



Islands Trust Council

Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Electronic Meeting, and a physical location to view the livestream of the meeting:
Islands Trust Victoria Office
#200 - 1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES	
3.1 <u>Draft Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2024</u>	3 - 6
For review and adoption.	
3.2 <u>Draft Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2024</u>	7 - 11
For review and adoption.	
4. FOLLOW UP ACTION LIST AND UPDATES	
4.1 <u>Committee of the Whole Follow Up Action List</u>	12 - 13
5. TRUST AREA SERVICES	
5.1 <u>Policy Statement Amendment Project - Directive Polices - Briefing</u>	14 - 17
For discussion.	
5.2 <u>Draft Trust Policy Statement</u>	18 - 40
For discussion and recommendations for amendments.	
6. CLOSED MEETING (If needed)	
7. RISE AND REPORT	
8. NEW BUSINESS	
9. NEXT MEETING	

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled to be held electronically on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT



Trust Council Committee of the Whole

Minutes of Regular Meeting

- Date:** September 25, 2024
- Location:** Vancouver Island Conference Centre – Dodd Narrows Rooms A/B
101 Gordon Street, Nanaimo BC
- Executive Members Present:**
1. Peter Luckham, Trust Council Chair, Thetis Trustee
 2. Tobi Elliott, Vice-Chair, Gabriola Trustee
 3. David Maude, Vice-Chair, Mayne Trustee
 4. Timothy Peterson, Vice-Chair, Lasqueti Trustee
- Members Present:**
5. Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen Municipal Trustee (electronic attendance)
 6. Judith Gedye, Bowen Municipal Trustee
 7. Sam Borthwick, Denman Trustee (electronic attendance)
 8. David Graham, Denman Trustee
 9. Susan Yates, Gabriola Trustee
 10. Lisa Gauvreau, Galiano Trustee
 11. Ben Maberley, Galiano Trustee
 12. Joe Bernardo, Gambier Trustee
 13. Alex Allen, Hornby Trustee
 14. Grant Scott, Hornby Trustee
 15. Mikaila Lironi, Lasqueti Trustee (electronic attendance)
 16. Jeanine Dodds, Mayne Trustee (electronic attendance)
 17. Aaron Campbell, North Pender Trustee (electronic attendance)
 18. Jamie Harris, Salt Spring Trustee (electronic attendance)
 19. Laura Patrick, Salt Spring Trustee
 20. Mairead Boland, Saturna Trustee
 21. Lee Middleton, Saturna Trustee
 22. Kristina Evans, South Pender Trustee
 23. Dag Falck, South Pender Trustee (electronic attendance)
 24. Ken Hunter, Thetis Trustee
- Members Regrets:**
25. Kate-Louise Stamford, Gambier Trustee
 26. Deb Morrison, North Pender Trustee
- Staff Present:**
- Julia Mobbs, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
David Marlor, Director, Legislative and Information Services
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
Stefan Cermak, Director, Planning Services
Jason Youmans, Senior Policy Advisor
Jeffery Lloyd, Senior Technical Analyst
Daphne Shaed, Computer Application Support Technician
Lori Foster, Executive Administrative Assistant
Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder
- Members of the public present:** There were two members of the public in attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vice-Chair Elliott will act as Chair of the Committee of the Whole meeting. Acting Chair Elliott called the meeting to order at 11:37 p.m. She acknowledged that the meeting was held on the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following additions to the agenda were presented for consideration:

8.1 Future Committee of the Whole Meeting Chairpersons

By general consent the agenda was approved as amended.

3. TRUST AREA SERVICES

3.1 Updated Draft Policy Statement Potential Additional Revisions - Discussion

Acting Chair Elliott indicated that discussion would focus on Objective 3.

The meeting recessed for a break at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued with focus on objectives listed within the document and the following comments were noted:

- Guiding Principles are statements of values and beliefs and guide decision making but are not directive policies;
- Objectives should be accomplished together in parallel and not necessarily prioritized;
- Object is an order from the Province to protect and advance three principles;
- Trust Council has previously determined that every decision must include a reasoned recognition of all the elements specified in the mandate, and while one element may gain priority, reasons for that decision must be clear and have considered the other elements; and
- Document is intended to be read as a whole and individual items are to be measured in context equally with others.

TC-COW-2024-011

It was MOVED by Trustee Patrick, and SECONDED by Trustee Evans, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the first sentence in each objective description box be removed (for example “This objective advances principle 2.1.2”) because it is not necessary to link each objective to only one “Guiding Principles and Priorities”

CARRIED

Trustee Campbell left the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Trustee Borthwick left the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

TC-COW-2024-012

It was MOVED by Trustee EVANS, and SECONDED by Trustee Boland, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Part 3 title be changed to read Objectives, Directive and Advisory Policies

CARRIED

Trustee Campbell returned to the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Trustee Borthwick returned to the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

TC-COW-2024-013

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Hunter, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the word “prioritize” be replaced with the words “and advance” from sections 3.3.2 to 3.3.7 in Objective 3.

DEFEATED

Discussion continued on Section 3.3.1 and Director of Legislative and Information Services Marlor clarified that there is relevant criteria when staff screen proposed bylaws against the Policy Statement, if the Policy Statement is engaged, and how it can be addressed through implementation policy.

It was noted that in Section 3.3.3 Western redcedar is not included on the species list and discussion was undertaken regarding the broadness of term “associated ecosystems”.

TC-COW-2014-014

It was MOVED by Trustee Gedye, and seconded by Trustee Luckham, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that staff be directed to seek a qualified biologist to review draft policy 3.3.3 to assess if the phrase “and associated ecosystems” is required.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2014-015

It was MOVED by Trustee Elliott, and SECONDED by Trustee Allen, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that staff add Western redcedar after Coastal Douglas-fir in Draft Policy Statement Section 3.3.3.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2014-016

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Boland, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that staff replace the word “maintain” the with word “sustain” in Draft Policy Statement Section 3.3.1.

CARRIED

Trustee Maberley left the meeting at 2:50 p.m. and returned at 2:56 p.m.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Draft Trust Council Committee of the Whole Special Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2024 – for adoption.

By general consent the Trust Council Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of August 22, 2024 were adopted.

5. FOLLOW UP ACTION LIST AND UPDATES

Received for information.

6. CLOSED MEETING - None

7. RISE AND REPORT - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Future Committee of the Whole Meeting Chairpersons

Acting Chair Elliott indicated that if Executive Committee did not receive new expressions of interest to chair future Committee of the Whole meetings by October 3, 2024 then the previously determined rotation will remain in effect with Trustee Peterson chairing the October 3, 2024 meeting. She further indicated that if Executive Committee received expressions of interest then a new rotation would be determined with an effective date of November 6, 2024.

9. NEXT MEETINGS

Scheduled to be held electronically:

- Thursday, October 3 (2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday, November 6 (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, December 12 (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

10. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Tobi Elliott, Acting Chair

Certified Correct

Lisa Millard Meeting Administrator/Recorder



Trust Council Committee of the Whole Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: October 3, 2024
Location: Electronic Meeting

Executive Members Present:

1. Peter Luckham, Trust Council Chair, Thetis Trustee
2. Tobi Elliott, Vice-Chair, Gabriola Trustee
3. David Maude, Vice-Chair, Mayne Trustee
4. Timothy Peterson, Vice-Chair, Lasqueti Trustee

Members Present:

5. Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen Municipal Trustee
6. Judith Gedye, Bowen Municipal Trustee
7. David Graham, Denman Trustee
8. Susan Yates, Gabriola Trustee
9. Joe Bernardo, Gambier Trustee
10. Jeanine Dodds, Mayne Trustee
11. Laura Patrick, Salt Spring Trustee
12. Mairead Boland, Saturna Trustee
13. Kristina Evans, South Pender Trustee
14. Dag Falck, South Pender Trustee
15. Ken Hunter, Thetis Trustee

Members Regrets:

16. Sam Borthwick, Denman Trustee
17. Lisa Gauvreau, Galiano Trustee
18. Ben Mabblerley, Galiano Trustee
19. Kate-Louise Stamford, Gambier Trustee
20. Alex Allen, Hornby Trustee
21. Grant Scott, Hornby Trustee
22. Mikaila Lironi, Lasqueti Trustee
23. Aaron Campbell, North Pender Trustee
24. Deb Morrison, North Pender Trustee
25. Jamie Harris, Salt Spring Trustee
26. Lee Middleton, Saturna Trustee

Staff Present:

Julia Mobbs, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
David Marlor, Director, Legislative and Information Services
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
Renee Jamurat, Acting Director, Planning Services
Jason Youmans, Senior Policy Analyst
Lori Foster, Executive Administrative Assistant
Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder

Members of the Public: There were no members of the public present.

1. CALL TO ORDER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acting Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He acknowledged that the meeting was held on the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations, spoke to the history of residential schools in Canada, and acknowledged Truth and Reconciliation Day.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent the agenda was approved as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Draft Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2024

The draft minutes were provided for reference only.

4. FOLLOW UP ACTION LIST AND UPDATES

4.1 Committee of the Whole Follow Up Action List

Not provided at this time.

5. TRUST AREA SERVICES

5.1 Draft Trust Policy Statement

Trustee Hunter joined the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Discussion ensued about Objective 3 and Committee of the Whole members made the following comments:

- Clarity is required on use of the term “prioritize”;
- Concern was expressed about the inclusion of directive policies that appear to require local trust committees to achieve objectives that are beyond ability of their limited authorities and resources; and
- Trust Policy Statement defines policy priorities and any topic included in a directive policy can be interpreted to be a Trust Council priority.

TC-COW-2024-017

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Boland, that Committee of the Whole request Executive Committee to request staff to create a definition of the word “prioritize” as used in the draft Policy Statement.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued on Item 3.4.1 and the following points and were noted:

- It is difficult to reduce dependency on private automobile use on an island;
- Concern was expressed about regulatory overreach such as whether LTCs can arbitrarily dictate where a home gets sited on a property;
- The term “compact” requires clarification and the word “clustered” is preferred;
- Consideration of directing higher-density, multi-family housing into areas already settled, while also considering site capabilities, could be undertaken; and
- Local trust committees and island municipalities, through land use bylaws, can consider creating clustered development to reduce dependency on automobile use, reduce sprawl, and consider increased density in areas closer to amenities.

Staff provided the following information:

- Intent of Policy Statement is to capture policies that help to achieve the objectives set out in the document;
- Further clarity will be provided through the Policy Statement implementation strategy which will identify how policies are executed;
- Trust Council would have final say on how the Policy Statement is interpreted; and
- Indigenous communities and governments have indicated everything that the Islands Trust governing body does should be considered through the lens of Indigenous views and sustainable development, therefore density impacts should be viewed through that lens.

Trustee Hunter left the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

TC-COW-2024-018

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Bernardo, that Committee of the Whole recommend to Trust Council that the first sentence in directive policy 3.4.1 of the draft Policy Statement replace the word “compact” with the word “clustered” and that the second bullet be struck out and third bullet be moved to 3.4.3.

DEFEATED

TC-COW-2024-019

It was MOVED by Trustee Gedye, and SECONDED by Trustee Elliott, to divide the above motion at “and third bullet be moved to 3.4.3.”

CARRIED

TC-COW-2024-020

It was MOVED by Trustee Elliott, and SECONDED by Trustee Evans, that Committee of the Whole recommend to Executive Committee Policy 3.4.1 be amended to read: “Consider site capabilities, environmental and protected areas, and existing development patterns when determining the land use designation and appropriate locations and intensities of various uses of the land”.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2024-021

It was MOVED by Trustee Elliott, and SECONDED by Trustee Yates, that Committee of the Whole recommend to Executive Committee that Policy 3.4.2 Density Limits - Establish appropriate density limits for efficient and sustainable use of the land base that help to safeguard protected area networks, and is compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment be amended to read: “Manage community growth and its associated impacts by directing high density residential and mixed use development into appropriate locations, to prevent sprawl and relieve growth pressure in the surrounding rural areas, and to help safeguard protected area networks.”

TC-COW-2024-022

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Elliott, to amend the motion by adding the word “sustainable” after the word “manage”, and changing the words “high density” to “appropriate density limits for”.

DEFEATED

TC-COW-2024-023

It was MOVED by Trustee Luckham, and SECONDED by Trustee Evans, that the motion be amended to remove the words “high density”.

CARRIED

The question on the following motion, as amended, was then called:

that Committee of the Whole recommends to Executive Committee that Policy 3.4.2 Density Limits - Establish appropriate density limits for efficient and sustainable use of the land base that help to safeguard protected area networks, and is compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment be amended to read: “Manage community growth and its associated impacts by directing residential and mixed use development into appropriate locations, to prevent sprawl and relieve growth pressure in the surrounding rural areas, and to help safeguard protected area networks.”

CARRIED

The meeting recessed for a break at 4:29 p.m. and reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

Proposed new policy regarding the protection of Indigenous cultural heritage, harvesting, and hunting areas was put forward. Discussion ensued with the following points noted:

- Staff indicated former policy was about appropriate siting of development;
- Use of the word “situated” within context of the policy narrows scope of the directive to location of development;
- Use of the term “eliminate impacts” might leave bylaws open to challenge due to language associated with absolute commitment; therefore, impact should be defined as minimal or negligible; and
- Combining this policy with Policy 3.4.3 - Impacts of Development could be considered.

TC-COW-2024-024

It was MOVED by Trustee Elliott, and SECONDED by Trustee Bernardo, that Committee of the Whole recommends that Executive Committee direct staff to add a new directive policy “Ensure that the negative impacts of development on Indigenous cultural heritage, harvesting and hunting areas is minimal.”

Trustee Dodds left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Evans left the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

It was noted that Committee of the Whole no longer had quorum.

Acting Chair Peterson noted discussion on the above motion will continue at a future meeting.

6. **CLOSED MEETING - None**

7. **RISE AND REPORT - None**

8. **NEW BUSINESS - None**

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled to be held electronically on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Timothy Peterson, Acting Chair

Certified Correct:

Lisa Millard Meeting Administrator/Recorder

Minutes are not official until adopted at a subsequent meeting.

Follow Up Action Report

Committee Of The Whole

Director, Trust Area Services

Progress	Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
0%	1 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Trust Council that the first sentence in each objective description box be removed (for example "This objective advances principle 2.1.2") because it is not necessary to link each objective to only one "Guiding Principles and Priorities".	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 25-Sep-2024 Target: 25-Oct-2024	In Progress
0%	2 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Trust Council that Part 3 title be changed to read Objectives, Directive and Advisory Policies.	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 25-Sep-2024 Target: 25-Oct-2024	In Progress
0%	3 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Trust Council that staff be directed to seek a qualified biologist to review draft policy 3.3.3 to assess if the phrase "and associated ecosystems" is required.	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 25-Sep-2024 Target: 15-Nov-2024	In Progress
0%	4 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Trust Council that staff add Western redcedar after Coastal Douglas-fir in Draft Policy Statement Section 3.3.3.	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 25-Sep-2024 Target: 25-Oct-2024	In Progress
0%	5 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Trust Council that staff replace the word "maintain" the with word "sustain" in Draft Policy Statement Section 3.3.1.	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 25-Sep-2024 Target: 25-Oct-2024	In Progress
0%	6 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Executive Committee to request staff create a definition of the word "prioritize" as used in the draft Policy Statement.	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 03-Oct-2024 Target: 25-Oct-2024	In Progress

Follow Up Action Report

Committee Of The Whole

Director, Trust Area Services

Progress	Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
0%	7 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Executive Committee that Policy 3.4.1 be amended to read: "Consider site capabilities, environmental and protected areas, and existing development patterns when determining the land use designation and appropriate locations and intensities of various uses of the land".	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 03-Oct-2024 Target: 25-Oct-2024	In Progress
0%	8 Staff to forward COTW's recommendation to Executive Committee that Policy 3.4.2 Density Limits - Establish appropriate density limits for efficient and sustainable use of the land base that help to safeguard protected area networks, and is compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment be amended to read: "Manage community growth and its associated impacts by directing residential and mixed use development into appropriate locations, to prevent sprawl and relieve growth pressure in the surrounding rural areas, and to help safeguard protected area networks."	Clare Frater Jason Youmans	Meeting: 03-Oct-2024 Target: 25-Oct-2024	In Progress



BRIEFING

To: Committee of the Whole **For the Meeting of:** November 6, 2024
From: Trust Area Services **Date Prepared:** October 23, 2024
SUBJECT: Policy Statement Amendment Project – Directive Policies

PURPOSE:

To provide Islands Trust Committee of the Whole (COtW) with information to inform a discussion about the degree to which the Policy Statement must/should be directive to local trust committees (LTCs) and Bowen Island Municipality.

BACKGROUND:

The Acting COtW chair has expressed interest in allocating a portion of the October 2024 COtW meeting to engage trustees in a discussion about the extent to which the Policy Statement should contain directive policies for LTCs and island municipalities. The Acting Chair has indicated that he expects an hour on the topic might be sufficient to address the underlying tension that staff identified verbally at the September 2024 COtW meeting regarding different views of trustees about how directive the policies should be.

This approach would be a departure from the general agreement reached by Committee of the Whole in August 2024 to move through the document sequentially, but may result in more productive conversations into the future.

Ultimately, decisions about whether the Policy Statement should be directive or suggestive rest with Trust Council and the extent to which that Trust Council wants the planning priorities of individual local trust areas to be guided by the greater federation.

Should Trust Council wish to engage in direct discussion about how directive the overall Policy Statement should be, Staff provide the following information as context for that discussion:

Islands Trust Act

The [Islands Trust Act](#) does not specify whether, or to what extent, the Policy Statement should be directive. It states only that the Islands Trust must adopt a policy statement as follows:

Trust policy statement

- 15** (1) The trust council must, by bylaw, adopt a trust policy statement that applies to the trust area.
- (2) The trust policy statement
- (a) must be a general statement of the policies of the trust council to carry out the object of the trust,
 - (b) may establish different policies for different parts of the trust area, and
 - (c) has no effect for the purposes of subsection (4) unless it is approved by the minister.
- (3) Between first and second readings of a bylaw under subsection (1), the trust council must refer the proposed trust policy statement to the board of each regional district, all or part of which is in the trust area, for review and comment by the board.
- (4) A bylaw
- (a) submitted to the executive committee under section 27 (1) or 38 (1), or
 - (b) referred to the trust council under section 27 (3) or 38 (3)
- must not be approved by the executive committee or the trust council, as the case may be, if it is contrary to or at variance with the trust policy statement.

Legal Opinion (2000)

In the year 2000, Islands Trust commissioned an assessment from legal counsel on a number of issues related to the Islands Trust Policy Statement, including directive policies. A portion of this opinion was released by Executive Committee in 2010 and is attached for COTW's consideration.

In part, this legal opinion says, "The Islands Trust Act certainly supports a requirement that local trust committees not only address certain subjects in their plans and bylaws, but that they address those matters in a specific way or to a specific effect. Inherent in the choice of wording for policies of this nature, is a choice as to how much leeway the Trust Council wishes to leave to local trust committees in implementing the Islands Trust Policy Statement and, indirectly, the object of the Islands Trust."

In other words, Trust Council may include directive policies in its Policy Statement that local trust committees must meet.

Policy Statement Assessment Task Force Report (2011)

In 2010, Islands Trust Council established a six-member Policy Statement Assessment Task Force to conduct an assessment of the Policy Statement and make recommendations regarding further actions. Among the topics covered in this assessment were directive policies. The Task Force recommended that Trust Council consider inclusion of a rationale for any directive policies, either in the body of the Policy Statement or as an appendix, and remove the use of the word "address" from the Policy Statement in cases where Trust Council wants the policy to be more directive.

Local Government Act (Part 14)

It is not unusual for a higher level of government to impose requirements on a lower, such as the Provincial government requiring that local government OCPs includes greenhouse gas reductions targets as follows:

- (3) An official community plan must include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan, and policies and actions of the local government proposed with respect to achieving those targets.

A further example of this would be the province's recent Bill 44 which requires many local governments to amend their land use bylaws to authorize small-scale multi-unit housing in most residential zones.

Actions of this sort are a way to ensure that the policy priorities of the senior government are implemented at the local level.

Summary

Generally speaking, the more directive a policy is, the easier it will be for staff and Executive Committee to assess whether or not it has been satisfied in a proposed bylaw. It is also the mechanism by which Trust Council can ensure that matters of significance are addressed in local bylaws in the manner that Trust Council wants them to be.

On the flipside, less directive and more suggestive policies allow LTCs/island municipalities greater flexibility in development of their bylaws and provide Executive Committee/Trust Council with greater latitude in determination of whether a proposed bylaw is consistent with the Policy Statement.

It is also important to remember that the decision about whether an LTC bylaw is consistent with the Policy Statement is ultimately a political decision of Executive Committee, or indeed Trust Council, if it goes to appeal.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1) Legal Opinion (excerpt), 2000, Policy Statement directive policies

FOLLOW-UP: None

Prepared By: Senior Policy Advisor

Reviewed By/Date: Director, Trust Area Services/October 24, 2024
ICAO/October 25, 2024
Executive Committee/October 30, 2024

**Excerpt from November 23, 2000 legal opinion for the Islands Trust
Re: Policy Statement Directive Policies
from Bill Buholzer (formerly Lidstone, Young, Anderson)**

(3 paragraphs released to public by Executive Committee (Oct 19, 2010))

Directive Policies

The thrust of the changes that are proposed to the "directive policies" is to change requirements that local trust committees and island municipalities "address" certain matters in their plans and regulatory bylaws, to a requirement that they include those matters in their regulatory bylaws. Presumably the intent here is to provide more definite policy direction to the local trust committees.

In principle, we see no reason that the more mandatory language cannot be adopted in the Islands Trust Policy Statement. Indeed, it could be argued that the proposed language of the directive policies is more consistent with the Islands Trust Act than the current, more neutral language. The scheme of the Islands Trust Act is that the Islands Trust Policy Statement forms a substantive policy context for local bylaws. The Islands Trust Act certainly supports a requirement that local trust committees not only address certain subjects in their plans and bylaws, but that they address those matters in a specific way or to a specific effect. Inherent in the choice of wording for policies of this nature, is a choice as to how much leeway the Trust Council wishes to leave to local trust committees in implementing the Islands Trust Policy Statement and, indirectly, the object of the Islands Trust. That is a matter on which we think that a court would defer to the judgment of the Trust Council, should any party, including any local trust committee, challenge the authority of the Trust Council to constrain the bylaw making powers of local trust committees in this manner.

As for the authority of the Trust Council to enforce the adherence of local trust committees to directive policies, the Islands Trust Act provides a very simple bylaw approval procedure permitting the executive council or the Trust Council, as the case may be, to determine whether a particular bylaw is contrary to or at variance with the trust policy statement. There is no question that the Trust Council and the executive committee have the authority to refuse to approve a bylaw if, in its reasonable opinion, the bylaw does not comply with a "directive policy" in the trust policy statement.



Islands Trust

DRAFT for COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/TRUST COUNCIL

Islands Trust Policy Statement

Draft Bylaw No. 183

September 25, 2024

Acknowledgement

Islands Trust Council respectfully acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial and that their relationship to these lands and waters continues to this day. Islands Trust Council acknowledges that residential schools, forced removal, and colonial laws and restrictions of Indigenous governance and cultural practices have displaced and dispossessed Coast Salish peoples and disrupted their relationships with the islands and waters of the Salish Sea. Islands Trust Council is committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.

The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish Territory, in the treaty lands and territories of:

- **BOĶĒĈEN** (Pauquachin) First Nation
- **K'ómoks** (Comox) First Nation
- **MÁLEXEĻ** (Malahat) First Nation
- **Qualicum** First Nation
- Quw'utsun Nation (comprised of **Cowichan Tribes**, **XeláItxw** (Halalt) First Nation, **Lyackson** First Nation, **Spune'luxutth'** (Penelakut Tribe) and **Stz'uminus** (Chemainus) First Nation
- **scáwaθən** (Tsawwassen) First Nation
- **səlilwətał** (Tseil-Waututh) First Nation
- **SEMYOME** (Semiahmoo) First Nation
- **shíshálh** (Sechelt) Nation
- **Sḵw̓wú7mesh** (Squamish) First Nation
- **Snaw-naw-as** (Nanoose) First Nation
- **Snuneymuxw** (Nanaimo) First Nation
- **Songhees** First Nation
- **SḶÁUTW** (Tsawout) First Nation
- **łaʔəmen** (Tla'amin) First Nation
- **Ts'uubaa-asatx** (Lake Cowichan) First Nation
- **Wei Wai Kum** (Campbell River) First Nation
- **We Wai Kai** (Cape Mudge) First Nation
- **W̓ JOĻĒĻP** (Tsartlip) First Nation
- **W̓ SIĶEM** (Tseycum) First Nation
- **Xwémalhkwu** (Homalco) First Nation
- **Xwsepsum** (Esquimalt) First Nation
- **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (Musqueam) First Nation

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Part 1: The Islands Trust Act

In 1974, the Government of British Columbia established the *Islands Trust Act* to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment against unrestrained growth and development. The Act establishes Islands Trust as a special-purpose provincial government agency equipped with a suite of land use planning powers and a conservation-oriented mandate to preserve and protect the region in cooperation with others. This unique governmental mandate was defined in Section 3 of the *Islands Trust Act* and is commonly referred to as the “Islands Trust Object”:

1.1 – The Islands Trust 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, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.” (Section 3, *Islands Trust Act*)

1.2 – Map of the Islands Trust Area



NOTE: This map is a placeholder only. A new map of the Islands Trust Area will be created, identifying the boundaries of each local trust area and island municipality, and will include a legend, scale and recognition of the Indigenous Nations within whose territory Islands Trust operates

1.3 – Indigenous Inherent Rights Acknowledgment

Islands Trust Council respectfully acknowledges Indigenous inherent rights as protected under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Islands Trust Council respectfully acknowledges Indigenous rights to self-governance and the expressed interest of Indigenous Governing Bodies in working toward co-governance of the Islands Trust Area.

Given the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the evolving legislative landscape in British Columbia, this bylaw serves as a starting point for improved cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies. Islands Trust Council commits to an ongoing effort to co-develop planning and land use management processes with Indigenous Governing Bodies within the Islands Trust Area and acknowledges that this document does not serve as an endpoint. Islands Trust Council will be informed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for its approach to reconciliation.

1.4 – Purpose and Structure of the Policy Statement

Communications, Engagement, and Referrals:

Section 15 of the *Islands Trust Act* states that Trust Council must adopt, by bylaw, an Islands Trust Policy Statement that applies to the Islands Trust Area as a whole. The Act specifies that the Policy Statement must be a general statement of the policies of Trust Council to carry out the Islands Trust Object, that it may establish different policies for different parts of the Islands Trust Area, and that it must be approved by the provincial Minister responsible for Islands Trust prior to adoption.

The Islands Trust Council is responsible for establishing and amending the Policy Statement, which in turn guides the development of more specific official community plans and regulatory bylaws by local trust committees and island municipalities across the region. The Act stipulates that official community plans and bylaws submitted to Executive Committee or Trust Council must not be approved if they are contrary to or at variance with the Policy Statement. This ensures that the Islands Trust Object is at the core of all planning and land use management decision-making in the Islands Trust Area.

The Policy Statement represents Trust Council's vision for the preservation and protection of the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment. It aspires to reflect the values and interests of island communities, Indigenous government bodies and Indigenous Peoples, partner agencies, and all British Columbians, as well as the silent voices of island ecosystems, species at risk, and future generations.

Three Types of Policies in the Policy Statement:

1. **Guiding Principles** (as listed in Part 2 of the Policy Statement) are intended to establish general commitments of Trust Council that centre the Islands Trust Object in all daily decision-making across the Islands Trust Area by Islands Trust bodies that are bound by the Policy Statement.
2. **Directive Policies** (as listed in Part 3 of the Policy Statement) are policies that:
 - local trust committees must address in the development of official community plans and/or regulatory bylaws, and amendments to those documents where relevant; and
 - island municipalities must address in the development of an official community plan, and amendments to that document where relevant.

These are policies integral to carrying out the Islands Trust object.

3. **Advisory Policies** (as listed in Part 3 of the Policy Statement) are policies expressing select goals of Trust Council, that local trust committees and island municipalities are advised to address in the development of official community plans, bylaws, and in discretionary land use decisions. Advisory policies are not intended to constitute a basis for Executive Committee or Trust Council review of local trust committee or island municipality bylaws, or for potential rejection of such bylaws.

All of the policies contained within the Policy Statement are interconnected and interrelate to each other in multiple ways. Therefore, the document should always be considered in its entirety to interpret its intended meaning and vision.

The policies in Part 3 have been included as they are considered by Trust Council to be important for preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

Part 2: Guiding Principles

In its decision making, Trust Council shall be guided by the following guiding principles:

2.1– General Guiding Principles

In its efforts to carry out the Islands Trust Object, Trust Council commits to the following set of shared principles and priorities to guide daily planning and decision making by all bodies across the Islands Trust Area:

Trust Council commits to be guided by the following principles in its efforts to advance the Islands Trust Object:

Guiding Principles and Priorities:	
2.1.1	Acknowledge and Respect Indigenous Rights To grow understanding of the history and legacy of colonialism in the Islands Trust Area, to acknowledge and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to work together with Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders to preserve and protect culturally significant areas, sites, and species.
2.1.2	Prioritize Environmental and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Protection To place priority on preserving, protecting and restoring the environment, and preserving, protecting and supporting restoration of Indigenous cultural heritage in all decision making.
2.1.3	Limit the Rate and Scale of Development To define and maintain appropriate limits for the rate and scale of development in order to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
2.1.4	Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities To support planning and land use management decisions that foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities, acknowledging the interdependencies between healthy communities and healthy ecosystems.
2.1.5	Take Guidance From the Precautionary Principle To be guided by the precautionary principle in all decision making to safeguard the environment and cultural heritage where there may be uncertainty over the threats of serious or irreversible damage from development.
2.1.6	Account for Cumulative Effects To strive to account for the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development to avoid detrimental effects on watersheds, groundwater supplies, culturally sensitive areas and cultural heritage sites, and Islands Trust Area species and their habitats.
2.1.7	Foster Informed and Balanced Decision Making To be informed by a broad range of sources in its decision making processes, including the best available science, Indigenous Knowledge, and local community knowledge.

2.2 – Cooperation Principles

While Trust Council must provide the necessary leadership to carry out the Islands Trust Object, its mandate requires cooperation with partners who each have unique roles to play in preserving and protecting the region.

Trust Council commits to be guided by the following principles in its cooperation efforts to advance the Islands Trust Object:

Trust Council’s Cooperation Principles:

2.2.1	<p>Collaborate with the Islands Trust Conservancy Board</p> <p>To collaborate closely with, and be informed by, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, particularly in the areas of science-based conservation planning, ecosystem mapping, identification of core conservation areas and protected area networks, and protection of species and ecosystems at risk.</p>
2.2.2	<p>Work Towards Collaborative Governance with Indigenous Governing Bodies</p> <p>To work towards building strong relationships and foundations for collaborative governance with Indigenous Governing Bodies, including through the development of shared decision-making agreements under the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>.</p>
2.2.3	<p>Work Towards Strategic Inter-Agency Coordination</p> <p>To work towards establishing effective inter-agency coordination mechanisms with different levels of government, academic institutions and organizations who have important roles to play in supporting the Islands Trust Object.</p>
2.2.4	<p>Work Towards Accessible and Inclusive Public Communications and Engagement</p> <p>To work towards accessible and inclusive public communications and engagement strategies that engage a wide range of Islands Trust Area residents, communities, local organizations, and British Columbians.</p>
2.2.5	<p>Provide Public Education Opportunities</p> <p>To provide education opportunities to Islands Trust Area residents, communities, local organizations, and visitors, highlighting tangible ways they can contribute to preserving and protecting the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, while respecting the confidentiality interests of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Governing Bodies.</p>

2.3 – Reconciliation Principles

Trust Council has declared its commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of the Islands Trust Area, with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship building and healing process.

Trust Council’s Reconciliation Principles:

Trust Council will, to the extent that they engage its mandate to preserve and protect the Trust Area. . .

2.3.1	<p>Guidance from <u>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</u></p> <p>Be informed by the 10 principles established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) .</p>
2.3.2	<p>Guidance from <u>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</u></p> <p>Be informed by the articles established in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).</p>
2.3.3	<p>Guidance from <u>Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice</u> Be informed by the principles for change used by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls .</p>

Part 3: Objectives and Directive Policies

Objective 1:

Advancing Reconciliation

This objective advances Guiding Principle 2.1.1 [Acknowledge and Respect Indigenous Rights]. Trust Council is committed to reconciliation and to long-term healing and relationship building with Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Peoples across the region. The policies in this section aim to acknowledge the history and legacy of Indigenous Peoples in the area since time immemorial, to recognize and respect the interests of Indigenous Governing Bodies regarding planning and land use management decisions that impact their territories, and to build foundations for collaborative governance and shared decision making.

Directive Policies - Reconciliation

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.1.1 Cooperate with Indigenous Governing Bodies

Engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies and provide a record of the engagement at time of bylaw submission.

Advisory Policies - Reconciliation

Local trust committees and island municipalities should . . .

3.1.2 Cooperate with Indigenous Governing Bodies

Engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies on discretionary planning and land use management decisions that may have potential significant impacts on Indigenous Governing Bodies' territories or the ecological health of the Islands Trust Area.

Objective 2:

Preserving and Protecting Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Species

This objective advances Guiding Principle 2.1.2 [Prioritize Environmental and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Protection]. Trust Council recognizes Indigenous cultural heritage as a unique amenity in the Islands Trust Area that must be preserved, protected, and where possible, restored. The Islands Trust Area is home to many culturally significant areas, sites, and species of importance to present and future generations of Indigenous Peoples. This section lays out general types of Indigenous cultural heritage and culturally significant areas, sites, and species that should be identified and protected in each local planning area; this should be guided by Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous governing bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders and undertaken in a culturally sensitive manner that respects confidentiality protocols around the sharing of Indigenous Knowledge.

Directive Policies - Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Culturally Significant Areas, Sites and Species

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.2.1	<p>Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites Address potential impacts to Indigenous cultural heritage sites including, but not limited to, known village sites, burial sites, middens, cairns, petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, fish traps, clam gardens, and pictographs, and known (registered), unregistered, or newly discovered archaeological sites.</p>
3.2.2	<p>Indigenous Harvesting Areas Address potential impacts to known Indigenous harvesting areas on land and marine foreshores including, but not limited to, fish weirs and clam gardens.</p>

Advisory Policies - Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Culturally Significant Areas, Sites and Species

Local trust committees and island municipalities should . . .

3.2.3	<p>Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and protect Indigenous cultural heritage sites including, but not limited to, village sites, burial sites, middens, cairns, petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, fish traps, clam gardens, and pictographs, and known (registered), unregistered, or newly discovered archaeological sites.</p>
3.2.4	<p>Indigenous Harvesting Areas Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and protect Indigenous harvesting areas on land and marine foreshores including, but not limited to, fish weirs, clam gardens, camas meadows, and other areas used for Indigenous hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering of plants and medicines.</p>
3.2.5	<p>Other Culturally Significant Areas for Indigenous Peoples Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and protect areas of importance for Indigenous cultural, spiritual, medicinal and ceremonial practices and gathering areas</p>
3.2.6	<p>Culturally Significant Species and Medicinal Plants Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and protect and support restoration of culturally significant species and medicinal plants.</p>

Objective 3:

Preserving and Protecting Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems

This objective advances Principle 2.1.2 [Prioritize Environmental Protection]. Trust Council acknowledges that preserving and protecting the ecological integrity of the Islands Trust Area is essential to the Islands Trust Object and to supporting community well-being across the region. The policies in this section aim to identify and protect key ecosystem types and characteristics that safeguard biodiversity (excluding invasive species) and promote resilience to climate change.

Directive Policies - Ecosystem Integrity

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.3.1	<p>Protected Area Networks</p> <p>Identify, establish, and maintain a network of protected areas of sufficient size and distribution to preserve the environmental integrity of ecosystems in their planning area.</p>
3.3.2	<p>Sensitive Ecosystems</p> <p>Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of sensitive ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area, classified as the following ecosystem types: cliff; freshwater; herbaceous; old and mature forest; riparian; wetland; and woodland.</p>
3.3.3	<p>Forest Ecosystems</p> <p>Identify forest ecosystems and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of unfragmented forest ecosystems, with particular focus on remaining stands of relatively undisturbed Coastal Douglas-fir, Arbutus, Garry oak, and Coastal Western Hemlock and their associated ecosystems.</p>
3.3.4	<p>Watershed Ecosystems</p> <p>Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of watershed ecosystems, freshwater sources, and groundwater recharge areas.</p>
3.3.5	<p>Marine Shorelines and Nearshore Areas</p> <p>Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, forage fish spawning areas, clam beds, estuaries, tidal salt marshes, mud flats, and coastal wetlands.</p>
3.3.6	<p>Critical Habitat for Species at Risk</p> <p>Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of critical habitat for species at risk.</p>
3.3.7	<p>Islets and Small Islands</p> <p>Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of relatively undisturbed islets and small islands.</p>

Objective 4:

Fostering Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities

This objective advances Principle 2.1.2 [Limit the Rate and Scale of Growth and Development], and Principle 2.1.4 [Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities]. Trust Council recognizes that the Islands Trust Object is for the benefit of residents of the Islands Trust Area and all British Columbians, who in turn have a role in preserving and protecting this region. The policies in this section support the preservation and protection of unique island character and aim to foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient island communities.

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Directive Policies - Managing Growth and Development

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.4.1	<p>Sustainable Development Ensure development is compact, energy-efficient, and appropriately situated on the island and on the site in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce dependency on private automobile use, and support increased use of trail systems, public transportation, and active transportation • be compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, and • limit impacts on Indigenous cultural heritage, harvesting and hunting areas.
3.4.2	<p>Density Limits Establish appropriate density limits for efficient and sustainable use of the land base that help to safeguard protected area networks, and is compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.</p>
3.4.3	<p>Impacts of Development Consider the aesthetic, environmental, and social impacts of development.</p>
3.4.4	<p>Community Facilities and Services Ensure that each community’s current and projected long-term needs for educational, institutional, community, health, cultural, and recreational facilities and services are considered and planned for.</p>
3.4.5	<p>Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Identify planning and land use management strategies, and consider nature-based solutions, to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to climate change-related vulnerabilities.</p>
3.4.6	<p>Hazardous Areas Identify, with consideration of climate change, areas hazardous to development activities, including, but not limited to, areas subject to flooding, erosion, wildfire, or slope instability, and direct development away from such hazards.</p>
3.4.7	<p>Economic Activities Support economic activities that are compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities, environment, and community character.</p>
3.4.8	<p>Community Heritage Sites Identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of community heritage sites.</p>

Directive Policies - Housing

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.4.9	<p>Appropriate Locations for Densification Identify appropriate locations where density increases could support the development of safe, secure, diverse and affordable housing while reducing dependency on private automobile use, and increasing use of trail systems, public transportation, and active transportation, and without adversely impacting the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.</p>
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3.4.10	Short-Term Rentals Identify and assess the impacts of short-term rentals of dwellings on the availability of safe, secure, and affordable housing and, where necessary, regulate and limit the number of short-term rentals accordingly.
3.4.11	Floor Area and Lot Coverage Limits Determine appropriate floor area and lot coverage limits for residential development to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and cumulative impacts to the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, including impacts on agricultural land.
3.4.12	Housing Diversity Support housing agreements for affordable housing, and special needs housing.

Advisory Policies - Housing

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.4.13	Housing Options Support a range of housing types and tenures, including rentals, co-operatives and other alternatives to fee-simple ownership.
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Directive Policies - Transportation

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.4.14	Public and Active Transportation Networks Identify and establish appropriately situated, safe, comfortable, and equitable transportation networks, both on the islands and to the islands that reduce dependency on private automobile use, encourage electric vehicles, and support increased use of trail systems, public transportation, and active transportation.
3.4.15	Rural Roadways Identify and protect rural roadways, including scenic and/or heritage roads.

Advisory Policies - Transportation

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.4.16	Road Systems Ensure that road location, design, construction, and road systems are compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
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Directive Policies - Waste

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.4.17	Disposal of Waste Identify appropriate locations for waste transfer stations for the removal of waste from the Islands Trust Area on islands with vehicle ferry service that are compatible with the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
3.4.18	Septic Systems Establish requirements for the location and siting of new septic systems to mitigate adverse impacts on the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, including Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage sites and marine harvesting areas.

Directive Policies - Recreation

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.4.19	Preservation of Natural Heritage Identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of natural heritage sites.
3.4.20	Location and Types of Recreational Facilities Identify appropriate locations and types of facilities for low-impact and active recreational activities, and discourage high-impact recreational facilities that may adversely impact the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
3.4.21	Access to Recreational Facilities Identify appropriate locations, types, and safe public access to recreational facilities
3.4.22	Access to Community Marinas, Boat Launches, and Docks. Identify safe public access to community marinas, boat launches, and docks.
3.4.23	Access to Anchorages Identify appropriate and safe small-craft anchorage public-access locations.
3.4.24	Trail Systems Identify appropriate locations, types, and safe public access to public pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trail systems to support active recreation that is compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
3.4.25	Public Shoreline Access Identify and protect areas providing safe public access to marine shorelines and along marine shorelines that are appropriate for low-impact, public recreational use and do not adversely impact the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
3.4.26	Destination Gaming Facilities Prohibit destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls.

Objective 5:

Fostering Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters

This objective advances Principle 2.1.3 [Limit the Rate and Scale of Growth and Development] and Principle 2.1.2 [Prioritize Environmental and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Protection]. Trust Council recognizes that sustainable use of lands and waters in the Islands Trust Area is important to the long-term well-being and resilience of ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area and the communities that depend on them. This section lays out policies for sustainable land and water use that support the long-term health of ecosystems and sustainability of freshwater.

Directive Policies - Freshwater

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.5.1	<p>Freshwater Sustainability Ensure that neither the density, nor intensity of land use is increased in watersheds where the quality or quantity of the supply of freshwater is likely to be inadequate or unsustainable.</p>
3.5.2	<p>Freshwater Demand and Supply Projections Ensure that existing, anticipated, and seasonal water demand and water availability are considered.</p>
3.5.3	<p>Freshwater Self-Sufficiency Ensure that islands are self-sufficient in their supply of freshwater.</p>

Advisory Policies - Freshwater

Local trust committees and island municipalities should ...

3.5.4	<p>Freshwater Quality Ensure that freshwater quality is maintained or remediated.</p>
3.5.5	<p>Freshwater Uses Strive to ensure that freshwater use is not to the detriment of other uses of the waterway such as fish and fish habitat uses, Indigenous cultural and spiritual uses, aesthetic and recreational uses, and the maintenance of water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands.</p>

Directive Policies - Forest Lands

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.5.6	<p>Forest Lands for Sustainable Management Maintain large land holdings and parcel sizes to support sustainable forest management practices that are compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.</p>
3.5.7	<p>Forest Lands and Road Systems Consider siting of roads and utility corridors to minimize the fragmentation of forest lands.</p>
3.5.8	<p>Forest Lands and Wildfire Risk Management Identify planning and land use management strategies that mitigate wildfire risk and that are appropriate to the unique biogeoclimatic zones and settlement patterns of each local planning area.</p>

Directive Policies - Agricultural Lands

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.5.9	Protection of Agricultural Lands Identify and protect agricultural lands for current and future use consistent with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and its regulations for agricultural land within the Agricultural Land Reserve while considering downstream impacts, wildlife habitat, and adjacent properties.
3.5.10	Agriculture and Adjacent Properties Minimize any adverse impacts of land uses from adjacent properties on agricultural lands.
3.5.11	Agriculture and Road Systems Consider siting of roads and utility corridors to minimize fragmentation of agricultural lands.
3.5.12	Economic Viability of Farms Consider land uses and activities that support the economic viability of farms without compromising the agricultural capability of agricultural land or adversely impacting the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

Advisory Policies - Agricultural Lands

Local trust committees and island municipalities should ...

3.5.13	Sustainable Agriculture Preserve, protect, and encourage sustainable farming and the sustainability of farming.
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Directive Policies - Soil and Fill

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.5.14	Soil Removal and Deposit Foster the preservation, protection, and restoration of soils in the Islands Trust Area.
3.5.15	Soil and Fill from Middens and Foreshore Areas of Cultural Significance Prohibit alteration, removal or excavation of soil or fill from middens or foreshore areas identified as culturally significant areas.

Directive Policies - Marine Shorelands

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and

Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .

3.5.16	Aquaculture Tenures Direct commercial aquaculture tenures to appropriate locations that will not adversely impact areas of cultural, spiritual, archaeological, medicinal or recreational significance, or established or designated upland land uses, anchorages or moorages.
3.5.17	Setbacks from the Sea Consider the current and anticipated impacts of sea level rise and storm surge, and determine appropriate shoreline buffers and setbacks from the sea, taking into account best practices recommended by the federal and provincial governments.

3.5.18	<p>Soft Shoreline Protections</p> <p>Consider and foster soft shoreline approaches first, such as those identified by the “Green Shores” program, to set requirements for shoreline preservation, and to mitigate erosion of shoreline and foreshore cultural heritage sites.</p>
3.5.19	<p>Marinas</p> <p>Identify requirements for the location, size, and nature of marinas that are compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.</p>
3.5.20	<p>Sharing of Coastal Facilities</p> <p>Identify opportunities for the sharing of coastal facilities such as docks, wharves, floats, jetties, boat houses, board walks, and causeways.</p>
3.5.21	<p>Private Docks</p> <p>Limit or prohibit new private docks in areas identified as culturally significant by Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders, in areas that provide critical habitat for species at risk, and in areas of recreational significance; and consider the cumulative effects of docks.</p>

<p>Directive Policies - Emissions</p>	
<p>Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the preparation of official community plans and amendments; and</p>	
<p>Local trust committees shall, in the preparation of regulatory bylaws and amendments . . .</p>	
3.5.22	<p>Emissions to Air, Land, and Water</p> <p>Regulate land use and development to reduce detrimental emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions, to air, land, and water.</p>

Part 4: Implementation

4.1 – Policy Statement Implementation

Statutory Bylaw Approval Process:

The main implementation mechanism to ensure that the Policy Statement is implemented in local planning and land use management decision making is the statutory bylaw referral process, as stipulated in the *Islands Trust Act*.

Local Trust Committees: Under Section 27 (1) of the *Islands Trust Act*, a local trust committee must submit its bylaws to Executive Committee for approval before adoption. If Executive Committee returns a bylaw with requested changes or refuses to approve a bylaw, the local trust committee may refer the bylaw to Trust Council for approval. A bylaw has no effect until it is approved by Executive Committee or Trust Council. A bylaw adopting or amending an official community plan has no effect until it is approved by the Minister responsible for Islands Trust.

Island Municipalities: Under Section 38 (1) of the *Islands Trust Act*, the council of a municipality, all or part of which is in the Islands Trust Area, must submit official community plan bylaws to Executive Committee for approval before adoption. If Executive Committee returns a bylaw with requested changes or refuses to approve the bylaw, the municipality may refer it to Trust Council for approval. If Trust Council returns or refuses to approve a bylaw, the municipality may submit it to the Minister for approval. Bylaws have no effect until they are approved by Executive Committee, Trust Council, or the Minister responsible for Islands Trust.

Executive Committee Approval: Under Section 15(4) of the *Islands Trust Act*, bylaws submitted to the Executive Committee must not be approved by the Executive Committee, or Trust Council, if they are contrary to or at variance with the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Organizational Policy Alignment:

All Islands Trust bodies are expected to take general policy direction from the Policy Statement to ensure that all decisions and activities of the organization are centered on carrying out the Islands Trust Object. The Guiding Principles of the Policy Statement should form the basis of Trust Council's strategic planning process. To ensure consistency between the Policy Statement and the activities of Islands Trust bodies, staff should reference the Policy Statement and its relevant sections in meetings, staff reports, work programs, inter-governmental agreements (including protocols, letters of understanding and memoranda of understanding) and responses to referrals from other agencies. All inter-governmental coordination agreements, external communications, and advocacy should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in the Policy Statement.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Trust Council will report on its progress in implementing the objectives contained in the Policy Statement each year through the Islands Trust Annual Report.

4.2 – Policy Statement Amendments

Policy Statement Amendment Projects:

At the beginning of each term, in conjunction with its strategic planning process, Trust Council can identify any Policy Statement amendment tasks to be undertaken that term. Newly elected Trust Councils will likely wish to engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies, and may wish to engage with other key partners and interested and affected parties across the Islands Trust Area to define priorities for Policy Statement amendments that term. Any topics that are not able to be addressed in a particular term could be noted on a "Policy Statement Amendment Topic Review Inventory" for consideration by Trust Council at a later date. Once an amendment project is initiated, Trust Council could assign the Executive Committee or a council committee the task of leading and coordinating the Policy Statement review and amendment project, with the support of other committees as appropriate. As part of its annual budget cycle, Trust Council should consider allocating resources required for a Policy Statement amendment project, including for any related communications and engagement.

Communications, Engagement, and Referrals:

As soon as practicable after the initiation, of a Policy Statement amendment process, the assigned committee should adopt a communications and engagement plan appropriate to the scope and scale of the amendment project. Proposed Policy Statement amendments must be referred to regional district boards in the Islands Trust Area and should be referred to Indigenous Governing Bodies. While there are no statutory requirements for public engagement or public hearings related to the Policy Statement, in cases where major amendments are being considered, Trust Council should inform and consult members of the public and relevant partner agencies. Engagement and referral partners could include, but would not be limited to: local trust committees and island municipalities; the Islands Trust Conservancy Board; residents and non-resident property owners in the Islands Trust Area; other residents of British Columbia; municipal councils, improvement district boards operating within the Islands Trust Area; relevant provincial government agencies; and other persons and organizations who would be interested and affected by the proposed Policy Statement amendments.

Legislative Process:

Adoption of a Policy Statement amendment bylaw occurs only after Trust Council has undertaken four readings of the proposed Policy Statement bylaw and received approval by the Minister responsible for Islands Trust.

Implementation of Policy Statement Amendments:

Policy Statement amendment bylaws become effective upon date of adoption and are not retroactive. Following the adoption of Policy Statement amendments, Trust Council should in consultation with each local trust committee and island municipality develop a “Policy Statement Implementation Plan”. The Policy Statement Implementation Plan will set a timeline for official community plans and regulatory bylaw amendments to bring them into compliance with the amended Policy Statement. As part of its budget processes, Trust Council may allocate resources to support local trust committees and island municipalities to undertake this work.

Glossary of Terms

NOTE: The source references listed in this draft glossary would be removed prior to first reading and are included here solely for informational purposes during the amendment review process. Citations are not typically included in glossaries.

<p>Aboriginal (see Indigenous Peoples)</p>	<p>This is a collective name for all of the original peoples of Canada and their descendants. The Constitution Act of 1982 specifies that the Aboriginal Peoples in Canada consist of three groups – First Nations, Inuit and Métis – with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. The term Aboriginal peoples should not be used to describe only one or two of the groups. Because Aboriginal peoples is the term used in Canada’s constitution, it has specific importance within a Canadian legal context. Other terms include Indigenous Peoples, Native Peoples, Original Peoples, or First Peoples. For our purposes, the term “Indigenous Peoples” is currently the preferred and most respectful term to use. (Source: Assembly of First Nations)</p>
<p>Archaeological Sites</p>	<p>Archaeological sites consist of the physical remains of past human activity.</p> <p>All archaeological sites in British Columbia are protected under the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>. This applies whether sites are located on public or private land, and whether the site is known or unknown. Protected archaeological sites may not be altered or changed in any manner without a permit. There are over 60,000 archaeological sites recorded in BC’s Provincial Heritage Register including the remains of village and other habitation sites, as well as resource procurement activities such as fishing weirs and culturally modified trees. These sites may date anywhere from recent times to 14,000+ years ago, and studies continue to uncover new information. (Source: BC Archaeology Branch)</p>
<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>Biodiversity (biological diversity) is the variety of living things, including diversity within species (genetic diversity), diversity between species, and diversity of ecosystems. When biodiversity characteristics are assessed for any location or region, three attributes are considered: 1) composition (describes the parts of each biodiversity component in that area – e.g. habitat types, species present, genetic diversity within species); 2) structure (refers to the physical characteristics supporting that composition – e.g. size of habitats, forest canopy structure, etc.); 3) function (means the ecological and evolutionary processes affective life within that structure – e.g. pollination, natural disturbances, predator-prey relationships). (Source: Biodiversity BC)</p>
<p>Colonialism</p>	<p>Colonizers are groups of people or countries that come to a new place or country and steal the land and resources from Indigenous peoples, and develop a set of laws and public processes that are designed to violate the human rights of the Indigenous peoples, violently suppress the governance, legal, social, and cultural structures of Indigenous peoples, and force Indigenous peoples to conform with the structures of the colonial state. Historical and ongoing colonialism, including the dispossession of lands, has a deep and devastating impact on Indigenous people and communities. (Source: BC Addressing Racism Working Glossary; BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner)</p>
<p>Community Heritage Site</p>	<p>A community heritage site is real property that is considered to be heritage property. (Source: Local Government Act)</p>
<p>Conservation</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Critical Habitat</p>	<p>Under the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i>, critical habitat is the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of listed extirpated, endangered, or threatened species, and that is identified as critical habitat in a recovery strategy or action plan. Extirpated species means a wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild. Endangered species means a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction. Threatened species means a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction. (Source: <i>Species at Risk Act</i>)</p>

<p>Land Use Density and Intensity</p>	<p>Density is regulated through zoning. Density may be defined by the number of units per given area of land. Density may also be measured by dividing the built area including all floor area, by the total area of the lot, e.g., floor area ratio (FAR) is an example</p> <p>Intensity of use refers to the impacts of different types of land uses, e.g., certain types of commercial or industrial uses could be more intense with more impacts than residential or vice versa.</p> <p>Of note, density and intensity of use can combine to increase cumulative impacts of the land use.</p>
<p>Ecosystem</p>	<p>An ecosystem is a collection of communities of both living and non-living things that are connected. The biotic elements in an ecosystem include living things such as plants and animals. The abiotic elements found in an ecosystem include non-living things like land forms or climate. Healthy ecosystems provide important “services,” like clean air and water, healthy forests and farms, and habitat for plants and animals. (Source: Government of BC)</p>
<p>Ecosystem Integrity</p>	<p>Ecosystems have integrity when their native components, such as native species, biological communities, natural landscapes and ecological functions, are intact and are likely to persist. (Source: Government of Canada)</p>
<p>Environment</p>	<p>The components of the Earth, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. land, water and air, including all layers of the atmosphere, 2. all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms, and 3. the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b). <p>(Source: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada)</p>
<p>Equity / Equitable</p>	<p>Equity refers to achieving parity in policy, process and outcomes for historically and/or currently underrepresented and/or marginalized people and groups while accounting for diversity. It considers power, access, opportunities, treatment, impacts and outcomes. (Source: Equity & Inclusion Glossary, UBC)</p>
<p>First Nations</p>	<p>First Nations is not a legal term but came into common use in the 1970s to replace Indian, which some people found offensive. Many communities have also replaced “band” with “First Nation” in their names. Symbolically, the term elevates First Nations to the status of “first among equals” alongside the English and French founding nations of Canada. It also reflects the sovereign nature of many communities, and the ongoing quest for self-determination and self-government. First Nations people may live on or off reserve, they may or may not have legal status under the <i>Indian Act</i>, and they may or may not be registered members of a community or nation. “First Nations” should be used exclusively as a general term as community members are more likely to define themselves as members of specific nations or communities within those nations. (Source: Assembly of First Nations)</p>
<p>Groundwater Recharge Areas</p>	<p>Groundwater recharge areas are terrain that inherently provide geographical and ecological conditions for the infiltration of water from the land surface to the subsurface through soils, sediments, and fractured bedrock to replenish groundwater sources.</p> <p>Groundwater recharge areas can be <i>diffuse</i> where widespread precipitation on the landscape infiltrates into groundwater sources or <i>localized</i> where discrete surface water sources such as streams, lakes, septic fields, and/or irrigation fields infiltrate into groundwater sources. Groundwater recharge areas that have a significant groundwater recharging effect for drinking water sources or groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area are defined as <i>Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas</i>.</p>
<p>Heritage Site</p>	<p>Heritage site means, whether designated or not, land, including land covered by water, that has heritage value to British Columbia, a community or an aboriginal people.</p> <p>(Source: BC Heritage Conservation Act)</p>
<p>Inclusive / Inclusion</p>	<p>Inclusion is an active, intentional, and continuous process to address inequities in power and privilege, and build a respectful and diverse community that ensures welcoming spaces and opportunities to flourish for all. (Source: Equity & Inclusion Glossary, UBC)</p>

Indigenous Cultural Heritage	Indigenous Peoples understand and describe cultural heritage according to their distinct perspectives, traditions, and languages. For Indigenous Peoples, cultural heritage refers to ideas, experiences, objects, artistic expressions, practices, knowledge, and places that are valued because they are culturally meaningful, connected to shared memory, or linked to collective identity. Indigenous cultural heritage cannot be separated from either Indigenous identity or Indigenous life. Indigenous cultural heritage can be inherited from ancestors or it can be created by people today as a legacy for future generations. Indigenous Peoples have a right to identify their own cultural heritage, interpret its meaning, and safeguard its value. (Source: Indigenous Heritage Circle)
Indigenous Governing Body	Indigenous Governing Body means an entity that is authorized to act on behalf of Indigenous peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> .
Indigenous Knowledge / Knowledge Holders	There is no single definition of Indigenous Knowledge. For our purposes, we understand "Indigenous Knowledge" as a term that refers to a set of complex knowledge systems based on the worldviews of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous Knowledge reflects the unique cultures, languages, values, histories, governance and legal systems of Indigenous peoples. It is place-based, cumulative and dynamic. Indigenous Knowledge systems involve living well with, and being in relationship with, the natural world. Indigenous Knowledge systems build upon the experiences of earlier generations, inform the practice of current generations, and evolve in the context of contemporary society. Different First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities each have distinct ways of describing their knowledge. Knowledge Holders are the only people who can truly define Indigenous Knowledge for their communities. It is important to note that some Indigenous communities are struggling to maintain their Indigenous Knowledge due to ongoing impacts of colonialism. (Source: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada)
Indigenous Peoples (see Aboriginal Peoples)	Indigenous Peoples has the same meaning as aboriginal peoples in section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> . The Assembly of First Nations also states: There is no official definition of Indigenous Peoples. In part, Indigenous communities, peoples and nations can be described as those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories. Other terms include Aboriginal Peoples, Native Peoples, Original Peoples, or First Peoples. (Source: Assembly of First Nations)
Indigenous Rights	The term 'Indigenous Rights' is to be interpreted in accordance with the Province of British Columbia's Distinctions-Based Approach Primer, December 2023.
Middens	Midden, or 'shell midden' archaeological sites are indicative of past First Nations settlement activity. Formed by the accumulation of stratified cultural deposits over thousands of years, shell midden sites represent some of the most complex archaeological sites in the world. Source: McLay et al (2008) <i>A'lhut tu tet Sul'hweentst Respecting the Ancestors</i> <i>Note:</i> A midden may be an archaeological indicator of village and burial sites, and may contain ancestral remains
Nature-based solutions	Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature. Nature-based Solutions address societal challenges through the protection, sustainable management and restoration of both natural and modified ecosystems, benefiting both biodiversity and human well-being. Nature-based Solutions are underpinned by benefits that flow from healthy ecosystems. They target major challenges like climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, biodiversity loss and human health, and are critical to sustainable economic development. (Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN))

Precautionary Principle	Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration, known as the precautionary principle, states: “In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.” Four central components of the precautionary principle include: taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty; shifting
	the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity; exploring a wide range of alternatives to possibly harmful actions; and increasing public participation in decision making. (Source: <i>The Precautionary Principle in Environmental Science</i> , Kriebel et al., 2001)
Preservation	To maintain in a given condition. Preservation often requires maintaining the processes that generate the desired condition.
Protection	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.
Reconciliation	Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behavior. (Source: Truth & Reconciliation Commission)
Restoration	Restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Ecological restoration seeks to initiate or accelerate ecosystem recovery following damage, degradation, or destruction. (Source: Society for Ecological Restoration)
Sensitive Ecosystems	Sensitive ecosystems are classified as ‘sensitive’ because of their rarity and vulnerability to disturbances such as human impacts and climate change. The BC Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory identifies sensitive ecosystem types, which have been adapted by the Islands Trust Conservancy to identify sensitive ecosystems commonly found in the Islands Trust Area, including: <u>Cliff</u> : Steep slopes, often with exposed bedrock. Very little soil accumulation, and only exceptionally hardy trees and plants. Cliffs are important vegetation refugia because they are often inaccessible to deer browsing or livestock grazing and can be important nesting habitat for birds. <u>Freshwater</u> : all freshwater networks including but not limited to streams, lakes, wetlands, groundwater sources, springs, and precipitation ⁵ . <u>Herbaceous</u> : Shallow soils characteristic of herbaceous ecosystems support low-growing vegetation, such as grasses, forbs (low, broad-leaved plants), wildflowers, mosses and lichens. Few trees and shrubs survive on these sites due to the fast-drying and often shallow nature of the exposed soils. <u>Old and Mature Forest</u> : Dry to moist forests dominated by conifer or deciduous tree species with a canopy cover of over 30%. Old forests have a stand age of over 250 yrs.; Mature forests have a stand age of 80–250 yrs. <u>Riparian</u> : Located adjacent to lakes, streams and rivers and characterized by plant communities and soils dependent on increased moisture. Influenced by erosion, sedimentation, flooding and seepage. <u>Wetland</u> : Feature moisture-dependent plants that thrive in an environment where water remains at or above the surface of the soil during most of the year. Can be bog, fen, marsh, swamp, shallow water, wet meadow or a mixture of these types. <u>Woodland</u> : Dry and open forests dominated by a mix of broadleaf and coniferous tree species with canopy coverage of 10–30%. Generally restricted to south-facing slopes and ridges with shallow soils and bedrock outcroppings. (Source: BC Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory, as adapted in Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan 2018-2027)
Species At Risk	An extirpated, endangered, threatened species, or a species of special concern. Extirpated species means a wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild. Endangered species means a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction. Threatened species means a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction. Species of special concern means a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. (Source: Federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i>)
Stewardship	Voluntary, cooperative actions that nurture and take responsibility for the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities in the Islands 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.

**Treaties /
Treaty Nations**

Treaties are constitutionally protected, government-to-government agreements that identify, define and implement a range of rights and obligations, creating long-term, mutually binding commitments. Treaties negotiated through the BC treaty negotiations process are tripartite agreements between the governments of Canada, British Columbia, and a First Nation. The goal of treaties is reconciliation. Treaties signed with First Nations in Canada between 1701 and 1923 are commonly referred to as historic treaties. In BC, there are Douglas treaties, signed with First Nations on Vancouver Island, and Treaty 8 covering a portion of northeastern BC. Treaties signed today are called modern treaties, and cover where there are no historic treaties, and can also deal with matters not addressed in historic treaties. (Source: BC Treaty Commission)