have collided since then have given us new lenses on how to interpret and manage these lands and waters.

PART II: THE ISLANDS TRUST'S OBJECT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE ISLANDS TRUST OBJECT AND ITS MEANING

(Existing Language):

The Islands Trust Act provides the following definition of the purpose of the Islands Trust, which is referred to in the legislation as its “object”:

“The object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.”

(...)

“... to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment...”

The area of jurisdiction of the Islands Trust is established by Schedule A of the Islands Trust Act. The Trust Area is valued and is unique, not because of any one quality or feature, but rather because of its particular combination of characteristics and location.

(Suggested Addition):

The Islands Trust Area environment consists of all air, land and sea based living and non-living components that serve as a basis for the unique interactions defining this place. Humans have always been and continue to be a part of this environment, since time immemorial.

(Suggestion to seek legal opinion on a definition of “unique amenities”):

In considering what constitutes the “unique amenities” of the Trust Area, we include the following:

- Healthy coastal ecosystems fostered through preservation and protection of intricate webs of biodiversity and rich ecological communities;
 - First Nations cultural heritage and engagement in continued Indigenous rights, knowledge, and practices with respect to the environment; and
 - Human activities that foster and do not inhibit ecosystem function now and into the future.
- In particular, this means protection from overdevelopment and overpopulation.

The following are not part of the unique amenities of the Trust Area:

??? (do we want to name anything specific here?)

While the unique rural character of islands in the Trust Area is not a specified unique amenity, it is an outcome of the preservation and protection of the above listed unique amenities.

NEXT STEPS:

Looking beyond this particular working group, it has become clear that the three working groups must first reconcile differences of view regarding the purpose of the Policy Statement, interpretations of the Trust Object and “unique amenities”, and the appropriateness of Part V (Sustainable Communities) before proceeding too far with amendment recommendations. Following the August 13 TPC meeting, the Climate Change Working Group has one more meeting scheduled for late August and can then decide whether it wishes to continue meeting into the Fall.

Prepared By: Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services / Aug 7, 2020

Reviewed By: Kees Langereis, Local Trustee, Gabriola Island
Doug Fenton, Local Trustee, Thetis Island
Deb Morrison, Chair, TPC & Local Trustee, North Pender Island
Ian Cox, Planner, Local Planning Services

Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP)

Affordable Housing Working Group Update

Trust Programs Committee (Aug 13, 2020)

PURPOSE:

To update Trust Programs Committee (TPC) on preliminary key principles and recommendations emerging from the Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP) Working Group on Affordable Housing.

BACKGROUND:

At the June 23 TPC meeting, a voluntary working group was created to examine the Islands Trust Policy Statement through the lens of affordable housing in the Trust Area. Discussions to date have been led by previously established objectives set out in the Strategic Plan and Affordable Housing Strategic Actions document, directing Trust Council to:

“Review the Islands Trust Policy statement to ensure that it:

- a) includes a clear and well-thought out definition of ‘affordability’*
- b) includes a clearly articulated vision, goal and objectives for affordable housing*
- c) gives affordable housing a greater profile for its role in sustainable communities*
- d) includes a reference to affordable housing in its policy direction to LTCs and municipalities”.*

Housing Needs: Trustees generally agreed that the core issues at hand were broader than mere “affordability” and explored alternative terms such as “diversity of housing stock” and “accessible housing” that is “safe, secure, appropriate and affordable for low to medium income households”. Several Local Trust Committees’ (LTCs) and Island Municipalities’ (IMs) often face a tension between the ecosystem protection elements of the Policy Statement and community needs for affordable housing (e.g. Directive Policy 4.4.2 – freshwater supply). This is exacerbated by the inability of vulnerable/low-income groups to find alternative (costly) pathways to address regulatory constraints. Looming crises such as pandemics and climate change are not experienced equally and can exacerbate inequities and gentrification on the islands. Trustees also considered community needs for “aging in place” – i.e. facilitating safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing for seniors as part of the housing mix. It was highlighted that different local trust areas and island municipalities will have different needs regarding accessible housing; thus, flexibility in policy options would be paramount. It was questioned whether a model affordable housing bylaw could be drafted to list appropriate policy directives which LTCs/IMs could then choose to include in their Official Community Plans (OCPs). The OCPs of LTCs/IMs in the Trust Area currently have differing and outdated definitions of “affordable housing” or no mention at all. The *Local Government Act* has a requirement that OCPs include language around affordable housing, but is non-specific and leaves room for interpretation. The Islands Trust Policy Statement is the only guiding policy that governs LTCs/IMs. Leaving it to each LTC/IM to proactively incorporate affordable housing considerations into their OCPs compromises a strategic and regional approach. Including it in the Policy Statement may help LTCs/IMs to strike a more holistic balance between ecosystem protection and community needs. The role of Islands Trust would be to facilitate (not provide, nor restrict) accessible housing, largely through rezoning.

On the Trust Object and “Unique Amenities”: Trustees generally agreed that the topic of housing should be addressed in Part V (Sustainable Communities) of the Policy Statement, as an integral component of the stated goal “to sustain island character and healthy communities”. Amongst the wider Trust Council, a debate persists over interpretations of the Trust Object and the term “unique amenities”. Members of this working group tend to favour a holistic Policy Statement that balances community needs with environmental protection. It was felt that the differentiation of “unique amenities” and “environment” in the Trust Object itself clearly recognizes them as distinct, with “unique

amenities” referring more to the unique social character of the islands. It was also highlighted that the approved inclusion of Part V in the last amendment of the Policy Statement suggests that the Province is in agreement with this broader interpretation. Furthermore, it was suggested that the use of the words “the Trust Area” and “for the benefit of...” in the Trust Object sets up a scenario where community values and community issues are clearly integral to the purpose clause. Trustees recommended seeking an official definition of the term “unique amenities” from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and/or a professional legal opinion to put the matter to rest once and for all. Other working groups are also attempting to clarify their own understandings around the term “unique amenities”. This debate will be brought to the wider TPC for discussion and resolution.

Preliminary recommendations under consideration by Trustees in this working group:

Suggestions for Part V – Vision/Goals opening section:

(Trustee Rogers): Communities within the Trust Area are predominantly rural in character and contrast markedly with surrounding urban areas. Development pressures continue to impact all islands and finding a balance between liveability, accessibility and preserving ecosystems is increasingly important. Each island community has developed somewhat independently of other communities. Residents of all island communities value the safe and supportive nature of their island and their quality of life. Most feel strongly that people of differing age groups and income levels should continue to have the opportunity to reside in island communities.

The health of a community is influenced by numerous factors such as economic security, education, social support systems, the cleanliness and safety of the environment, and the availability of such necessities as educational and social services, transportation, and affordable food. Accessible housing is a key indicator of a healthy and sustainable community and housing. Public involvement in decisions that affect a community is also critical to the health of that community. Participation in the decision-making process influences whether an individual or group is able to realize aspirations, satisfy needs or cope with change.

(Trustee Colbourne): Housing is a right. A home is a basic need. All the islands of the Salish Sea, including those now grouped together under the auspices of the Islands Trust as Local Trust Areas, have provided homes to Indigenous people, cultures and communities since time immemorial. All LTCs/IMs shall, in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws, include housing policies respecting Indigenous and Elders housing. All LTCs/IMs shall, in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws prohibit any disturbance of cultural heritage sites.

Suggestions for new Directive Policies:

(Trustee Colbourne): All LTCs/IMs shall, in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws, include housing policies respecting Indigenous and Elders housing. All LTCs/IMs shall, in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws prohibit any disturbance of cultural heritage sites.

As the Local Government Act requires LTCs/IMs to prepare housing needs reports, therefore...

...Where and when the housing needs report for a Local Trust Area concludes that there is a deficit of safe, secure, appropriate housing options that are affordable for all demographics and household types in perpetuity, Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities for that Area shall not amend their Official Community Plan or regulatory bylaws so as to increase the stock of for-profit, market housing. (Note: may need some further consideration, as for-profit, market housing could provide housing that is also safe, secure, appropriate and affordable and addresses a deficit identified in a housing needs report.)

...Where and when the housing needs report for a Local Trust Area concludes that there is a deficit of safe, secure, appropriate housing options that are affordable for all demographics and household types in perpetuity, Local Trust Committees/Island Municipalities for that Area shall amend Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws to increase those housing options.

Suggestions for Schedule 1 - Definitions section:

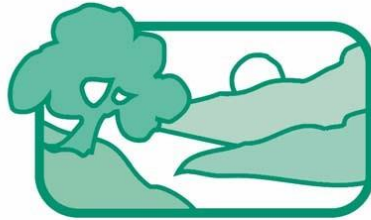
- **Affordable Housing:** Safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing for low to moderate income households. (Further definitions may be needed for the terms “safe”, “secure”, “appropriate”, and “affordable”.)
- The BC Housing Glossary offers the following definition:
Appropriate: “Housing is considered to be appropriate or suitable when it has enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements. This includes being designed to accommodate any special needs the residents may have based on physical or mental abilities.” (<https://www.rdn.bc.ca/housing-definitions>)
- (Trustee Rogers): **Accessible Housing:** Housing that fits a variety of needs in a community including affordable ownership models and a variety of rental housing that is within the means of all groups in the community and is secure.

NEXT STEPS:

Looking beyond this particular working group, it has become clear that the three working groups must first reconcile differences of view regarding the purpose of the Policy Statement, interpretations of the Trust Object and “unique amenities”, and appropriateness of Part V (Sustainable Communities) before specific Policy Statement amendment recommendations can be further refined for the topic of affordable housing. Following the August 13 TPC meeting, the Affordable Housing Working Group has one more meeting scheduled for late August and can then decide whether it wishes to continue meeting into the Fall.

Prepared By: Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services / July 30, 2020

Reviewed By: Scott Colbourne, Vice Chair, TPC & Local Trustee, Gabriola Island
Dan Rogers, Vice-Chair, EC & Local Trustee, Gambier Island
David Critchley, Local Trustee, Denman Island
Robert Kojima, Regional Planning Manager, Local Planning Services



Islands Trust

ISLANDS TRUST

POLICY STATEMENT

CONSOLIDATED - APRIL, 2003

TPC PSAP Update - Attachment 3

Trust Programs Committee (TPC)
August 13, 2020

Policy Statement Amendment Project

Reconciliation Update:

Preliminary Policy Statement Revisions/Comments
from Cowichan Tribes & Islands Trust Staff

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL

BYLAW NO. 17

AS AMENDED BY ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL
BYLAW NOS. 42, 48, 53 AND 87

THIS BYLAW IS CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT
TO BE CONSTRUED AS A LEGAL DOCUMENT

This copy is consolidated for convenience only and is amended by the following:

<u>Bylaw No.</u>	<u>Amendment No.</u>	<u>Adoption Date</u>
Bylaw No. 42	Amendment No. 1/96	November 4, 1996
Bylaw No. 48	Amendment No. 1/97	March 6, 1998
Bylaw No. 53	Amendment No. 1/98	December 4, 1998
Bylaw No. 87	Amendment No. 1/02	December 6, 2002

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL

BYLAW NO. 17

A BYLAW TO ADOPT A POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE TRUST AREA

The Islands Trust Council, having jurisdiction in respect of the Trust Area in the Province of British Columbia pursuant to the *Islands Trust Act* S.B.C. 1989 c.68, enacts as follows:

TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "The Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw, 1993".

APPLICATION

2. This Bylaw applies to the Trust Area, as defined in Schedule A of the *Islands Trust Act* S.B.C. 1989 c.68.

ORGANIZATION

3. Parts I, II, III, IV, and V and Schedule 1 of the "Islands Trust Policy Statement" attached to and forming part of the bylaw are hereby adopted as the trust policy statement pursuant to S.13(1) of the *Islands Trust Act*.

READINGS

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER , 1993

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER , 1993

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER , 1993

APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO SECTION 13(2)(c)
OF THE *ISLANDS TRUST ACT* THIS 9TH DAY OF JUNE , 1994

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED THIS 11TH DAY OF JUNE , 1994

Gordon McIntosh
Secretary

Graeme Dinsdale
Chairperson

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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

History of the Trust Area

We acknowledge with respect the Coast Salish speaking peoples on whose traditional and treaty territories the Islands Trust is situated. We; we acknowledge the historical relationship to the land, culture, and spirit of this place that continues to this day.

REVIEWER'S NOTES:

Comments in margins/balloons from [CC] and inline revisions marked in yellow and grey are from Cowichan Tribes.

Inline revisions marked in blue and red are from Islands Trust staff (Wilcox/Marlor/Frater).

full

The Islands Trust Area is located within the traditional and treaty and territories of the BOKEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, Halalt, Homalco, K'ómoks, Klahoose, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Lək wəŋən (SXIMELEL, Songhees, T'Sou-ke), Lyackson, MALEXEL, Penelakut, Qualicum, Scia'new, səliwətaʔ/səliwətuʔ, SEMYOME, Shishálhshishálh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Skwxwú7mesh, STAUTW, Stz'uminus, Tla'amin, Tsawwassen, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, WJOŁŁŁP, WSIKEM, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Nations. These First Nations have resided in this place since time immemorial, and for innumerable generations protect the cultural heritage, ecosystemeco-system, lands and waters of the Salish Sea.

Commented [CC2]: See comment CC2

Commented [CC3]: I added "Tribes" to avoid any confusion between the historic Cowichan Nation (which includes Cowichan Tribes, Halalt, Lyackson, Penelakut and Stz'uminus) and Cowichan Tribes the Indian Band.

The "Trust Area" encompasses, ~~generally,~~ the islands and waters between the Mainland ~~and of~~ British Columbia and Southern Vancouver Island, ~~with the exception of lands and waters within adjacent municipal boundaries and boundaries of Indian Reserves.~~ The Trust Area is a unique and special place -- ~~a scenic~~ an scenic archipelago of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands. ~~The Area is drier and warmer than most surrounding areas, and is rich in resources and cultural history.~~ The Trust Area ~~is drier and warmer than most surrounding areas and provides is the habitat~~ habitats for an exceptional variety of species: more than 200 types of migratory and resident birds, numerous species of fish and diverse marine and intertidal life, terrestrial wildlife and vegetation. ~~The Outstanding scenery and recreational resources include~~ The beauty of the Trust Area is the panoramic viewpoints, sheltered bays with warm sand or pebble beaches and protected marine waterways and ~~anchorages~~ the flora and fauna ~~that include~~include from towering cedar trees, ~~arbutus, and Douglas-Douglas~~ fir, to orca, herring, and eagles, ~~that contribute to the Trust Areas beauty and appeal.~~

This unique combination of resources and amenities has attracted people to the Trust Area since the end of the Ice Age. Aboriginal peoples used the Area extensively for summer encampments and for fishing, hunting and berry picking. Sunny valleys and suitable soils later supported homesteading and agriculture-related settlement. Eventually, the traditional activities of fishing and shellfish harvesting were supplemented by more extensive farming, logging, recreation-related activities and, most recently, increased residential settlement.

Surrounding areas have also attracted growing populations. By 1960s, 50 per cent of the total population of British Columbia resided in areas adjacent to the Trust Area. Pressure for residential development of islands in the Trust Area escalated. In 1969, when it became apparent that the Trust Area's highly valued environment could be irreversibly damaged by unrestrained residential development, the provincial government imposed a temporary freeze on subdivision of land until the island communities could adopt plans and regulations to control growth.

Establishment of the Islands Trust

The cultural significance and sensitivity of the Trust Area, and the need for protective measures was internationally recognized more than 20 years ago. In 1974, the provincial government recognized that the Islands Trust Area needed preservation and protection an International Joint Commission proposed that the islands and waters adjacent to the British Columbia-Washington State border be protected as an international park in order to maintain water quality and sustainability, ~~and~~ to preserve and protect marine and land-based wildlife habitats, and

archaeological and historical-cultural sites.

At the same time, concerns were being raised at the provincial level. In 1972 an all-party special committee of the legislature was established to investigate the unique problems facing the Trust Area. The committee concluded that pressures arising from the Area's proximity to major urban centres were damaging the very features that made the Trust Area so attractive to residents and visitors.

In response to these findings, the provincial government enacted the *Islands Trust Act* in 1974. In 1974 the *The Islands Trust Act* established the Islands Trust as a unique land-use planning government agency, government body making land and water use decisions for the Islands Trust Area on behalf of people living on the islands, in the surrounding regions, and for all British Columbians. This government body was provided having a special purpose to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and, environment, and heritage (cultural and archaeological places), acting for residents of both the Trust Area and the province generally, and having a special conservation-oriented responsibility to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

Increasing Pressure and Amendments to the *Islands Trust Act*

Pressure for development of the Trust Area islands continued. Over time, the Trust Area has seen exponential increases in population with subsequent cumulative impacts to the lands and waters of the area. Between 1974 and 1987, the Area's resident population increased by 60 per cent, far exceeding the growth rate of adjacent areas. Several amendments were made to the Act during from 1974 to 1987, giving the Islands Trust community planning and land-use authority processes comparable to that of a regional district under the *Municipal Act* (today called *The Local Government Act*). Aware of the urgent need for plans to guide decisions on growth management and land-use, the process of developing Trust Area's island communities developed Official Community Plans began to ensure measured and thoughtful development processes within island communities. Pressure for residential development continued, however, as did public concern for the future of the Trust Area.

In 1990 to 1990, the *Islands Trust Act* was redrafted to strengthen the Islands Trust role and object of preserving and protecting. the provincial government initiated a second review related to the Trust Area. That review focused on public opinion of the Islands Trust and its role. The results showed overwhelming public support for both the Islands Trust and its object, and suggested ways in which the Trust and its legislation could be strengthened. In response, a redrafted *Islands Trust Act* was put into effect in 1990, reaffirming the Province's commitment to careful planning and development in the Trust Area. In the redrafted Act, the Islands Trust retained its original authority and its dual responsibility to both Trust Area residents and other British Columbians. The new legislation also amended the structure of the Islands Trust and greatly broadened its functions and responsibilities.¹ One of the most notable changes was the assignment of a regional-level planning function to the Islands Trust Council.

Present Context

The Trust Area is situated in the heart of the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound bioregion. Sustainability of the region's physical environment, native species and quality of life are threatened by low-density urban sprawl and rapid population growth.² Approximately five million people presently live in the areas surrounding the Trust Area. Populations on the Lower Mainland, on Southern Vancouver Island and around Puget Sound are growing much more rapidly than in other regions of the United States and Canada.³ Projections indicate that if trends continue, the total population of the region will double in 25 years to over 10 million.

The Trust Area continues to experience extreme pressure from population growth and tourism. With a population increase of 26 per cent between 1986 and 1991, it is one of the fastest-growing

Commented [CC4]: I would caution that this statement may not sit well with some Indigenous groups – many archaeological sites within the Gulf Islands have been damaged in the name of development and that damage has been sanctioned by the provincial government. As the Islands Trust is aware, this is still an active matter of contention.

areas in the Province and Canada. Increasing numbers of tourists are also travelling to and through the Trust Area. The number of passengers on the main ferry routes through the Area increased by 44 percent between 1986 and 1992, and by 37 per cent on routes to Trust Area islands. Most visitors come to islands during the summer months when demand for fresh water is highest and water supplies are lowest, placing pressure on limited water supplies.

Public and private concern continues for the long-term well-being of the Trust Area. Increasing numbers of people from the rapidly growing surrounding urban areas can be expected to be attracted to the Trust Area as a place of residence and recreation. Accelerating negative impacts accompanying development in the surrounding urban regions - pollution of air and marine waters, discharge of pulp mill effluent, disposal of waste, ocean dumping and spills associated with marine shipping - threaten the Trust Area's environment, amenities and fragile ecosystems.

Commented [CC5]: Should add that climate change is also a relevant exacerbating factor here.

¹ The present structure of the Islands Trust and the functions of its corporate bodies are described in a brochure available from the offices of the Islands Trust.

² 1993 report of the BC Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

³ BC Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, Sustainability in the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Region, 1992.

The Challenge

The Islands Trust today faces a major challenge. While populations, numbers of visitors and the demand for intensified use and residential development of the Trust Area can be expected to continue to grow, capacities of the Area's resources and systems are limited. Potential for conflict exists: conflict between short and long-term interests and between unlimited use of the Trust Area and ongoing stewardship.

To keep everything in the Trust Area exactly as it is today is impossible. Changes will occur. If the Area's environment and unique character are to be preserved and protected, priorities must be defined and management strategies established. The *Islands Trust Act* identifies the need for leadership in addressing this task and assigns this role to the Islands Trust. The policies of the Islands Trust established today and in the years ahead will be of fundamental importance to the well-being of this highly valued area.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement

The Islands Trust Policy Statement has been developed in response to the need for preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, to the need for leadership in achieving this objective, and to the legislated requirements of the *Islands Trust Act*. Goals and policies contained in the Policy Statement reflect values and concerns for the future of the Trust Area expressed by the public and Trust Council's belief that not only this generation, but also future generations, should have the continued opportunity to enjoy the environment and amenities of this very special place.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is comprised of Islands Trust Council Bylaw No. 17, and Parts I to V and Schedule 1 of that Bylaw. The introduction is not part of the Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw, and is intended simply to provide some background related to the Trust Area, the Islands Trust and the context for development of the Policy Statement.

Part I of the document outlines the purpose of the Policy Statement and the means by which it will be implemented. The important roles of individuals, Trust Council, its Executive Committee, Trust Area communities and municipalities, the Islands Trust Fund Board, other government and non-government agencies, First Nations, property owners, residents and visitors, in implementation of the Policy Statement also clarified in Part I.

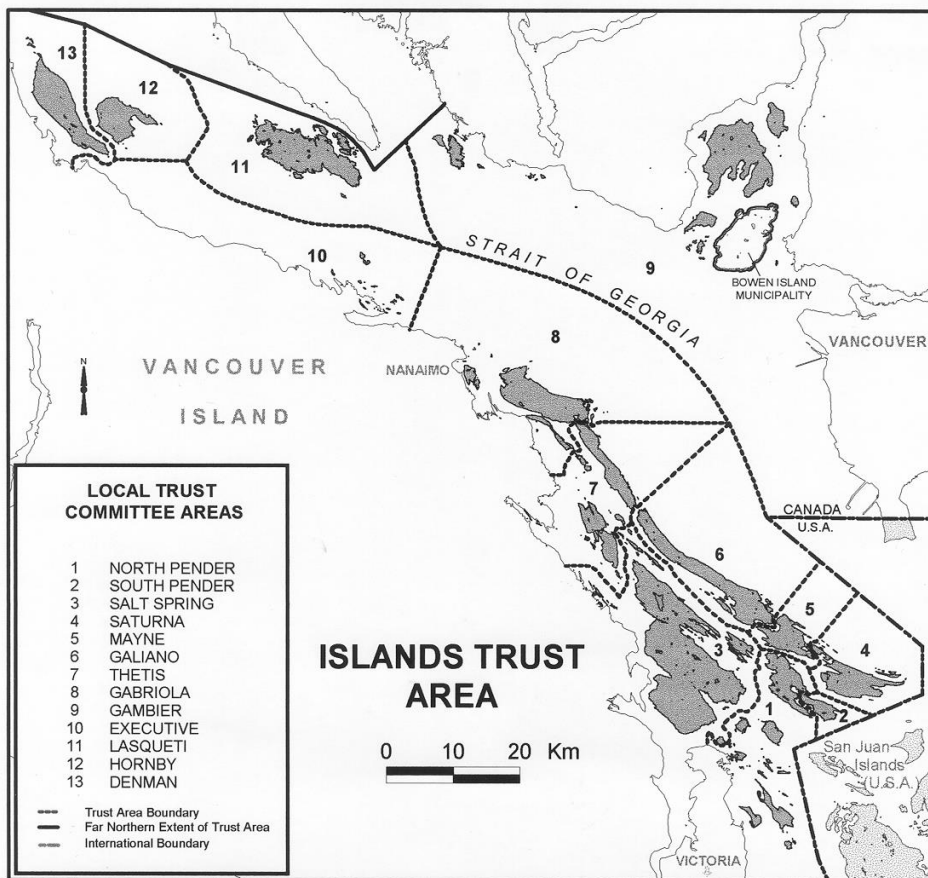
Part II of the document defines the Islands Trust's legislated object, provides an interpretation of that object, and identifies principles by which the Islands Trust will be guided in fulfillment of its object.

Parts III, IV, and V discuss Trust Council's vision for the future of the Trust Area in terms of [goals](#) and policies. Part III focuses on ecosystem preservation and protection, Part IV on stewardship of resources, and Part V on sustainable communities.

Schedule 1 provides definitions for some of the terms used in the document.

Commented [CC6]: Add in a general acknowledgement of the policy statement being developed while recognizing the inherent jurisdiction and leadership roles of First Nations, as well as Indigenous and Aboriginal rights.

LOCATION OF THE TRUST AREA



PART I: PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of the Policy Statement is to establish a vision for the future of the Islands Trust Area that reflects the values of residents of the Trust Area, First Nations, and of the Province generally. Achieving this vision depends on the actions of many stakeholders. The Policy Statement provides a general strategy for land use planning which translates the broad goals of the Province and the Islands Trust into specific actions to preserve¹ and protect² the Trust Area.

The Policy Statement clarifies the positions and policies of the Islands Trust and provides guidance for the formulation of bylaws, plans and policies. It is a document to be utilized by local trust committees and island municipalities when they are formulating local bylaws, by the Executive Committee of Trust Council when it is reviewing plans and bylaws of local trust committees and island municipalities, and by the Province and other agencies when they are reviewing their own plans and policies for compatibility with those of the Islands Trust.

The Policy Statement bylaw becomes effective upon the date of adoption. It is not retroactive and has no effect on any local trust committee or municipal bylaw in effect before its adoption.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Islands Trust Council cannot effectively implement the Policy Statement without the support of all stakeholders. Assistance, cooperation and collaboration are required from local trust committees, island municipalities, the Trust Fund Board, the Provincial Government, other government agencies, non-government organizations, communities, First Nations, property owners, residents and visitors. In the spirit of the legislated object of the Islands Trust, it is expected that all corporate entities of the Islands Trust will consult with other agencies on matters involving potential conflict between the legislated object of the Trust and the legislated mandate of other agencies.

Role of the Minister of Municipal~~Community Services~~Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Minister approves the bylaw and provides an avenue of appeal for municipalities if neither the Executive Committee nor Trust approves a bylaw that has been submitted to them. And the Minister and Ministry staff can facilitate communication between the Islands Trust and other government agencies on policy matters.

¹ Preserve - to maintain in a given condition. Preservation often requires maintaining the processes that generate the desired condition.

² Protect - to maintain over the long-term by managing, or if necessary limiting, the type and intensity of development or activity to ensure that valued attributes are not compromised or destroyed.

Role of the Islands Trust Council

The *Islands Trust Act* assigns to the Islands Trust Council the responsibility for development and adoption of the Trust Policy Statement. Recognizing the varying roles and responsibilities of the many stakeholders and its own jurisdiction, Trust Council has included three types of policies in the Policy Statement bylaw:

a) Commitments of Trust Council

These policies state the position or philosophy of Trust Council on various matters. For this category of policy, several introductory phrases are used, for example, "Trust Council holds that", "It is the position of Trust Council that", and "It is Trust Council's policy that"

b) Policies that Direct Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

These policies direct local trust committees and island municipalities to address³ certain matters in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws. Where a policy requires a local trust committee or island municipality to address a particular matter, the official community plans must contain policies that implement the policy stated by Trust Council, unless the plan sets out explicitly the reasons and justifications for local policies that do not implement that policy. Directive policies commence with the phrase "Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address"

c) Recommendations to Other Government Agencies, Non-Government Organizations, Property Owners, Residents and Visitors

These policies serve as recommendations from Trust Council to government agencies, non-government organizations, property owners, residents and visitors regarding decisions or actions that they might undertake in support of the Policy Statement and the Islands Trust object, and specify principles of guidance for protocol agreements between the Trust and other agencies. These policies begin with the phrase "Trust Council encourages"

Trust Council may review the Policy Statement annually to prioritize actions, assess progress, and consider possible amendments. **Trust Council also serves as an avenue of appeal for local trust committees and island municipalities if a bylaw submitted to the Executive Committee is not approved.**

³ Address - direct attention to matters in a way that implements the policy of Trust Council.

Role of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of Trust Council is required to review all bylaws of local trust committees and those bylaws of island municipalities that deal with the adoption of an official community plan. Such bylaws have no effect unless approved by the Executive Committee, and the Committee cannot approve such a bylaw if it is “contrary to or at variance with” a directive policy. If there is no official community plan in place for an island municipality, then the Executive Committee is required to review all bylaws of the municipality, and no bylaw that is contrary to a directive policy in the Policy Statement can be approved.

The Executive Committee also monitors the progress of Trust Council in achieving the goals defined in the Policy Statement, and makes recommendations to Council in this regard.

Role of Local Trust Committees

As set out in the *Islands Trust Act*, bylaws of local trust committees cannot be “contrary to or at variance with” the Trust Policy Statement. The Policy Statement contains policies that direct local trust committees to address certain matters in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws. While directive policies identify matters that must be addressed in official community plans and regulatory bylaws, such policies do not stipulate the specific policies and regulations to be included because the social and environmental characteristics of the islands vary. However, where a certain policy requires a local trust committee to address a particular matter, the official community plan must contain policies that implement the policy stated by Trust Council or the plan must set out explicitly the reasons and justifications for local policies that do not do so. Each local trust committee works with its island community to develop policies and regulations to suit local needs, while still supporting the Islands Trust object and the Policy Statement. Local trust committees are not required to comply with any policy in the Policy Statement not stated as a directive policy.

Role of Island Municipalities

Municipalities in the Trust Area, like local trust committees, are directed to address certain matters in their official community plans. Where a particular policy requires a municipality to address a particular matter, the official community plan must contain policies that implement the policy stated by Trust Council unless the municipality sets out explicitly in the plan the reasons and justifications for local policies that do not do so.

Role of the Islands Trust ~~Fund~~ Conservancy Board

The *Islands Trust Act* assigns the Islands Trust object to the Islands Trust Fund Board Islands Trust Conservancy, as well as to Trust Council, ~~and the~~ local trust committees and island municipalities. Although the Board does not take direction from Trust Council, it can support the policies of the Policy Statement through, for example, the acceptance of voluntary donations of property and covenants, the purchase of lands and through education and communication initiatives.

Commented [CC7]: To be clear then, the Trust Council may take a position on a matter involving, for example, Indigenous issues, and none of the local trust committees would be required to act in a manner consistent with the Trust Council's position? If this is indeed the case, then there may be cause for concern. Local trust committees are the bodies with whom we deal most regularly, and they are typically the ones making on-the-ground decisions which can impact our inherent rights – they are also much more susceptible to local politics and aggressive lobbying. What meaning then, does a position taken by Trust Council have when local trust committees are free to act inconsistently with those positions?

Role of First Nations

First Nations through self-determined representatives or government structures will maintain and strengthen their treaty and traditional territories through cooperative decision-making and engagement to address certain matters related to land and water use. Cooperative actions such as engagement and mutually supportive strategies and action plans are necessary for the sustainability of the Trust Area.

Commented [CC8]: Instead of "maintain and strengthen". We would suggest this the phrase "help preserve and protect" – our territories in and of themselves do not need to be "maintained" – they simply *are*. Our suggested language is also more consistent with the legislated objects of the Islands Trust.

Commented [CC9]: See comment CC2

Commented [CC10]: This line may be problematically vague. It may be helpful here to list some examples of matters that may be addressed through engagement.

Role of Other Government and Non-Government Organizations

Government agencies and non-government organizations can contribute greatly to the preservation and protection of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area through cooperative actions based on the Policy Statement. Cooperative actions such as protocols and mutually supportive strategies and action plans are necessary for the sustainability of the Trust Area.

Role of First Nations

First Nations consider the Trust Area to be within their traditional territory. As such, they may have rights to and interests in the Trust Area. Proposed regulations that may affect aboriginal rights will be preceded by meaningful consultation and negotiation of conflicts with known claims.

Role of Property Owners, Residents and Visitors

The assistance and cooperation of property owners, residents and visitors is vital to the preservation and protection of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area and the implementation of the Policy Statement. Individuals have the opportunity to participate in local planning and to work with other members of the community and the trustees to develop official community plans and bylaws that address local needs and support the object of the Islands Trust.

AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

The Policy Statement bylaw may be amended by the Islands Trust Council with the approval of the Minister of ~~Municipal Community Services~~ Municipal Affairs and Housing. Regardless of the source, all proposals for amendments to the Policy Statement are compiled by the Executive Committee and brought forward for the consideration of Trust Council.

The Islands Trust Council may, from time to time, initiate a public review of the entire Policy Statement.

PART II: THE ISLANDS TRUST'S OBJECT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE ISLANDS TRUST OBJECT AND ITS MEANING

The *Islands Trust Act* provides the following definition of the purpose of the Islands Trust, which is referred to in the legislation as its “object”:

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

“The object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.”

The Islands Trust has responsibility for conservation⁴ through land use planning and regulation and for leadership in stewardship — that is, voluntary, cooperative actions that nurture and take responsibility for the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area. It is in this context that the word “stewardship” is used within this document. The Islands Trust seeks to integrate ecosystem preservation and protection, sustainable communities and stewardship of resources.

The *Islands Trust Act* provides special legislation for preservation and protection of the Georgia Strait-Howe Sound geographic area and creates a conservation-oriented agency to work towards this objective. The object establishes the value of the Trust Area by identifying the need for preservation and protection of the Area. The following sections provide a fuller explanation of the key phrases in the legislated object of the Trust.

“... to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment...”

The area of jurisdiction of the Islands Trust is established by Schedule A of the *Islands Trust Act*. The Trust Area is valued and is unique, not because of any one quality or feature, but rather because of its particular combination of characteristics and location.

“... for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally ...”

The Islands Trust is responsible to the present and future residents of both the Trust Area and the Province of British Columbia. Their needs can only be met and sustained within the limitations of the natural environment and the island communities of the Trust Area. A balance must be established between the needs of all stakeholders.

“... in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the Government of the Province ...”

To achieve its object, the Islands Trust must be an educator, coordinator, and initiator, guiding individuals, organizations and other agencies in support of the object. While the Islands Trust can provide the necessary leadership, responsibility for stewardship of the Trust Area rests with many. Individuals, other government agencies, organizations, and the Province itself all have important roles to play. Cooperative actions are required of other agencies, organizations and individuals to

Commented [CC11]: If there's nothing substantial stopping a legislative amendment to s.3 of the Islands Trust Act, then it should be done. S.3 should be amended to explicitly include Indigenous peoples and the principles of UNDRIP. This will ensure consistency with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, SBC 2019 c. 44 (DRIPA)

Commented [CC12]: This last line should read “co-stewardship of resources” – Indigenous communities actively steward the resources within our territories.

Commented [CC13]: How does the Islands Trust determine these limitations? What is the “carrying capacity” of each island? If these are not ascertained, continued and sustained incremental growth and development (no matter how “green” the development may be), will continue to be allowed to erode the functionality of the very ecosystems and resources that the Islands Trust is mandated to protect.

⁴ Conservation - actions, legislation or institutional arrangements that lead to the protection or preservation of a given species, group of species, habitat, natural area, or property or area of human heritage value or character.

ensure that activities are carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of Trust Area ecosystems⁵ and island communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles, derived from the Islands Trust object and from input received from [First Nations through engagement processes](#), and the public during public forums, will guide Trust Council in its day-to-day planning and decision-making.

- * The primary responsibility of the Islands Trust Council is to provide leadership [in partnership with First Nations](#), for the preservation, protection and stewardship of the amenities, environment [and natural resources](#), [and cultural heritage](#) ~~and resources~~ of the Trust Area.
- * When making decisions and exercising judgment, Trust Council will place priority on preserving and protecting the integrity of the environment, [cultural heritage](#), and amenities in the Trust Area.
- * Trust Council will seek information from a broad range of sources in its decision-making processes, recognizing the importance of [traditional knowledge](#), [and](#) local knowledge in this regard.
- * Trust Council believes that to achieve the Islands Trust object, the rate and scale of growth and development in the Trust Area must be carefully managed and may require limitation.
- * [Trust Council will commit through the principles of UNDRIP to the preservation and protection of cultural, archaeological, village, land, and marine sacred sites within the Islands Trust area](#)
- * Trust Council believes that open, consultative public participation [and cooperation with First Nations](#) is vital to effective decision making for the Trust Area.
- * Trust Council will implement a plan for the advancement of the Policy Statement as part of its annual budget process, and the Executive Committee of Trust Council will report to Council on progress in achieving the goals of the Policy Statement.

Commented [CC14]: In addition to being a guiding principle, this should also be a policy directive.

Commented [CC15]: Consistent with my previous comment, how are local trust committees required to act in a manner consistent with these positions and statements?
The amendments to this policy statement needs meet the legislated requirements of DRIPA. Much of the language in this document falls short.

⁵ Ecosystem - complexes of living organisms interacting with the non-living environment that sustains them.

All ecosystems have three fundamentals: composition, structure and function. The composition of ecosystems is defined as an inventory of the living components including humans. The structure of an ecosystem is the physical arrangement of its living and non-living components. Function refers to the exchanges and flows of energy, material or information within and among the living and non-living components of an ecosystem.

PART III: ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

GOAL: TO FOSTER PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE TRUST AREA'S ECOSYSTEMS

As humans occupy and modify the Trust Area, ecosystems are subject to various pressures. Protection of these ecosystems is essential if they are to remain healthy and productive for the benefit of future generations.

The principle of sustainability⁶ must be upheld. Protective measures are varied and can include actions ranging from preservation of natural areas⁷ in the form of parks and ecological reserves, to increasing public awareness and understanding of the need for sustainable use⁸ and stewardship⁹ by all landowners.

The task of protecting the Trust Area is particularly challenging because ecosystems do not stop at political boundaries. Cooperative management programs are required to coordinate the actions of all stakeholders. Government, property owners, residents and visitors share responsibility for the preservation and protection of the Trust Area ecosystems.

POLICIES FOR ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

3.1 Ecosystems

Commitments of Trust Council

3.1.1 Trust Council holds that:

- proactive land use planning is essential for the protection of Trust Area ecosystems;
- protection must be given to the natural processes, habitats¹⁰ and species¹¹ of the Trust Area, including those of the old forests, Coastal Douglas-fir forests, Coastal Western Hemlock, Garry Oak/Arbutus forests, wetlands¹², open coastal grasslands, the vegetation of dry rocky areas, lakes, streams, estuaries, tidal flats, salt water marshes, drift sectors¹³, lagoons, and kelp and eel grass beds, and

⁶ Sustainable - capable of being maintained indefinitely; capable of meeting the environmental, economic and social needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

⁷ Natural Areas - areas that have experienced minimal modification by humans.

⁸ Sustainable Use - use of renewable resources which is within the capability of those resources for renewal and which conserves the ecological processes that support the use.

⁹ Stewardship - voluntary, cooperative actions that nurture and take responsibility for the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area.

¹⁰ Habitat - the place or situation in which a human, animal or plant lives.

¹¹ Trust Area Species - species native to the Trust Area, dependent on the Trust Area for all or part of their life cycle, or using the Trust Area seasonally or for migratory purposes.

¹² Wetland - land that has the water table at, near, or above the land's surface or which is saturated for a long enough period to promote aquatic processes.

¹³ Drift Sector - an integrated and independently operating beach system or erosion-transportation-accretion operating along the coastline.

Commented [CC16]: Where does the Islands Trust stand on the integration of Indigenous land-management regimes (e.g. controlled burning)? Should those be included here?

Commented [CC17]: Add spiritual and health needs – many of the lands and waters of the Trust Area are utilized by Indigenous peoples for spiritual and well-being purposes.

Commented [CC18]: Stewardship for Cowican peoples is an imperative under Indigenous law – it is not voluntary

- planning must account for the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development to avoid detrimental effects on watersheds, groundwater supplies and Trust Area species and habitats.

3.1.2 It is Trust Council's policy to work towards the establishment of a network of protected areas that preserves representative ecosystems in their natural state and in sufficient size and distribution to sustain their ecological¹⁴ integrity.

Commented [CC19]: Shouldn't planning also account for the existing and anticipated effects of climate change on ecosystem function and resiliency?

Directive Policies

3.1.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification and protection of the environmentally sensitive areas and significant natural sites, features and landforms in their planning area.

3.1.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the planning, establishment, and maintenance of a network of protected areas that preserve the representative ecosystems of their planning area and maintain their ecological integrity.

Commented [CC20]: Is there any in which land uses adjacent to these protected areas are constrained through policy?

3.1.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the regulation of land use and development to restrict emissions to land, air and water to levels not harmful to humans or other species.

Commented [CC21]: The phrase "humans or other species" can be problematic – most species are more sensitive than humans to harmful emissions. So here, LTCs and island municipalities have the option to choose between restricting emissions either more or less, depending on whether they're restricting to a level harmful to humans, or to a level harmful to other species.

Recommendations

3.1.6 Trust Council encourages all government agencies and non-government organizations to consider both monetary and non-monetary costs when making resource management and land use decisions.

3.1.7 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government and the government of Washington State to proceed with their proposal for a joint environmental monitoring system for the Georgia Basin Region.

3.1.8 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to establish property tax incentives for conservation or habitat protection.

3.1.9 Trust Council encourages actions and programs of other government agencies which:

- place priority on the side of protection for Trust Area ecosystems when judgment must be exercised,
- protect the diversity of native species and habitats in the Trust Area, and
- prevent pollution of the air, land and fresh and marine waters of the Trust Area.

3.1.10 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to enforce standards for control of emissions polluting the air of the Trust Area.

¹⁴ Ecological - related to the interrelations among plants, animals (including humans) and their environment.

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

- 3.1.11 Trust Council encourages agents of the government of British Columbia or the government of Canada, Crown corporations, municipalities, regional districts, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers to protect environmentally sensitive areas and significant natural sites, features and landforms through voluntary stewardship, acquisitions, conservation covenants and careful management.

3.2 Forest Ecosystems

Commitment of Trust Council

- 3.2.1 It is Trust Council's policy that:

- forest ecosystems in the Trust Area should be protected, and
- the remaining stands of relatively undisturbed Coastal Douglas fir, Coastal Western Hemlock, Garry Oak and Arbutus should be preserved.

Directive Policy

- 3.2.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the protection of unfragmented forest ecosystems¹⁵ within their local planning areas from potentially adverse impacts of growth, development and land-use.

Recommendation

- 3.2.3 Trust Council encourages government agencies, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers to protect forested areas through voluntary donation, acquisition, conservation covenants and careful management.

3.3 Freshwater and Wetland Ecosystems and Riparian Zones¹⁶

Commitment of Trust Council

- 3.3.1 Trust Council holds that:

- the freshwater wetlands, bodies of surface water, natural drainage patterns, water courses, fish-bearing streams, watershed and groundwater recharge areas of the Trust Area should be identified, protected and, where possible, restored or rehabilitated, and
- the natural wetlands of the Trust Area, including those in the Agricultural Land Reserve that have not been altered in the past for agriculture, should not be drained, filled or degraded.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

Directive Policy

- 3.3.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address means to prevent further loss or degradation of freshwater bodies or watercourses, wetlands and riparian zones and to protect aquatic wildlife.

¹⁵ Unfragmented Forest Ecosystem - areas of forested land that are large enough to contain and sustain the forests' characteristic species.

¹⁶ Riparian Zone - relating to the bank of a river, lake, stream or watercourse.

Commented [CC22]: Should add "through collaboration and partnership with First Nations where possible"

Recommendation

- 3.3.3 Trust Council encourages government agencies, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers to protect freshwater bodies, watercourses, wetlands, riparian zones and aquatic wildlife habitats through voluntary donation, acquisition, conservation covenants and careful management.

Commented [CC23]: See comment CC25

3.4. Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

Commitments of Trust Council

- 3.4.1 It is the position of Trust Council that development should not be allowed within a line drawn 300 metres offshore or mid-channel (whichever is less) of any island or islet in the Trust Area owned entirely by the Crown or affected by Order in Council 467¹⁷.

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

- 3.4.2 It is Trust Council's policy that marine areas be protected and coastal zone management principles be defined in consultation with agents of the government of British Columbia, the government of Canada, Crown corporations, municipalities, regional districts, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers.

- 3.4.3 Trust Council holds that artificial reefs should not be developed in the Trust Area.

Interp. Memo
Mar 7/03

Interpretation Note: Small scale habitat enhancement structures known as 'reef balls', which are placed in marine areas with the approval of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, are not considered to be artificial reefs for the purposes of this policy.

Directive Policies

- 3.4.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the protection of sensitive coastal areas.
- 3.4.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the planning for and regulation of development in coastal regions to protect natural coastal processes.

Commented [CC24]: Is there any sort of map showing where all of these "sensitive coastal areas" are?

Recommendations

- 3.4.6 Trust Council encourages the Provincial and Federal governments to develop existing and new programs such as "harvest refugia", which protect and enhance the populations of native marine species of the Trust Area.
- 3.4.7 Trust Council encourages the Provincial and Federal governments to research the impacts of the introduction of new marine species into the marine water of the Trust Area before such species are introduced.
- 3.4.8 Trust Council encourages the Federal and Provincial governments to develop and adopt legislation that regulates sewage discharge from shores and boats and addresses its detrimental impact on marine or coastal ecosystems.

¹⁷ Order in Council 467 - Provincially established legislation that reserves certain Crown lands, including lesser islands and islets in the Trust Area from disposition under the *Land Act*.

PART IV: STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

GOAL: TO ENSURE THAT HUMAN ACTIVITY AND THE SCALE, RATE AND TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE TRUST AREA ARE COMPATIBLE WITH MAINTENANCE OF THE INTEGRITY OF TRUST AREA ECOSYSTEMS.

With responsible management, the natural resources of the Trust Area can be used long into the future. In the long term, it is less costly to use resources sustainably than to have to replace or rehabilitate them once they are depleted. Indiscriminate use or development of natural resources can threaten the island lifestyles and environments that are valued by the people who live in and visit the Trust Area.

POLICIES FOR STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

4.1 Agricultural Land

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.1.1 Trust Council recognizes that agriculture is a traditional and valuable activity in the Trust Area.
- 4.1.2 Trust Council shall consult with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the British Columbia Land Reserve Commission to request that agriculture policies applied to the Trust Area are appropriate to the nature of agriculture within the Trust Area, including, but not limited to, the smaller island scale of agricultural activities.
- 4.1.3 It is Trust Council's policy to encourage agricultural management practices that are compatible with sustaining wildlife habitat.

Directive Policies

- 4.1.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification and preservation of agricultural land for current and future use.
- 4.1.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the preservation, protection and encouragement of farming, the sustainability of farming, and the relationship of farming to other land uses.
- 4.1.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the use of adjacent properties to minimize any adverse effects on agricultural land.
- 4.1.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the design of road systems and servicing corridors to avoid agricultural lands unless the need for roads outweighs agricultural considerations, in which case appropriate mitigation measures shall be required to derive a net benefit to agriculture.
- 4.1.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address land uses and activities that support the economic viability of farms without compromising the agriculture capability of agricultural land.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

Commented [CC25]: What about the reverse (where agricultural land practices impact adjacent properties or values)?

- 4.1.9 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the use of Crown lands for agricultural leases.

Commented [CC26]: What does this mean?

Recommendations

- 4.1.10 Trust Council encourages the Ministry of Transportation to ensure that, where a road must sever agricultural land to provide access to lands beyond, the road is built to the minimum standard necessary to service that land.
- 4.1.11 Trust Council encourages the British Columbia Land Reserve Commission to approve applications from property owners for inclusion of their land with potential for agriculture in the Provincial Agricultural Land Reserve.
- 4.1.12 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government and the British Columbia Assessment Authority to:
- retain a separate farm class to provide significant property tax incentives;
 - ensure that the threshold for farm income necessary for farm class status is appropriate to agriculture within the Trust Area; and
 - acknowledge that the total land area subject to the farm class may include land left uncultivated.

Amend
Dec
4/98
BL 53

4.2 Forests

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.2.1 Trust Council recognizes that forestry is a traditional land use in the Trust Area, and supports sustainable forestry as an appropriate form of land use.
- 4.2.2 It is the position of Trust Council that sustainable forestry depends on maintaining and, where necessary, restoring the ecological integrity of forests.
- 4.2.3 It is the position of Trust Council that to achieve sustainable forestry, forest owners should undertake planning to address the integrity of forest ecosystems, including monitoring and evaluation to modify forestry plans and activities as needed.
- 4.2.4 It is the position of Trust Council that forest cover is a representative characteristic of the Trust Islands and should be maintained.
- 4.2.5 It is the position of Trust Council that the aesthetic and cultural value of forest land should be protected.

Commented [CC27]: Is this section dealing only with forests vis a vis forestry or also policies on forest land in the context of other land use activities (e.g. do these policies come into play during rezoning applications)?

Directive Policies

- 4.2.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the need to protect the ecological integrity on a scale of forest stands and landscapes.
- 4.2.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address:
- the retention of large land holdings and parcel sizes for sustainable forestry use, and
 - the location and construction of roads, trails and utility and communication corridors to minimize the fragmentation of forests.

- 4.2.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the designation of forest ecosystem reserves where no extraction will take place to ensure the preservation of native biological diversity.

Recommendations

- 4.2.9 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt mechanisms that will ensure full and meaningful participation of communities and First Nations in decisions concerning the use of forest land.
- 4.2.10 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to implement education and extension programs to promote sustainable forestry and the protection of forest ecosystems.
- 4.2.11 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt Provincial statutes and guidelines that establish forestry practices to protect the ecological integrity on a scale of forest stands and landscapes by maintaining and, where necessary, restoring:
- the diversity of forest structure and composition;
 - the physical, chemical, and biotic diversity of soils;
 - natural aquatic and wetland ecosystems;
 - the full range of natural habitats in the forest landscape, including old growth; and
 - connectivity of forest habitats sufficient for the dispersal needs of native species.
- 4.2.12 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt Provincial statutes and guidelines that will reduce invasive non-native plant species in the forests.
- 4.2.13 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to designate forest ecosystem reserves, where no extraction will take place, to promote the preservation of native biological diversity and vegetation of cultural importance to Indigenous peoples.
- 4.2.14 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government, prior to giving approval to cutting plans, to require that the applicant identify those elements of the forest needed to maintain sustainable forest land use.
- 4.2.15 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to implement property tax incentives for the practice of sustainable forestry.
- 4.2.16 Trust Council encourages the Provincial Ministry of Forests, when developing specific forest tenures, to assign to Trust Council or Trust Fund Board the holding of areas not to be harvested.

Commented [CC28]: What are extension programs?

Commented [CC29]: Can you explain what "holding" means?

4.3 Wildlife and Vegetation

Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Trust Council encourages Provincial and Federal government agencies to:
- regulate and monitor the harvesting of the fish, wildlife and vegetation of the Trust Area so as to protect populations and habitats, and
 - consult with local trust committees, island municipalities, the communities of the Trust Area and First Nations prior to decisions regarding regulation of hunting or harvesting of Area wildlife or vegetation.
- 4.3.2 Trust Council encourages Provincial and Federal government agencies to protect, for public and Indigenous use, areas supporting naturally occurring shellfish populations and other marine life and to establish public shellfish reserves in the Trust Area.

4.4 Freshwater Resources

Commitment of Trust Council

- 4.4.1 It is Trust Council's policy that islands in the Trust Area should be self-sufficient in regard to their supply of freshwater.

Directive Policies

- 4.4.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address measures that ensure:
- neither the density nor intensity of land use is increased in areas which are known to have a problem with the quality or quantity of the supply of freshwater,
 - water quality is maintained, and
 - existing, anticipated and seasonal demands for water are considered and allowed for.
- 4.4.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address measures that ensure water use is not to the detriment of in-stream uses¹⁸.

Recommendations

- 4.4.4 Trust Council encourages island property owners, residents and visitors to adopt conservation practices in their use of freshwater.
- 4.4.5 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to implement property tax incentives for the retention of groundwater and watershed recharge areas and freshwater wetlands.
- 4.4.6 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt legislation that protects the sustainability and quality of the groundwater of the Trust Area.
- 4.4.7 Trust Council encourages government agencies, corporations, property owners and residents to use innovative technologies that promote efficient use of freshwater

¹⁸ Instream Uses - include water uses such as fish and habitat uses, aesthetic uses, recreational opportunities and the maintenance of water quality in lakes and streams and wetlands.

Commented [CC30]: Why are there no commitments or directive policies for this section? There needs to be. Wildlife and vegetation are two important components of trust areas and the islands hold a myriad of culturally important vegetation species.

For example, Cowichan people still presently hunt on Gabriola, Galiano and Valdes Islands and will continue to do so as an exercise of their inherent rights – this needs to be kept in mind while Islands Trust Council or LTCs are policy-making.

Commented [CC31]: We would like to see Islands Trust take a stronger stance on protection of marine resources like shellfish, particularly as we continue to battle the province over the proliferation of private moorages in the Gulf Islands. Most of the bays are polluted and we have very few stretches of shoreline left to harvest in the Islands Trust jurisdictional area. It is extremely important to us that the preservation and protection mandate be carried out to protect these areas.

Commented [CC32]: One active issue is the lack of understanding as to how many aquifers interact with nearby freshwater streams. The province frequently employs guesswork when deciding whether to grant water licences. Islands Trust should use whatever leverage they have to try and further the collection of information regarding the interaction between aquifers and streams within their jurisdiction. This will help foster fully informed decision-making by all involved parties.

resources, including cisterns, alternative sewage disposal systems, reuse of water, the treatment and use of grey water, and the use of water saving devices.

4.5 Coastal Areas and Marine Shorelands¹⁹

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.5.1 It is Trust Council's policy that aquaculture²⁰ is a valuable activity in the Trust Area if compatible with maintenance of ecosystems and community character.
- 4.5.2 Trust Council holds that finfish farms should not be located in the marine waters of the Trust Area.
- 4.5.3 It is the position of Trust Council that development, activity, buildings or structures should not result in a loss of significant marine or coastal habitat, or interfere with natural coastal processes.
- 4.5.4 It is the position of Trust Council that development, activity, buildings or structures should not restrict public and Indigenous access to, from or along the marine shoreline.
- 4.5.5 It is Trust Council's policy that development should be directed to sites away from:
- areas of environmental sensitivity, and
 - areas of naturally occurring stocks of clams or oysters.
 - Identified Indigenous harvesting areas
- 4.5.6 It is Trust Council's policy that aquaculture should be directed to sites away from:
- areas of recreational significance,
 - areas where an aquaculture operation would conflict with established or designated upland land uses, and
 - areas where an aquaculture operation would conflict with established or designated anchorage or moorage.
 - Identified Indigenous harvesting areas
- 4.5.7 It is the position of Trust Council that aquaculture related development, activity, buildings or structures should not result in site alteration²¹.

Directive Policies

- 4.5.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the needs and locations for marine dependent land uses.
- 4.5.9 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws and in partnership with First Nations, address the compatibility of the location, size and nature of marinas with the ecosystems and character of their local planning areas.
- 4.5.10 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the location of buildings and structures so as to protect public and Indigenous access to, from and along the marine shoreline and minimize impacts on sensitive coastal environments.

Commented [CC33]: "Significant" is an extremely problematic word. Because the bar of "significant" loss is so high, anything that falls below significant is considered acceptable – this is the very logic that results in "death by a thousand cuts" – i.e., cumulative impacts. We therefore strongly disagree with the use of the word "significant" in this policy.

Commented [CC34]: From the Indigenous perspective, everything is connected. We don't write-off places that have existing impacts and only seek protection of unencumbered areas. We realize that the marine ecosystem operates as a unified whole; we therefore expect all levels of government to minimize impacts of any development, no matter where on the coastline it occurs.

¹⁹ Marine Shorelands - lands immediately adjacent to the marine shorelands.

²⁰ Aquaculture - the growing and cultivation of aquatic plants or shellfish, for commercial purposes on or

under the foreshore or in the sea.

²¹ Site Alteration - includes, but is not limited to substrate modification or the use of metal plates or pipes.

- 4.5.11 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address opportunities for the sharing of facilities such as docks, wharves, floats, jetties, boat houses, board walks and causeways.

4.6 Soils²² and Other Resources

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.6.1 Trust Council holds that there should be no extraction of peat, metals, minerals, coal or petroleum resources in the Trust Area.
- 4.6.2 Trust Council holds that there should be no extraction of aggregate from the foreshore or the sea floor of the Trust Area.

Directive Policy

- 4.6.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in local bylaws relating to soil removal and deposit, address the protection of productive soils.

²² Soils - the entire layer of unconsolidated material above bedrock other than minerals as defined in the *Mineral Tenure Act* or the *Mining Placer Act*.

PART V: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES²³

GOAL: TO SUSTAIN ISLAND CHARACTER AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Communities within the Trust Area are predominantly rural in character and contrast markedly with surrounding urban areas. Each island community has developed somewhat independently of other communities. Residents of all island communities value the safe and supportive nature of their island and their quality of life. Most feel strongly that people of differing age groups and income levels should continue to have the opportunity to reside in island communities.

The health of a community is influenced by numerous factors such as economic security, education, social support systems, the cleanliness and safety of the environment, and the availability of such necessities as educational and social services, transportation, affordable food and housing. Public involvement in decisions that affect a community is also critical to the health of that community. Participation in the decision-making process influences whether an individual or group is able to realize aspirations, satisfy needs or cope with change.

POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

5.1 Aesthetic Qualities

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.1.1 Trust Council holds that the overall visual quality of the Trust Area and its scenic values should be protected from disturbance, particularly those areas that have distinctive features or are highly visible.
- 5.1.2 It is Trust Council's policy that the intensity of noise and lighting in and through the Trust Area should be compatible with community character.

Directive Policy

- 5.1.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the protection of views, scenic areas and distinctive features contributing to the overall visual quality and scenic value of the Trust Area.

Recommendation

- 5.1.4 Trust Council encourages property owners, residents and visitors to reduce the burning of wood and fossil fuels by adopting alternative or innovative technologies.

5.2 Growth and Development

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.2.1 Trust Council holds that growth and development in the Trust Area should be compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources and community character.
- 5.2.2 Trust Council holds that tree cover on the islands is of great importance and should be preserved.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

²³ Sustainable Communities - human communities that have achieved a balance between environmental, economic and social systems and which respect the carrying capacity of the supporting environment.

Directive Policies

- 5.2.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address policies related to the aesthetic, environmental and social impacts of development.
- 5.2.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address any potential growth rate and strategies for growth management that ensure that land use is compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources and community character.
- 5.2.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address means for achieving efficient use of the land base without exceeding any density limits defined in their official community plans.
- 5.2.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification of areas hazardous to development, including areas subject to flooding, erosion or slope instability, and strategies to direct development away from such hazards.

5.3 Transportation and Utilities

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.3.1 Trust Council holds that local trust committees and island municipalities should be consulted and involved in the decision-making process regarding provision of utilities, transportation services or facilities that might affect land use in their local planning areas.
- 5.3.2 It is Trust Council's policy that no island in the Trust Area should be connected to Vancouver Island, the mainland or another island by a bridge or tunnel, notwithstanding the existing bridge between North and South Pender Islands.

Directive Policies

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

- 5.3.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws address the development of a classification system of rural roadways, including scenic or heritage road designations, in recognition of the object of the Islands Trust.

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

- 5.3.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the impacts of road location, design, construction and systems.

- 5.3.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the designation of areas for the landing of emergency helicopters.

- 5.3.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the development of land use patterns that encourage establishment of bicycle paths and other local and inter-community transportation systems that reduce dependency on private automobile use.

Recommendations

5.3.8 Trust Council encourages Provincial and Federal agencies to ensure safe shipment of materials hazardous to the environment.

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

5.3.9 Trust Council encourages the Ministry of Transportation and local communities to work together through a public and Indigenous consultation process to evaluate and modify road construction and road system proposals to encompass the environmental, economic and social values of the community.

5.4 Disposal of Waste

Commitments of Trust Council

5.4.1 It is Trust Council's policy that the safe disposal in the Trust Area of waste originating in the Trust Area is acceptable.

5.4.2 It is Trust Council's policy that:

- neither hazardous nor industrial waste should be disposed of in the Trust Area,
- local recycling operations should be established, and
- local programs for chipping of wood waste and disposal of hazardous wastes should be established.

5.4.3 It is Trust Council's policy that there should be a reduction in the burning of solid waste in the Trust Area.

Directive Policy

5.4.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification of acceptable locations for the disposal of solid waste.

Recommendation

5.4.5 Trust Council encourages government agencies, corporations, property owners and residents to use innovative technologies and safe alternatives for disposal of sewage effluent.

5.5 Recreation

Commitments of Trust Council

5.5.1 It is Trust Council's policy that recreational activities in the Trust Area should be compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources and community character.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

5.5.2 Trust Council holds that destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls are not appropriate to and should not be located in the Trust Area.

Commented [CC35]: Islands Trust should also endeavour to undertake a resident education campaign about the importance of having septic systems routinely inspected and maintained.

Directive Policies

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

- 5.5.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the prohibition of destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls.
- 5.5.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws and in partnership with First Nations, address:
- the location and type of recreational facilities so as not to degrade environmentally sensitive areas, and
 - the designation of locations for marinas, boat launches, docks and anchorages so as not to degrade sensitive marine or coastal areas.
- 5.5.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address:
- the identification of sites providing safe public access to beaches,
 - the identification and designation of areas of recreational significance, and
 - the designation of locations for community and public boat launches, docks and anchorages.
- 5.5.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification and designation of areas for low impact recreational activities and discourage facilities and opportunities for high impact recreational activities.
- 5.5.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the planning for bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trail systems.

Commented [CC36]: These are extremely important topics for Cowichan Tribes and an area in which we expect to work in true partnership with Islands Trust.

Commented [CC37]: See comment CC30

Commented [CC38]: See comment CC30

5.6 Cultural and Natural Heritage²⁴

Commitment of Trust Council

- 5.6.1 Trust Council holds that the natural and human heritage of the Trust Area — that is the areas and property of natural, historic, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific heritage value²⁵ or character²⁶ — should be identified, preserved, protected and enhanced.

Directive Policies

- 5.6.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws and in partnership with First Nations, address the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of local heritage.

²⁴ Heritage - a place, feature or event of cultural, biological, archaeological, paleontological or geological significance.

²⁵ Heritage Value - historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific worth or usefulness of property or an area.

²⁶ Heritage Character - the overall effect produced by traits or features which give property or an area a distinctive quality or appearance.

- 5.6.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws and in partnership with First Nations, address the preservation and protection of the heritage value and character of historic coastal settlement patterns and remains.

5.7 Economic Opportunities

Commitment of Trust Council

- 5.7.1 Trust Council holds that economic opportunities should be compatible with the conservation of resources and protection of community character.

Directive Policy

- 5.7.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address economic opportunities that are compatible with conservation of resources and protection of community character.

5.8 Health and Well-being

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.8.1 Trust Council holds that public participation and Indigenous consultation should be part of the decision-making processes of all levels of government.
- 5.8.2 It is the position of Trust Council that local trust committees and island municipalities should, in establishing their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, provide opportunities for public input.
- 5.8.3 Trust Council holds that island communities within the Trust Area are themselves best able to determine the most effective local government structure to support their local autonomy and specific community needs within the object of the Islands Trust.
- 5.8.4 Trust Council holds that island municipalities shall, in all of their actions have regard for the Trust Policy Statement and the object of the Islands Trust.
- 5.8.5 It is the position of Trust Council that the development and maintenance of healthy communities in the Trust Area through the process described in the Provincial Ministry of Health's "Healthy Communities Program" should be encouraged.

Directive Policies

- 5.8.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address their community's current and projected housing requirements and the long-term needs for educational, institutional, community and health-related facilities and services, as well as the cultural and recreational facilities and services.

Recommendations

- 5.8.7 Trust Council encourages Provincial, Federal and local governments to provide information and databases to local trust committees and communities to assist them in land use planning.
- 5.8.8 Trust Council encourages government agencies, corporations, property owners, residents and visitors to use renewable sources of energy within the Trust Area.

Commented [CC39]: The Islands Trust should explicitly support policies and developments which seek to eliminate the socio-economic gap between Indigenous peoples and the broader public.

Commented [CC40]: Understanding that there is no delegation to Islands Trust of the Crown's legal duty to consult, we encourage Islands Trust to adopt its own concept of what consultation looks like in the Trust Areas, in keeping with the Province's commitments as well as various policy expressions that have come forward from the LTCs recently (e.g. standing resolutions).

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

SCHEDULE I

DEFINITIONS

Address - direct attention to matters in a way that implements the policy of Trust Council.

Aquaculture - the growing and cultivation of aquatic plants or shellfish, for commercial purposes on or under the foreshore or in sea.

Conservation - actions, legislation or institutional arrangements that lead to the protection or preservation of a given species, group of species, habitat, natural area, or property or areas of human heritage value or character.

Drift Sector - an integrated and independently operating beach system of erosion-transportation-accretion operating along the coastline.

Ecological - related to the interrelations among plants, animals (including humans) and their environment.

Ecosystem - complexes of living organisms interacting with the non-living environment that sustains them. All ecosystems have three fundamentals: composition, structure and function. The composition of ecosystems is defined as an inventory of the living components including humans. The structure of an ecosystem is the physical arrangement of its living and non-living components. Function refers to the exchanges and flows of energy, material or information within and among the living and non-living components of an ecosystem.

Habitat - the place or situation in which a human, animal or plant lives.

Heritage - a place, feature or event of historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific significance.

Heritage Character - the overall effect produced by traits or features which give property or an area a distinctive quality or appearance.

Heritage Property - property or areas that have historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific value or character.

Heritage Value – historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific worth or usefulness of property or an area.

Instream Uses - include water uses such as fish and habitat uses, aesthetic uses, recreational opportunities and maintenance of water quality in lakes and streams and wetlands.

Marine Shorelands - lands immediately adjacent to the marine shoreline.

Natural Areas - areas that have experienced minimal modification by the human species.

Order in Council 467 - Provincially established legislation that reserves certain Crown lands, including lesser islands and islets in the Trust Area, from disposition under the *Land Act*.

Preserve - to maintain in a given condition. Preservation often requires maintaining the processes that generate the desired condition.

Protect - to maintain over the long term by managing, or if necessary limiting, the type and intensity of development or activity to ensure that valued attributes are not compromised or destroyed.

Renewable Resources - resources that are capable of being replaced by natural ecological cycles within reasonable human time frames.

Riparian Zone - relating to the bank of a river, lake, stream or watercourse.

Site Alteration - includes, but is not limited to substrate modification or the use of metal plates or pipes.

Soil - the entire layer of unconsolidated material above bedrock other than minerals as defined in the *Mineral Tenure Act* or the *Mining Placer Act*.

Stewardship - voluntary, cooperative actions that nurture and take responsibility for the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area.

Sustainable - capable of being maintained indefinitely; capable of meeting the environmental, economic and social needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Sustainable Communities - human communities that have achieved a balance between environmental, economic and social systems and that respect the carrying capacity of the supporting environment.

Sustainable Use - use of renewable resources which is within the capacity of those resources for renewal and which conserves the ecological processes that support the use.

Trust Area Species - species native to the Trust Area, dependent on the Trust Area for all or part of their life cycle, or using the Trust Area seasonally or for migratory purposes.

Unfragmented Forest Ecosystems - areas of forested land that are large enough to contain and sustain the forests' characteristic species.

Wetland - land that has the water table at, near, or above the land's surface or which is saturated for a long enough period to promote aquatic processes.

Policy Statement Amendment Project- Project Charter V2

Purpose To support a Policy Statement Amendment process that encompasses First Nations and public engagement and that leads to a bylaw approved by Trust Council and the Minister.

Background Trust Council has assigned Executive Committee, with involvement from Trust Programs Committee as appropriate, to coordinate a review of the Policy Statement, specifically the Introduction, Part I, Part II and Schedule 1 - Definitions sections, and climate and housing policies, and to undertake meaningful engagement with First Nations in the process. With the project in progress, the 2020/21 budget will be used for engagement with First Nations, public engagement, referrals to agencies/First Nations, and legal review.

Objectives

- Updated preamble and definitions
- Acknowledgement of First Nations treaty and traditional territory/TRC/ UNDRIP principles
- Addition of climate and housing policies and other topics raised by First Nations
- Engagement with First Nations on policy amendments
- Re-familiarization of all parties and public with amendment processes

In Scope

- FN/community engagement / intergovernmental advisory group
- Policy analysis
- Drafting
- Legal review
- Referral process and public input
- 1st/2nd /3rd/4th Readings by Trust Council
- Refer to Minister
- Implementation plan

Out of Scope

- Treaty or territorial negotiations
- Consequential amendments to OCPs and LUBs

Workplan Overview

Major Deliverable/Milestone	Date
Public engagement Report on public engagement; FN engagement; policy analysis; write engagement report Draft amendments to Policy Statement; get legal review	June 2019 to January 2020 January – December 2020 January 2021 – February 2021
1st Reading Refer proposed bylaws with amended Policy Statement to agencies and First Nations Engage public on proposed amendments via online survey; statutory advertising	March 2021 March – August 2021 April - May
Trust Council considers input; redraft as needed; legal review, referral to First Nations 2nd and 3rd Reading by Trust Council; refer bylaw to Minister with engagement report	September 2021 December 2021 or March 2022
4th Reading by Trust Council; post Policy Statement to website; write implementation plan	June or Sept. 2022

Project Team

TPC/EXEC	Project Champions
Clare Frater	Project Manager
Dilani Hippola	Policy Analysis
Lisa Wilcox	FN engagement
Gillian Nicol	Coordinator

Approved by:

Clare Frater, Director, TAS

Endorsement:

EC: Feb 26,2020

Budget 2019-2022 (19/20 est. \$45k, 20/21 \$45K)

Item	Cost
FN engagement	\$30,000
Public engagement	\$35,000
Graphic design	\$5,000
Legal review	\$10,000
Statutory advertising	\$10,000
Total activity costs:	\$90,000

BRIEFING

To: Trust Programs Committee **For the Meeting of:** August 13, 2020
From: Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** August 5, 2020
SUBJECT: Development of Islands Trust Climate Action Plan

PURPOSE: To update Trust Programs Committee on the development of a strategic and integrated Islands Trust Climate Action Plan, to be jointly endorsed by both Trust Council and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board.

BACKGROUND: In March 2020, staff from Trust Area Services (TAS), Local Planning Services (LPS) and the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) identified the need to better coordinate, synergize and strategize their respective climate action policies and programming and to avoid unnecessary duplication and inefficiencies. The nature of climate change is multidisciplinary and cuts across the traditional divides of these three departments. With this in mind, TAS established a Climate Policy Working Group (CPWG) comprised of one staff member from each department. The CPWG has been working together to map out the various climate change related programming currently underway in all three departments (Attachment 1) and is in the process of developing a Climate Action Plan (Attachment 2) to better communicate the Trust's climate action goals, priorities, programs and key messages to the public via the new Islands Trust website and other means. The Climate Action Plan is also intended to inform current and future climate change related programming and budget allocations for both Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy. As there is currently no governance mechanism for Trust Council and the ITC Board to jointly develop strategic policy guidance on this common theme, staff sought guidance from both Executive Committee and the ITC Board in July 2020 to proceed with work on a joint Climate Action Plan that would be endorsed by both political bodies. The framework in this draft outline form has been shared with the TPC Chair and the TPC Policy Statement Amendment Project Working Group on Climate Change and is now being shared with the broader Trust Programs Committee for information.

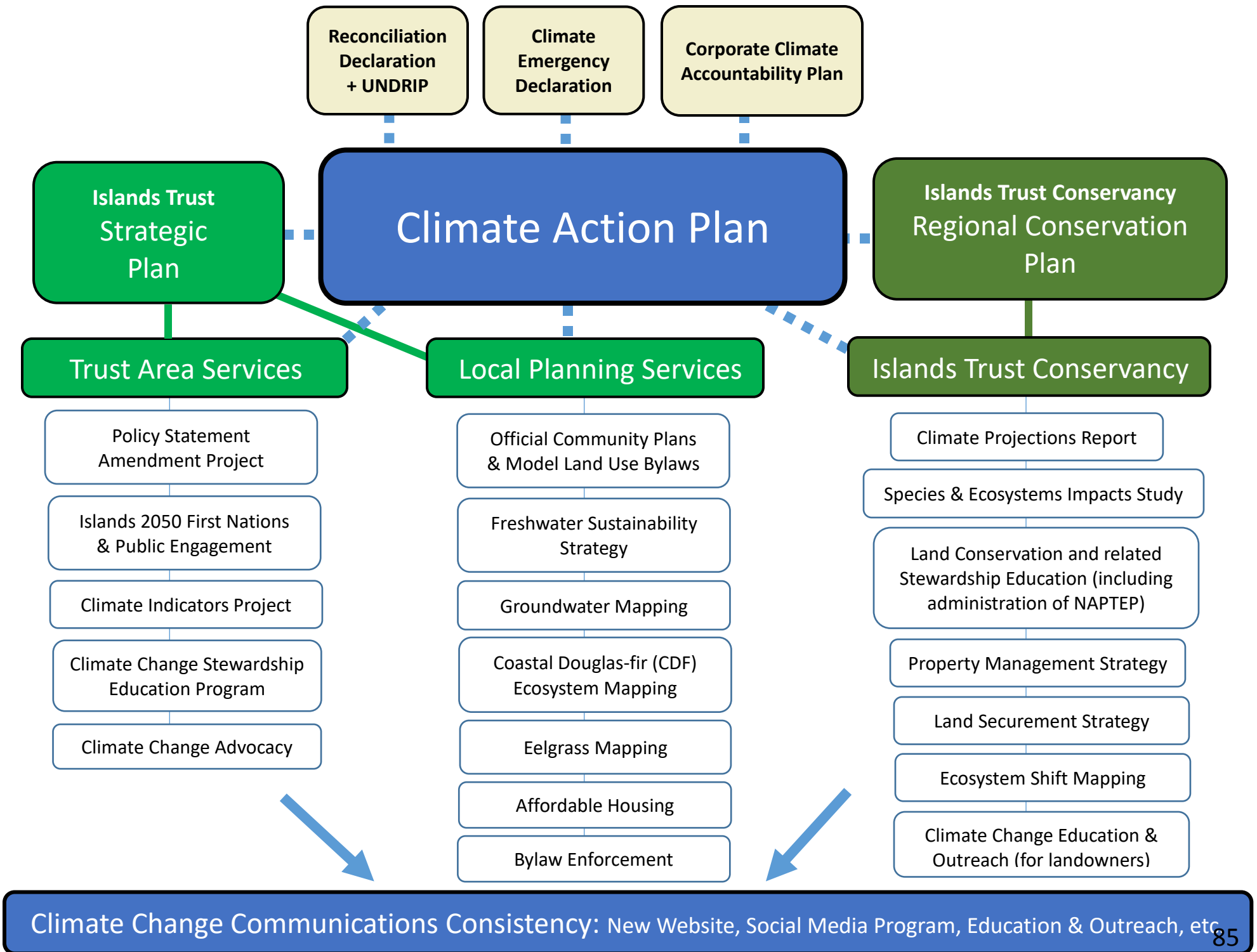
ATTACHMENT(S):

1. CPWG Project Synergies Chart
2. Islands 2050 Climate Action Framework

FOLLOW-UP: The CPWG will continue to develop the Islands Trust Climate Action Plan and will endeavor to present the next draft to Trust Programs Committee in October/November 2020.

Prepared By: Dilani Hippola, A/Senior Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services
Narissa Chadwick, Island Planner, Local Planning Services
Kate Emmings, A/Manager, Islands Trust Conservancy

Reviewed By/Date: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services / Aug 6, 2020



Islands 2050 - Climate Action Framework

*The following draft framework provides an outline of key points to be elaborated upon in more detail and then published as the **Islands Trust Climate Action Plan**.*

A State of Climate Emergency

- Land Acknowledgment + Reconciliation Declaration + UNDRIP/DRIPA + Indigenous Knowledge
“Indigenous peoples have thousands of years of knowledge that comes from the intrinsic relationship we have with our territories and ecosystems. The inclusion of this knowledge is essential to the success of policies and measures directed towards mitigating and adapting to climate change” (BCAFN)
- Islands Trust Mandate - We’ve Been Addressing Climate Change in Different Ways for Decades
- The State of Affairs: 2018 IPCC Report and 2019 Islands Trust Declaration of Climate Emergency
- 2020-2050 Window of Opportunity Narrative (PINNA Climate Projections Report)
- Ecosystem-based Management Approaches for Climate Resilience
- Climate Risk & Vulnerability of Islands in the Trust Area
- Climate Action & Equity/Justice Issues
- Learning from COVID-19 – The Need for Resilient Systems / The Possibilities for Behavioural Change
- We Can’t Do It Alone – Identifying Key Partners in Climate Action

Impacts of Climate Change on the Islands Trust Area

Land & Freshwater: Changing Temperatures and Precipitation Patterns

- increased storm surge flooding and windstorms pose risks to food crops, forests and infrastructure and lead to more frequent power outages
- lower groundwater levels and saltwater intrusion threaten groundwater quality and quantity
- droughts increase risk of wildfires
- stronger, more frequent storms scour streambeds, leading to loss of riparian and aquatic habitat
- warmer temperatures and drier summers lead to loss of some plant and animal species and shifting abundance of others
- disruption of seasonal timing of plant and animal life cycles impacts biodiversity and food security
- new invasive species threaten biodiversity and ecosystem function

Shorelines: Sea-Level Rise

- coastal erosion poses risks to Indigenous cultural and archaeological sites as well as private and public property on shorelines
- changes to shoreline habitats plus loss of spawning beaches / rearing habitats threatens biodiversity
- coastal inundation and reduced drainage capacity leads to flooding and soil salination, and impacts island accessibility (ferries/private docks)

Oceans: Warmer, More Acidic Oceans

- lead to migration, disease, loss of habitat and decreased reproduction of aquatic species, which in turn lead to:
 - threats to Indigenous food security (e.g. herring, salmon, shellfish)
 - threats to marine food web for species at risk (e.g. Southern Resident Killer Whale)
 - threats to biodiversity

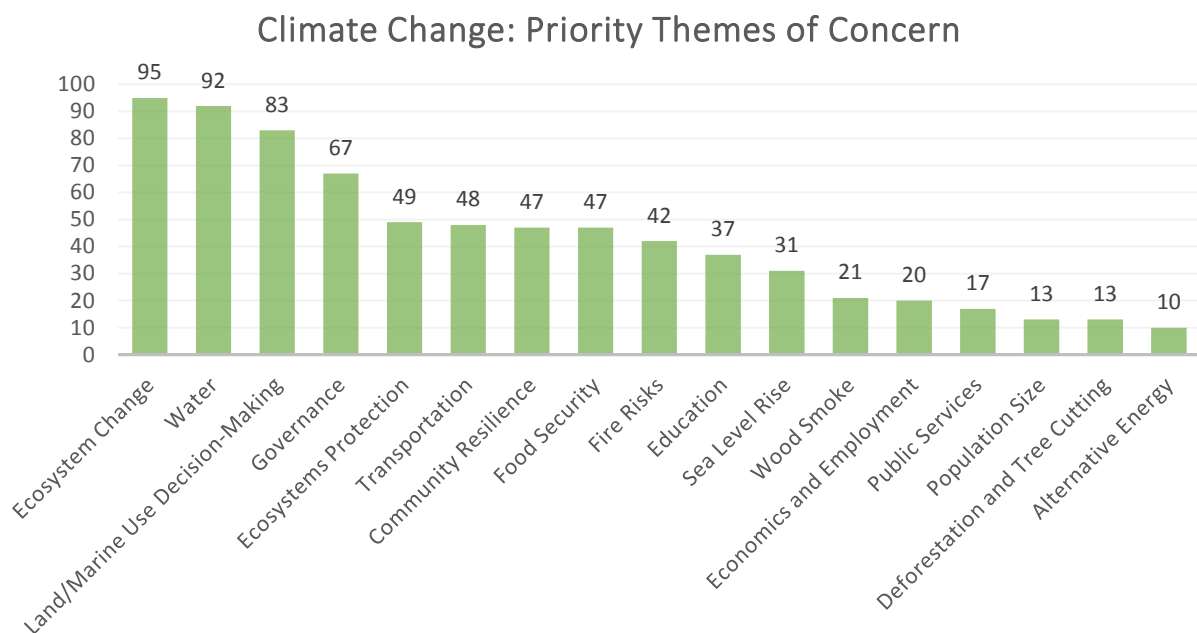
What We've Heard – Priority Concerns in the Trust Area

Islands 2050 First Nations Engagement Feedback:

(List priority themes of concern emerging from ongoing Islands 2050 First Nations Engagement; highlight UNDRIP Articles 18, 25, 29.1, and 32.1.)

Islands 2050 Public Engagement Feedback:

- Through the Islands 2050 public engagement campaign, we asked communities in the Islands Trust Area, “In the context of a changing climate, what are your concerns for the next 30 years?” and this is what we heard...



Islands Trust Budget Consultations Feedback:

(List priority themes emerging from the 2020/21 climate action budget consultations.)

Our Commitments to Climate Action

- The Islands Trust Object Our Core Mandate to Preserve & Protect
- Reconciliation Declaration
- Fed/Prov Commitments & Bill 27 Requirements
- Corporate Climate Accountability Plan
- OCP GHG Reduction Targets to 2050
- Policy Statement & OCP Review with Climate Lens
- Islands Trust 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Priorities
- Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan Goals

Islands 2050 Climate Action Priorities

Specific strategic goals will be built on the priorities listed below. Planning & programming tools will be identified (e.g. Model Development Permit Areas, Regulatory By-Laws, Rezoning, Density Transfer, Landscaping/Site Orientation, Stewardship Education Program, Social Media Strategy, etc.)

Research

1. Climate Projections, Data Sets & Performance Indicators
2. Groundwater Mapping
3. Forest/Ecosystem Mapping
4. Eelgrass, Kelp Bed and Spawning Beach Mapping
5. Sea Level Rise Mapping (not currently planned)

Land-Use Planning

Mitigation: *Human interventions to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases (GHGs).*

1. Carbon Sink Protection and Restoration
2. Compact, Complete and Connected Land-Use
3. Low- to Zero-Emission Transportation
4. Building Efficiency and Renewable Energy Systems
5. Low Carbon Agricultural Practices

Adaptation: *The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.*

1. Watershed Sustainability and Resilience
2. Terrestrial & Aquatic Species and Ecosystems Protection
3. Shoreline Protection
4. Emergency, Hazard and Risk Management
5. Natural Assets, Infrastructure & Food Crop Protection

Community Engagement

1. Water Conservation, including Rainwater Harvesting
2. Blue Carbon Storage / Eelgrass Protection
3. Ecosystem-based Adaptation / The Importance of Biodiversity for Climate Resilience
4. Green Carbon Storage / Forest Protection including NAPTEP & Wildfire Risk Management
5. Greening Shorelines / The Benefits of Soft Shore Protection

Reconciliation

- Specify areas for collaboration with First Nations / Indigenous Knowledge on Climate Change under each of the thematic priorities identified above

Advocacy & Partnerships

- Specify advocacy priorities and partnerships with other government agencies as they relate to the thematic priorities identified above (where issues fall outside our core mandate/jurisdiction)



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Trust Programs Committee **For the Meeting of:** August 13, 2020
From: Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** August 4, 2020
SUBJECT **Climate Change Stewardship Education Program**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Trust Programs Committee endorse the Climate Change Stewardship Education Program project charter, dated August 13, 2020.

That the Trust Programs Committee direct staff to provide options for stewardship education programming .

TRUST AREA SERVICES DIRECTOR COMMENTS: The recommendations support implementation of the 2018-2022 Strategic plan and guidelines. There is sufficient staff capacity to support implementation as proposed.

PURPOSE: To seek Trust Programs Committee's (TPC) direction regarding the Stewardship Education Program (SEP) in 2020/21.

BACKGROUND: The 2018-2022 Strategic Plan included a strategy "to develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and/or stakeholders in the Trust Area". Trust Council budgeted \$15,000 for 2020/21 for the stewardship education program.

In September 2019, TPC decided that this program should focus on climate change. TPC has discussed that program could educate community members on ways they can contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change in the Trust Area. At the May 2020 meeting, TPC discussed that due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions the stewardship education program could be implemented in two phases:

- Phase 1: September – December 2020: Program implemented through webinars.
- Phase 2: January – March 2020: Program implemented via in-person workshops, extension of the webinar series, and/or mail outs could be explored.

A climate policy working group comprised of staff from Trust Area Services, Local Planning Services and Islands Trust Conservancy identified recommendations for the priorities for climate change related education using analysis of recent public engagement results.

On May 22, 2020 Trust Programs Committee received a briefing from staff and passed the following resolutions:

TPC-2020-019

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee request staff to develop a project charter for a water conservation webinar to be delivered in September 2020.

TPC-2020-020

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee direct staff to develop project charters for eelgrass and ecosystem adaptation webinars for delivery between September and the end of November.

Staff have developed a project charter for the proposed webinars to support delivery as follows:

Rainwater Harvesting, a conservation method

Date: Tuesday, September 25th, 2020

Presenters: Shannon Cowan, Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance and guests

This webinar will support the **desired outcomes** of:

- enhancing participants' knowledge of rainwater harvesting;
- providing communities with practical tools to implement rainwater harvesting at the household/community level;
- fostering strong community climate action networks amongst Trust Area communities; and
- enhancing community engagement and participation in Islands Trust climate action work.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Trust Area

Date: Tuesday, October 27th, 2020

Presenters: Tine Rossing, Climate Change Adaptation Advisor and Evaluator; Ruth Waldick, Adjunct professor and a founding member of the Ecological Research Network

This webinar will support the **desired outcomes** of:

- enhancing conceptual understandings around the definition/paradigm of ecosystem-based adaptation;
- providing communities with practical tools to foster EBA at the household/community level;
- fostering strong community climate action networks amongst Trust Area communities; and
- enhancing community engagement and participation in Islands Trust climate action work.

Eelgrass: the Trust Area's Blue Carbon Storage

Date: Tuesday, November 24th, 2020

Presenters: Victoria Postlethwaite and Aimee McGowan, Blue Carbon Experts; Nikki Wright, Sea Change Marine Conservation Society

This webinar will support the **desired outcomes** of:

- enhancing participants knowledge of blue carbon and the strong potentials for mitigation of climate change in the Trust Area;
- providing communities with the knowledge and practical tools to protect eelgrass at the household/community level;
- fostering strong community climate action networks amongst Trust Area communities; and
- enhancing community engagement and participation in Islands Trust climate action work.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION:

ORGANIZATIONAL: The three webinars will take up three weeks of the Program Coordinator's time and eight to 16 hours of the Communications Specialist's time depending on the topics chosen and the extent of promotion required. This project may disrupt timelines for other initiatives.

FINANCIAL: In March 2020, Trust Council approved a budget of \$15,000 for this program. The proposed project charter suggests budgeting \$4,500 for honorarium for presenters, \$1,000.00 for communication and educational materials, and \$2,000 marketing and promotional costs. These estimates may be high, but support hiring an external graphic designer and print advertising.

POLICY: No implications for Trust Council policies.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: A Communications Plan will be created to support the program. Some components of the program will be delivered in collaboration with local agencies and/or First Nations. Each webinar will take place once a month from September to November 2020 and will be hosted on the last Tuesday of every month in the late afternoon/early evening. During each webinar, there will be opportunities for the public to participate (e.g. Q and A process and polls).

FIRST NATIONS: At this time, this phase 1 proposal does not include participation or inclusion of reconciliation or Indigenous, Métis, or Inuit panelists or knowledge holders. Phase 2 will work closely be inclusive with Indigenous, Métis, or Inuit panels, academics, and knowledge holders to ensure that the project meets the goals of UNDRIP and the Reconciliation Declaration. Communication material should be reflective of UNDRIP, cultural heritage preservation and protection, and awareness of conservation methodology that may harm cultural heritage or archaeological sites. All communications should acknowledge treaty and territory and the homelands since time immemorial.

OTHER: None.

RELEVANT POLICY(S): Communications Policy 6.10

ATTACHMENT(S): Climate Change Stewardship Education Program - Project Charter

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommendations:

That the Trust Programs Committee endorse the Climate Change Stewardship Education Program project charter, dated August 13, 2020.

That the Trust Programs Committee direct staff to provide options for stewardship education programming.

Alternatives:

That the Trust Programs Committee endorse the Climate Change Stewardship Education Program project charter, dated August 13, 2020 as amended.

That the Trust Program Committee not offer webinars.

Prepared By: Gillian Nicol, Program Coordinator

Reviewed By/Date: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services/ August 6, 2020

Climate Change Stewardship Education Program - Webinar Series Charter v1

Trust Programs Committee (TPC)

Date: August 13, 2020

Purpose The purpose is to guide the delivery of webinars that support community members in response to climate change within the Trust Area.

Background: In the [2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#), Trust Council established an objective to improve community engagement and participation in Islands Trust work and committed to develop a Stewardship Education Program that would be directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area. TPC decided to focus this year's program on climate change. Given new public gathering restrictions imposed by COVID-19, Phase I of this program will be undertaken through a series of webinars in Fall 2020. In May 2020, TPC identified three priority topics for a webinar series, namely: water conservation (focus on rainwater harvesting); ecosystem-based adaptation; and, blue carbon & eelgrass protection (mitigation focus). The webinars will aim to enhance the capacity of individuals and communities in the Islands Trust Area to mitigate and adapt to climate change in tangible, practical, citizen/community-based ways. Local presenters from the islands will be sought out to encourage the sharing of expertise throughout the Trust Area.

Objectives

- To improve community engagement and participation
- To enhance the capacity of Trust Area community members to respond to climate change

In Scope

- Organize and provide interactive webinars about:
 1. Water conservation (Rainwater Harvesting)
 2. Blue carbon and eelgrass protection (mitigation focus)
 3. Ecosystem-based adaptation
- Educational hand out
- Communications plan

Out of Scope

- Providing more than three webinars during Fall 2020

Work plan Overview

Deliverable/Milestone	Date
Create and implement a communication plan to promote the webinars	August—November 2020
Organize and host water conservation webinar with a focus on rainwater harvesting	September 2020
Organize and host ecosystem-based adaptation webinar	October 2020
Organize and host blue carbon and eelgrass protection webinar with a focus on mitigation	November 2020

Project Team	
Clare Frater	Project Manager
Gillian Nicol	Project Coordinator
Vicki Swan, Dilani Hippola, Lisa Wilcox	Project Advisors

Approved by:

Clare Frater

Date: Aug 6, 2020

Endorsement:

TPC resolution #:

Date:

Budget		
Budget Source: Trust Programs Committee		
Fiscal	Item	Cost
2020/2021	Presenters Fees	\$4500.00
2020/2021	Communication Materials	\$1000.00
2020/2021	Marketing and Promotions	\$2000.00
	Total	\$7,500.00

BRIEFING

To: Trust Programs Committee **For the Meeting of:** August 13, 2020
From: Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** August 5, 2020
SUBJECT: Climate Change Indicators Project – Phase I Scoping Report

PURPOSE: To provide Trust Programs Committee with a final report on Phase I of the Strategic Plan Climate Change Indicators Project.

BACKGROUND: In its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, Trust Council identified a project to:

“Develop i) a set of climate change, demographic and environmental data and ii) performance criteria in order to identify the effects of climate change in the Trust Area and to measure mitigation and adaptation efforts.”

In March 2020, Trust Council approved a budget of \$5,000 for Phase I of this project. In June 2020, in accordance with the approved project charter, staff hired a third-party consultant ([Pinna Sustainability](#)) to conduct a Phase I Scoping Project based on the following contract deliverables:

The Third-Party Contractor will conduct research, including...

- Review of existing Community Energy & Emissions Inventory (CEEI) reports and other climate change data sets for the Islands Trust Area
- Consultations with Islands Trust staff/trustees and relevant First Nations organizations (list to be provided by staff)

...and provide a final report outlining the following:

- Identification of a set of appropriate indicators to measure the impacts of climate change in the Islands Trust Area
- Identification of appropriate performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the Islands Trust Area
- Assessment of feasibility of data collection

As per Islands Trust’s procurement policies, the contractors were not permitted to make budget estimates or provide a list of possible third-party contractors to carry out Phase II of the project (data collection).

Phase I Scoping Project Process

Pinna Sustainability undertook this Phase I Scoping Project from June – July 2020 with a view to informing Islands Trust’s budget planning processes for the 2021/22 fiscal year. The project team first conducted research to identify climate change indicators that are being used in other similar jurisdictions to measure impact and effectiveness. From this work, a long list of possible indicators was developed and sent to select staff/trustees for comment on applicability to the local context.

Based on this feedback, a shortlist that reflected local priorities was developed for each category. Relevant indicators suggested by staff were also included. The shortlist was then reviewed in a series of meetings with staff and trustees to further refine priority indicators for each category, and discuss in more detail the feasibility and level of effort of data collection required for each indicator. The results of these two iterations of review are provided in Pinna's final report (see Attachment 1).

Recommendations & Next Steps

Due to the short project timeframe of this Phase I Scoping Project, the project team was not able to solicit adequate input from First Nations in the Trust Area. However, representatives from K'ómoks First Nation and the First Nations Leadership Council have expressed interest in collaborating with Islands Trust staff over the coming months on this and other climate action projects. As engagement with First Nations deepens, it is recommended that Traditional Ecological Knowledge and indicators of importance to First Nations in the Trust Area be prioritized. As the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) has highlighted to Islands Trust in previous correspondence, *"Indigenous peoples have thousands of years of knowledge that comes from the intrinsic relationship we have with our territories and ecosystems. The inclusion of this knowledge is essential to the success of policies and measures directed towards mitigating and adapting to climate change"*.

Although it was out of the scope of this project to estimate a budget for data collection, there was general consensus among staff and trustees that there would be little value in Islands Trust investing large sums of money in broad-based data collection for the Trust Area as many relevant climate change indicators are more squarely under the purview of other levels of government. Rather, it was recommended that the purpose and scope of the Climate Change Indicators Project be refined and narrowed to focus on tangible, easily measurable indicators related directly to the mandate and climate action priorities of Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy. Where more broad-based climate change data sets are desired to inform the Trust's long-term decision-making and climate action planning, it was recommended that the Trust advocate to other levels of government (i.e. regional districts, provincial and federal governments) and collaborate with partner agencies to access those data sets.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Islands Trust Climate Indicators - Final Scoping Report by Pinna Sustainability (Aug 5, 2020)

FOLLOW-UP: Based on Pinna's final report and advice from Trust Programs Committee, staff will develop a draft business case and project charter for Phase II of the Climate Indicators Project.

Prepared By: Dilani Hippola, A/Senior Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date: Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor / Aug 7, 2020
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services / Aug 6, 2020

Islands Trust Climate Indicators

Scoping Exercise to Identify Climate Change Indicators for the Islands Trust Area

Final Report

August 5, 2020

Submitted to: Trust Programs Committee (TPC), Islands Trust
via Dilani Hippola, Sr. Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services

Submitted by: Gillian Aubie Vines
Principal, Pinna Sustainability Inc.



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Introduction

The Islands Trust is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, Halalt, Homalco, K'ómoks, Klahoose, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Lək ʷəŋən (SXIMEŁŁŁ, Songhees, T'Sou-ke), Lyackson, MÁLEXŁŁ, Penelakut, Qualicum, Scia'new, səilwətaʔt, SEMYOME, shishálh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Skwxwú7mesh, SÁÁUTW, Stz'uminus, Tla'amin, Tsawwassen, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, WJOŁŁŁP, WSIKŁŁM, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.

In March 2019, Islands Trust declared a climate emergency, stating:

We are committed to intensifying our efforts to better match the urgency of the climate change emergency identified by the world's leading scientists. We will seek to work with local communities, First Nations, partner agencies, and other levels of government to pursue an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in this very special region.¹

In support of this goal, the Trust is conducting a scoping exercise to identify appropriate indicators to measure climate change related parameters for the Islands Trust Area. This report offers a preliminary list of indicators that are well suited to enhance local understanding and support regional planning processes across the Trust Area. These preliminary indicators aim to measure:

1. How the climate is changing over time: measured climate parameters; ecosystem impacts, and community impacts.
2. The effectiveness of climate change mitigation efforts by Islands Trust.
3. The effectiveness of climate change adaptation efforts by Islands Trust.

Included in the Islands Trust climate emergency declaration was the importance of incorporating First Nations input within climate action planning, stating:

Trust Council directs staff to work with First Nations and First Nations government agencies to seek support for the climate change emergency and to engage to coordinate climate action strategies with First Nations within the Islands Trust Area.

The need to further engage with First Nations on the development of these indicators came up numerous times during staff and trustee interviews, and is included as a recommendation moving forward.

Type of Indicators

This report includes three types of indicators: climate parameters, process indicators, and outcome indicators.

Climate Parameters:

Climate change parameters are measured (historical) factors that define a current state of weather which, when averaged over extended timespans (approximately 30 years), offer insight into how the climate is changing. They are used to show the path and future trajectory of climate over time. Collecting annual data illustrates the projected variability season-over-season, and year-over-year, and provides a strong source of data to track changes over time. Climate parameter indicators are listed in Section 1: page 5.

¹ <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/347410/2019-09-it-climatechangeemergencydeclaredfinal.pdf>

Islands Trust Climate Indicators Project

Outcome indicators:

Outcome indicators measure the result of programs and policies. They are the result of both the “quantity” (“how many”) and quality (“how well”) of the activities implemented.² For climate change mitigation, this may include creating an inventory of GHG emissions of the community. For climate change adaptation, this involves measuring how prepared a community is for the changing climate. Outcome indicators are listed in Section 2 and 3: pages 8-10.

Process Indicators:

Process indicators measure whether planned activities took place.³ They are designed to provide feedback on whether a program is being applied as planned, what obstacles may exist, and what changes are needed. Process indicators can reveal whether or not a program is working towards the ultimate goal of climate change mitigation and adaptation. An example of a process indicator for climate change is: number of staff resources assigned to climate change file. Process indicators are listed in Section 4: page 11 and 12.

Project Process

The project team conducted research to identify climate change indicators that are used in other similar jurisdictions to measure impact and effectiveness. From this work, a long list of possible indicators was developed and sent to staff and trustees for comment on applicability to the local context. For each indicator, respondents were asked for comments on:

- Interest / usefulness of this indicator
- The current status of data collection
- The feasibility of data collection
- Level of effort required to collect data

Based on this feedback, a shortlist that reflected local priorities was developed for each category. Relevant indicators suggested by staff were also included. The shortlist was then reviewed in a series of meetings with staff and trustees to further refine priority indicators for each category, and discuss in more detail the feasibility and level of effort of data collection required for each indicator. The results of these two iterations of review are provided in this report.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/IslandsTrust/>

² <http://www.emro.who.int/child-health/research-and-evaluation/indicators/Type-of-indicators.html>

³ Ibid.

Section 1: Climate Change Impacts

Climate Parameters

For the indicators below, baseline data have been collated by the Islands Trust Conservancy's "Climate Projections for Islands Trust Area" report⁴. Star (*) denotes indicators which were not included within the report.

Indicator	General notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Summer temperature indicators: • Annual hottest day • 1.2 Days over 25°C • Days over 30°C • Growing Degree-Days • Growing Season Length	• Spatial graphs are helpful for communication tools to residents (before / after) • Actual data in different time stamps to show historical would be useful as a communication tool ○ Example, decadal historic data to show how things are changing
Winter temperature indicators: • Warmest Winter Day • Coldest Day • Frost Days • Ice Days	
Precipitation indicators: • Seasonal Precipitation • 1-in-20 wettest day precipitation • Maximum 1-Day Total Precipitation • Maximum 5-Day Total Precipitation • 95th and 99th percentile wettest days • Dry spells	
Average monthly temperature*	
Change in annual precipitation*	

⁴ http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/349473/itc_climateprojectionsreport_final.pdf

Islands Trust Climate Indicators Project

Total monthly precipitation*	
Speed of extreme wind gusts (max recorded speed)*	
Number of extreme weather events (e.g. wind, precipitation)*	
Average annual change in ocean surface temperature (Salish Sea)	
Shifts is in seasonal shifts precipitation, temperature and wind*	

Islands Trust Climate Indicators Project

Ecosystem Impacts

These indicators measure the impact that the changing climate is having on the natural environment.

Indicator	Notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Population of nearshore species such as eelgrass beds	- Collected for an IT Conservancy project (2014/2015) - Funding for eelgrass mapping project approved in Mar 2020 - Concern that mapping is being done piece meal – don't have data for the whole Trust Area; different methodologies are being used
Acidification of marine water	- Advocacy role – advocate to federal government for data - Other agencies collecting this information, not a need for IT to collect - Impacts eelgrass, marine food webs and aquatic species at risk
Bird counts	- Collected during Christmas bird count - Can be used as indicator species for ecosystem health
Number of days when fire risk is indicated	Collected by fire halls
Forest health	- Measure impacts of drought on forest - Collaborate with Ecological Research Network (ERN) led by Dr. Tara Martin / Raincoast Conservation
Foreshore ecosystem indicators - Shoreline type changes over time - Erosion and deposition studies - Forage fish spawning beaches	- Use of LIDAR and GIS mapping to map foreshore habitat - Foreshore habitat very important to First Nations
Terrestrial ecosystem indicators - Stream temperature - Water quality and quantity - Invasive species distribution - Disturbance ITC Mapping - Groundwater recharge levels - Forest cover (volumetric density of biomass)	- Groundwater recharge study underway by IT - Lake and stream monitoring underway by community groups - Disturbance ITC mapping from a 2014 project focused on logging and disturbance, not climate - Use of hyperspectral data (specifically for understory measurements)

Islands Trust Climate Indicators Project

Community Impacts

These indicators measure the impact that the changing climate is having on the people who live, work and play in the Island Trust region.

Indicator	Notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Weather-related disruption of electricity supply. Ideas to measure: - Number of service calls to BC Hydro - Number of service outage events	Can be collected from BC Hydro
Frequency of weather-related ferry cancellations	Can be collected from BC Ferries
Shifts in property value near shoreline	Negative shift in property values indicates shoreline hazard problem
Number of households affected by drought	IT groundwater recharge project will provide domestic groundwater indicators.
Frequency and timing of water service conservation levels	Collected by Regional Districts / local utilities
Number of businesses and households located in areas of flood/coastal erosion risk	
Impact to cultural sites or shoreline archaeological areas due to climate change	- letters from First Nations naming concerns over impact to cultural sites - Shoreline archeological impact could be measured using storm surge events
Percentage of forest area susceptible to die off due to climate change (Number of dead indicator species)	
Salinization of wells and/or salinization of septic fields	Part of IT groundwater recharge study

Section 2: Mitigation Outcome Indicators

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

These indicators measure the quantity of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that are emitted by human activity in the Islands Trust area.

Indicators	Notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Terrestrial GHG emissions (total / per capita)	• Subtract industrial GHG emission from pre-contact GHG emissions to eliminate the signature of fossil fuels and set GHG targets • Idea for a PhD project • See Appendix A: Building a Baseline for more details
Consumption-based GHG emissions (total / per capita)	• See Appendix A: Building a Baseline for more details
Percentage of local (<500km) vs imported (>500km) foods and beverages consumed	• Measure via surveys

These indicators measure the quantity of greenhouse gasses (GHGs) that are absorbed back into the ecosystem by plants in the Island Trust area.

Indicators	Notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Square kilometres of protected forest area	• Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) can determine how much carbon is being sequestered over time • See “Carbon sequestration and monitoring” section below for more details on how to measure
Blue carbon (size of eelgrass beds)	• Limited data available (Islands Trust Conservancy report, 2014)

Islands Trust Climate Indicators Project

Community Action Indicators

These indicators measure the actions taken by the Islands Trust to reduce GHG emission originating from the region.

Indicators	Notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Population served by public/community/shared transit including car stop programs	
Kilometers of multi-use trails for active transportation (walking, cycling etc.)	

Section 3: Adaptation Outcome Indicators

Adaptation Outcome Indicators

These indicators measure the level of preparedness that has been achieved through efforts to adapt to the changing climate.

Indicators	Notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Percent recharge of groundwater used	- Southern Gulf Islands Groundwater Sustainability Strategy – project measuring groundwater recharge by Islands Trust - If above 40% it is not sustainable
Kilometers of foreshore that is treated through soft shore protection	
Increased percentage of climate resistant trees planted	
Acreage in food production on each island	
Number of days each island could last on local food	Ben Kadel has done calculations (http://www.highgrove.farm/author/user30/)
Percentage of households at reduced fire risk due to construction of new or enhanced defenses (e.g. firesmart practices)	
Volume of stormwater runoff (L)	Being collected in groundwater study by IT
Bylaw complaints regarding stormwater runoff	This shows how the infrastructure is or is not working for residents

Section 4: Climate Action Process Indicators

These indicators are designed to measure the level of effort and effectiveness of climate change adaptation and mitigation by Islands Trust.

Indicators	Notes from staff / trustee interviews:
Number of policies and coordination mechanisms explicitly addressing climate adaptation, mitigation or sustainability	
Percentage of coastline under marine protection	
Policies in place to restrict disturbance in climate impact areas	
OCPs and LUB that incorporate climate adaptation and mitigation	
Risk and vulnerability assessments conducted on new developments (applications/projects that change in zoning, density, etc.)	
LTC bylaw implementation of directive policies related to climate change at a Trust level	
Climate lens developed for Trust Council decision making, as well as staff and local planning committees	
Climate change vulnerability maps of coastal zone developed; or, number of residents engaged in sea level rise strategy	• The Ministry of Environment's Climate Related Monitoring Program (CRMP) • CRDs Flooding & Storm surge map
Staff resources assigned to climate change	
Number of educational opportunities IT creates on climate adaptation and mitigation	• Can be measured with UN Webcrawler portal https://unep.ecoresearch.net/weblyzard/en/
Number of community engagement/educational sessions IT runs on climate change or sustainability	• Easy to track internally
Number of hits on the webpage related to climate change	

Section 5: Recommendations

Based on this initial scoping exercise and interviews with Islands Trust staff and trustees, the project team compiled the following recommendations for Trust Programs Committee to consider as it contemplates the next phase of this Climate Indicators Project:

- Engage further with First Nations to include into this work Traditional Ecological Knowledge and indicators of importance to First Nations in the Trust Area.
- Work with Trust Council to refine the purpose and scope of the Climate Change Indicators Project to focus on tangible, easily measurable indicators related directly to the mandate and project profile of Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy.
- Where desired climate change related data is not directly under the jurisdictional purview of Islands Trust, advocate to other levels of government (i.e. regional districts, provincial and federal governments) and collaborate with partner agencies to access reliable and relevant data sets specific to the Islands Trust Area.

Appendix A: Details on Measuring Climate Mitigation

Building a baseline

The ultimate indicator of climate mitigation effectiveness is a community's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Across the Islands Trust Area, activities undertaken by residents, businesses and organizations that result in GHG emissions include: heating and cooling buildings, heating hot water, transporting people and goods, and disposing of organic waste in landfills (such as food scraps, paper, wood).

In addition to these core sources of GHG emissions, other sources that occur in the community boundaries but are not directly addressed by community-scale climate action plans include: agriculture (including emissions from animals, fertilizer and pesticide application, and agricultural burning), non-road engines (including farm vehicles, other heavy-duty equipment used at commercial and industrial sites, and small equipment such as lawnmowers), rail and aircraft. These sources are important to understand and reduce, but they are primarily managed by provincial and federal governments and are generally outside the influence and authority of local governments.

Some of the aforementioned sources of GHG emissions are measured and reported through the Provincial government's Community Energy & Emissions Inventory (CEEI), however not all are a good source for the Islands Trust Area, which is specified where relevant in the utility, waste, and transportation sections below.

The following outline the current sources of GHG emissions within the Island's Trust community that are inside the influence of local government, along with outlining existing data availability and gaps with options for how they might be measured.

Territorial vs. consumption approach:

- A "territorial"⁵ emission inventory focuses on quantifying emissions from activities taking place within the borders of the municipality, including: energy used in buildings in the community (electricity, natural gas, heating oil, etc.), energy used in transportation based on vehicles registered in the community, and tonnage of solid waste generated in the community.
- A "consumption-based" emission inventory takes an alternative approach by focusing on the consumption of goods and services by residents in a community, allocating GHG emissions to the consumer rather than the producer of goods and services. For reference, the District of Saanich prepared both types of inventories and provided the following side-by-side comparison, where the consumption-based emissions are approximately double the amount of territorial emissions.
 - Consumption based inventory requires tracking more types of data to capture the lifecycle emissions of goods and services.
 - The District of Saanich used the ecocity Footprint Tool to measure their emissions.

⁵ Note from Islands Trust Staff: Although "territorial" is a commonly used term in GHG emissions measurement, it is problematic since it is a term used by First Nations to define their location in place. As this could be seen as an appropriation of terminology, staff suggest amending this term in any future reporting on climate indicators for the Islands Trust Area.

Islands Trust Climate Indicators Project

Utility emissions:

- Can track home and business energy usage through the CEEI - Utility data is published and reliable.
 - Can rely on CEEI for electricity, wood, oil, and propane as relevant.
- Some heating and cooling of buildings by electric generators will not be tracked by the CEEI and may need a similar method to the transportation data determined below: use of a local survey or fuel sale data.

Waste emissions:

- CEEI can provide accurately.

Transportation emissions:

Transportation is a large cause of GHG emissions: this includes not only commuting by motor vehicle, but also by boat.

- Can conduct a local, in house survey to determine transportation distances and vehicle types.
 - Can use electric vehicle ownership from the ICBC data to see how many per capita have electrified.
 - Challenge: Islanders will register vehicles to island and drive them on the mainland for lower insurance costs. ICBC registered vehicles may not be an accurate measure for vehicle ownership and use in the Islands Trust Area.
 - CRD does one trip diary each year and it extends to Salt Spring Island. Can use as a proxy for the other islands, or use similar approach for other islands.
 - Access BC Ferries emissions data for transport to and from the islands, along with survey of how often islanders are traveling by ferry.
 - Include in survey boat ownership and distance.
- If fuel providing companies within the Islands Trust Area will allow, can use fuel sale data to determine motor vehicle fuel consumption on islands.

Carbon Sequestration Indicators

Carbon sequestration is the process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, including through natural processes such as plant growth. As Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy work to protect natural areas throughout the Islands Trust Area, measuring how much carbon is sequestered through protected forests (green carbon) and eelgrass/ocean plant growth (blue carbon) could be used as indicators of climate change mitigation efforts. This can be achieved through a mapping exercise (as Metro Vancouver has done) that quantifies carbon sequestration of the Islands Trust Area. The CRD is hiring an intern this year with a Pacific Institute of Climate Change grant to initiate a regional carbon sequestration study. There is a possibility for Islands Trust to do something similar or collaborate with the CRD on this initiative.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Trust Programs Committee **For the Meeting of:** August 13, 2020
From: Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** August 6, 2020
SUBJECT: Trust Programs Committee Budget and Work Program for FY2021/22

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Executive Committee recommend to Financial Planning Committee include \$10,000 in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 for the Policy Statement Amendment Project (Strategic Plan items 10, 16, 22,23).
2. That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Financial Planning Committee include in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget \$25,000 for Strategic Plan Item No. 12 - Develop i) a set of climate change, demographic and environmental data and ii) performance criteria in order to identify the effects of climate change in the Trust Area and to measure mitigation and adaption efforts.
3. That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Financial Planning Committee include in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget \$15,000 for Strategic Plan Item No. 21 - Develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area.
4. That the Trust Programs Committee request staff to prepare business cases for undertaking 2018-2022 Strategic Plan items related to the Policy Statement Amendment Project, Climate Change Indicators and Stewardship Education Program to refine the scope and budgets.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS: The recommended items support the 2018-2022 Islands Trust Strategic Plan. The work involves support from Trust Area Services staff assigned to the Trust Programs Committee, and consultants as required.

1 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to recommend budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2021/22 to further the Trust Council 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

2 BACKGROUND:

At the December 2019 meeting, Trust Council adopted the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan has the following items that would be undertaken by the Local Planning Committee from now until the end of the term:

Policy Statement Amendment:

- Strategic Plan Item 10: “Amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement to add climate change mitigation, adaptation and resiliency policies.”
- Strategic Plan Item 16: “Implement the following high priority actions outlined in the Affordable Housing in the Trust Area: Strategic Actions for Islands Trust previously referred by Trust Council.
 - i. Review the Islands Trust Policy statement and give consideration to: a) giving affordable housing a greater profile for its role in sustainable communities b) including a reference to affordable housing in its policy direction to LTCs and municipalities.
 - ii. Review the Islands Trust Policy statement to ensure that it: a) includes clear and well-thought out definition of ‘affordability’ b) includes clearly articulated vision, goal and objectives for affordable housing c) gives affordable housing a greater profile for its role in sustainable communities d) includes a reference to affordable housing in its policy direction to LTCs and municipalities.
- Strategic Plan Item 22: Amend the Policy Statement introductory and definitions sections.
- Strategic Plan Item 23: Determine if additional changes to the Policy Statement are desired by Trust Council.

The multi-year Policy Statement Amendment Project is expected to continue into 2021/22. In 2020/21, Trust Council approved spending of \$45,000 for this work. As of July 31, 2020, staff have spent approximately \$5,000 and expect to spend a further \$30,000 by the end of the fiscal year on First Nations and public engagement, and on legal review. This would leave \$10,000 in unspent monies that would contribute to the accumulated surplus fund at the end of the fiscal year, in accordance with accounting practices.

To complete the project in 2021/22, staff recommend that Trust Council include \$10,000 in the 2021/22 budget for this work. This budget amount could be funded from surplus funds to avoid any new taxation for this project. This funding amount is consistent with the total project budget approved in the project charter and would be used for statutory advertising and legal review if required.

Climate Change

- Strategic Plan Item 10: Develop i) a set of climate change, demographic and environmental data and ii) performance criteria in order to identify the effects of climate change in the Trust Area and to measure mitigation and adaption efforts.

Trust Programs Committee has received a report from Pinna Sustainability outlining potential climate change indicators. In the briefing about the report staff noted: *Although it was out of the scope of this project to estimate a budget for data collection, there was general consensus among staff and trustees that there would be little value in Islands Trust investing large sums of money in broad-based data collection for the Trust Area as many relevant climate change indicators are more squarely under the purview of other levels of government. Rather, it was recommended that the purpose and scope of the Climate Change Indicators Project be refined and narrowed to focus on tangible, easily measurable indicators related directly to the mandate and climate action priorities of Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy. Where more broad-based climate change data sets are desired to inform the Trust’s long-term decision-making and climate action planning, it was recommended that the Trust advocate to other levels of government (i.e. regional districts, provincial and federal governments) and collaborate with partner agencies to access those data sets.* Further, staff has received correspondence from My Sea to Sky Society indicating that they plan to apply for a multi-million dollar grant to develop a public-friendly Climate Action Report Card tool that will build capacity for municipalities/regional districts to track and report greenhouse gas emissions every year. They have invited Islands Trust to participate as a pilot.

The \$25,000 amount in the resolution is the amount earmarked in the Gross Budget and Implementation pages of the Trust Council 2018-2022 [Strategic Plan](#).

Improve community engagement and participation in Islands Trust work

Strategic Plan Item 21: Develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area.

The \$15,000 amount in the resolution is the amount earmarked in the Gross Budget and Implementation pages of the Trust Council 2018-2022 [Strategic Plan](#).

3 IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

ORGANIZATIONAL: Staff assigned to the Trust Programs Committee will undertake work with staff/consultants support work per the business cases.

FINANCIAL: The FY2021/22 budget would need to include the required funds to support the projects.

POLICY: No implications of the recommendations on policy, except that not continuing to fund the continuation of the Policy Statement amendment process would prevent completion of the project.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: The Trust Programs Committee resolutions will be forwarded to the Executive Committee and Financial Planning Committee.

FIRST NATIONS: No implications of the recommendation on First Nations.

OTHER: No other implications.

4 RELEVANT POLICY(S): Budget Process Policy (6.3.1)

5 ATTACHMENT(S):

None.

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommendation:

1. That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Executive Committee recommend to Financial Planning Committee include \$10,000 in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 for the Policy Statement Amendment Project (Strategic Plan items 10, 16, 22,23).
2. That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Financial Planning Committee include in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget \$25,000 for Strategic Plan Item No. 12 - Develop i) a set of climate change, demographic and environmental data and ii) performance criteria in order to identify the effects of climate change in the Trust Area and to measure mitigation and adaption efforts.

3. That the Trust Programs Committee request that the Financial Planning Committee include in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget \$15,000 for Strategic Plan Item No. 21 - Develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area.
4. That the Trust Programs Committee request staff to prepare business cases for undertaking 2018-2022 Strategic Plan items related to the Policy Statement Amendment Project, Climate Change Indicators and Stewardship Education Program to refine the scope and budgets.

Alternative: As directed by the Trust Programs Committee

Prepared By: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date:

From: Tracey Saxby <tracey@myseatosky.org>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Clare Frater <cfrater@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Tracking and measuring GHG emissions annually

Dear Clare,

Earlier this year, you helped to clarify what Islands Trust is doing with regards to climate action for an article I wrote for the next OceanWatch report. This article will be published in August [Hi Land](#) I'd like to update you on some amazing outcomes from this article.

I am currently partnering with Climate Caucus, BCIT (Jennie Moore at EcoCity Footprint Tool), UBC (Stephen Shepard – CoolKit), and UVic (David Bristow), with support from BC Climate Action Secretariat, to begin developing a public-friendly Climate Action Report Card tool that will build capacity for municipalities/regional districts to track and report greenhouse gas emissions every year. As you know, this is critical to support evidence-based decision making, and evaluate whether specific climate action policies and public engagement campaigns are effective or not.

In the next six months, we are putting together multi-million dollar grant applications (FCM, PICS, ECCC, etc.), and we are looking for regional districts that are willing to be pilots for this project. I would love for Islands Trust to be one of these pilots.

The potential benefits include:

- Funding for CEEI (buildings, transportation, waste) GHG emission inventories for at least three years, working with BCIT.
- Funding for CBEI (add in food, goods + services, flights, water, etc.) GHG emission inventories for at least three years, working with BCIT.
- Funding to cover staff time to help track down any data that may be required for CBEI.
- Funding for staff time to test and provide feedback as we develop the tool.
- The ability to measure whether policies/public engagement is reducing emissions.
- Support to achieve Islands Trust's climate targets.

Background:

Here's a 20-minute presentation on the Climate Action Report Card tool and what Climate Caucus is lobbying for. I was invited to present our asks at this webinar "[Making Sure Canada Never Misses Another Climate Target](#)" that was hosted by CANRac. It's worthwhile watching in its entirety to understand the Federal/Provincial frameworks for climate accountability that are being proposed if you're interested in that. If not, I speak to the municipal framework we're proposing (through Climate Caucus) starting at 46 minutes or so. The slide deck is available [here](#).

Please do let me know when you are available for a meeting via zoom. I'd appreciate an opportunity to chat with you before I bring this before the directors.

Best,
Tracey

Tracey Saxby

Executive Director

My Sea to Sky

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Web: <http://myseatosky.org>

We respectfully acknowledge that we work in the traditional, unceded territories and ancestral lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



Top Priorities Report

Trust Programs Committee

1. Policy Statement Amendment Project

Implement Policy Statement engagement plan and project charter (in support of Strategic Plan strategies #10,16,22,23)

Responsible

Clare Frater
Dilani Hippola

Dates

Rec'd: 21-Jun-2017
Target: 14-Sep-2022

2. Secretariat Role to Forums within the Trust Area

Provide a report to Trust Council with information about the implications of the Islands Trust taking on a secretariat role.

Responsible

Clare Frater
Gillian Nicol

Dates

Rec'd: 20-Jun-2018
Target: 13-Aug-2020

3. Climate Change Data and Performance Indicators

Let a contract to scope out future project: Develop i) a set of climate change, demographic and environmental data and ii) performance criteria in order to identify the effects of climate change in the Trust Area and to measure mitigation and adaptation efforts. (Strategic Plan strategy #12)

Responsible

Clare Frater
Dilani Hippola

Dates

Rec'd: 10-Feb-2020
Target: 13-Aug-2020

Projects Report

Trust Programs Committee

1. *Stewardship Education Program*

Responsible

Date Received

Develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area. (Strategic Plan strategy #15).

04-Dec-2019

2. *Update Crown Land Agreements*

Responsible

Date Received

Engage Bowen Island Municipality and the Province of B.C. in updating and consolidating existing agreements into one.

19-Jun-2014