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File Number: 0400-30; 4800-50

Via Email: [MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Selina Robinson  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
PO Box 9056, STN PROV GOVT.  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Robinson:

**Re: Islands 2050 Engagement Plan and Islands Trust Policy Statement**

It is a pleasure to write to you about Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area project. Islands 2050 is a project that will offer diverse opportunities for local communities, the general public, First Nations, and referral agencies to raise issues and engage with Islands Trust staff and the Islands Trust Council about the [Islands Trust Policy Statement](#).

The Islands Trust Council plans to review and amend the Policy Statement in two phases. Phase One, launching in Fall 2019, will review and revise the Introduction, Part I (Purpose and Implementation of the Trust Policy Statement), Part II (The Islands Trust's Object and Guiding Principles), and Schedule I (Definitions), as well as add climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation policies. Trust Council may then use the information and insights gained from Phase One to inform whether to undertake future work in a Phase Two which could focus on amendments to the policies within Part III (Ecosystem Preservation and Protection), Part IV (Stewardship of Resources), and Part V (Sustainable Communities).

The current version of the Policy Statement, developed from 1991-1993, is a foundational document for the Islands Trust as it guides decisions about land use planning and advocacy. Originally, public consultation occurred when developing the Policy Statement; however, the process did not include engagement with First Nations who have historical and present day treaty, rights and title, and traditional territories within the Islands Trust Area.

The 20-year-old Policy Statement continues to offer a positive vision for the Trust Area but is overdue for updating. Since the last Policy Statement amendment in 2002, there have been many changes. These, include changes in case law such as the Tsilhqot'in decision, signing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, as well as release of the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples. In addition, and Islands Trust Council adopted a Reconciliation Declaration. There have also been changes in the Islands Trust Area that include population growth, property value increases and associated development pressures, demographic changes, and increasing recognition of a climate emergency.

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Islands 2050 features a parallel approach to engagement, as we reach out to the First Nation governments and the island communities, as well as the general public throughout the province (see Appendix 1 for more details). For example:

First Nations engagement may include:

- government-to-government leadership meetings;
- community meetings with membership and leaders;
- face-to-face meetings with staff;
- meetings with alliances and First Nation associations;
- an online survey; and
- collaborating with schools and youth organizations.

Island communities and general public engagements will include:

- individual plans tailored for each Local Trust Area and Bowen Island Municipality, that include larger, community-based events such as a World Café and/or a booth set up at public events;
- an online survey;
- collaborating with school and youth organizations; and
- in collaboration with BC Ferries, an in-person booth-style display to be held on multiple ferry routes to collect feedback.

Once Trust Council has undertaken the first reading of a Policy Statement Amendment Bylaw, we will formally refer the proposed amendments to First Nations, ministries, and agencies. Trust Council will send the bylaw to you for review after the third reading.

At the suggestion of Ministry staff, to support the Policy Statement amendment process, an advisory group has been struck, comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development. We look forward to the input from this cooperative interagency group.

The approach will be one of openhearted engagement. We see this as a genuine opportunity to better understand the visions, including hopes and concerns, which individuals and communities have for the future of the Islands Trust Area. Discussions will be framed through the “preserve and protect” [Object](#) of the Islands Trust with acknowledgement that the Islands Trust is within the traditional and treaty territories of Coast Salish Peoples, and that these policies and principles uphold the Islands Trust Reconciliation Declaration.

Yours sincerely,



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cc: Islands Trust Area MLAs  
BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation  
Cowichan Tribes  
Halalt First Nation  
Homalco First Nation  
Klahoose First Nation  
K'ómoks First Nation  
Lake Cowichan First Nation  
Lekwungen (Songhees) Nation  
Lyackson First Nation  
MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation  
Penelakut Tribe  
Qualicum First Nation  
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation  
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation  
shíshálh First Nation  
Snuneymuxw First Nation  
Nanwakolas Council  
Naut'sa mawt Tribal  
Te'mexw Treaty Association  
Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation  
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation  
SḶÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation  
Stz'uminus First Nation  
SXIMEŁEŁ (Esquimalt) Nation  
Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation  
Tsawwassen First Nation  
Tsleil-Waututh Nation  
T'Sou-ke Nation  
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation  
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation  
W̓JOLÉŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation  
W̓SIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation  
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Musqueam  
First Nations Leadership Council  
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group  
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Council  
Islands Trust website

**Appendix 1 – Engagement Strategies**

<b>First Nations and Alliances</b>		
<b>Engagement Opportunities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Leadership government-to-government meetings	Leadership from Trust Council and leadership from a First Nation(s) meet to discuss core concerns. Each meeting takes place at a location convenient for First Nation leaders to attend.	To build relationship and discuss core concerns. If appropriate, support the provision of other 'options' for engagement to their membership
Community meetings with membership and leadership	A small-large scale lunch/dinner event where Islands Trust, in partnership with the Nation, provides opportunities for community members to share their core concerns of their territory, and their vision for the future.	For Islands Trust to build relationships with staff, leadership, and members of the community, Islands 2050 process and create opportunity to discuss their vision for the future and, if appropriate, contribute to the Islands 2050 process.
Face-to-face with staff	Meetings with staff, and/or committees to work on various topics: educational materials, visioning work as part of the Islands 2050 process as well as other core concerns and/or items of interest to the First Nation.	To communicate and engage with Nations in an accessible manner that is appropriate to the situation.
Survey engagement	A social media campaign targeted at a variety of community members from different Nations across the Salish Sea. Using a variety of tools, including targeted advertising and prizes, the campaign would encourage participants to view our background materials and fill in a special survey. May also include printed material distributed through newsletters and on reserve.	To engage a range of First Nations members through online survey.
Meetings with alliances and First Nation associations	Islands Trust co-host an event with First Nation associations/alliances such as First Nations Summit, BC Treaty Commission, and Tribal Councils.	To connect with a range of First Nations all at once and build relationships with them. If appropriate, engage them with the issues of Islands 2050 and how they imagine the future.

**Appendix 1 – Engagement Strategies**

<b>First Nations and Alliances</b>		
<b>Engagement Opportunities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Collaborate with Schools/ Youth Organizations	We connect with schools in community along with organizations that support youth to offer some opportunities for them to be heard and to be able to take action through various means (e.g. art work, writing, etc.).	To connect with youth, to be able to provide them with opportunities to engage in the issues that Islands 2050 is concerned with.

<b>General Public and Island Residents</b>		
<b>Engagement Opportunities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Community drop-in and open space, featuring information boards that explore each of the major Islands 2050 themes.	Following IAP2 guidance on how to conduct healthy engagement processes, we host an open house first to featuring information boards that explore each of the major Islands 2050 themes, and then we would use World Café forms of engagement. The goal through open house engagement is to help improve public understanding about a complex project to receive public input and provide information through information boards covering major themes. World Café engagement style would help foster meaningful discussion on questions pertaining to these topic(s) among participants who otherwise would not listen, talk or share with one another.	To provide opportunities for members of the public and island residents a chance to participate in an interactive and dynamic way where we inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower with them.
Vision Booth	We will set up information booths, featuring local and regional information boards and access to the online survey during existing community events, markets, and/or other community driven events.	To target the general public as well as residents of the islands at existing events.

**Appendix 1 – Engagement Strategies**

<b>General Public and Island Residents</b>		
<b>Engagement Opportunities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
On-line survey and dedicated email address	<p>The main form of the online engagement will be survey-based. We would offer a robust online campaign using a range of social media tools and our website to disseminate information about the engagement process. The online information campaign will replicate the information that will be produced for the in-person engagements, so individuals can learn about the situation in their local context as well as the regional context.</p> <p>Because some individuals are more comfortable with emails than surveys, we will also provide a dedicated “Islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca” email address where people can send in their idea. They can also send them through traditional mail as well.</p>	To provide an inclusive opportunity for the general public and island residents to participate in the process, if they cannot attend in person participation. It is also an opportunity to gain input from wider communities outside of the Islands Trust Area.
Collaborate with Schools/ Youth Organizations	Provide opportunities to connect with students and youth with school classrooms and youth organizations. We would use a creative writing and/or art opportunities for youth to describe their vision of the islands. We would offer a prize.	To connect with youth, to be able to provide them with opportunities to engage in the issues that Islands 2050 is concerned with.
Option E: Information Booth on BC Ferry routes between island communities	We will set up information booths, featuring local and regional information boards and access to the online survey during BC Ferry trips, primarily on routes between island communities.	To target the general public as well as residents of the islands.

<b>Referral Agencies</b>		
N/A	As required by provincial statutes: LTCs; First Nations; local, regional, provincial and federal government agencies will be sent referral letters inviting input on the draft amendments to the Policy Statement.	To solicit feedback on the proposed amendments.