



News Release

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ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL MAKES RECONCILIATION DECLARATION

Lekwungen Territory, Victoria—On March 14, 2019, on Gabriola Island, the Islands Trust Council passed a Declaration regarding Reconciliation:

The Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.

The Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to Reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process.

The Islands Trust Council will strive to create opportunities for knowledge-sharing and understanding as people come together to preserve and protect the special nature of the islands within the Salish Sea.

The Declaration acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, and outlines the commitment the Islands Trust has to Reconciliation. The journey to this historic declaration has been long. The Islands Trust honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage of Coast Salish peoples—now and into the future.

“Reconciliation with First Nations is an ongoing process, and for me, this Declaration is a crucially important step in that process,” said Islands Trust Council Chair, Peter Luckham. “The Islands Trust Council had already adopted a policy on First Nations engagement, which has been useful in guiding our work, but we had yet to make a formal declaration about Reconciliation. A declaration like this acts as a mandate or vision statement. It is an expression of intent that provides a clear and unequivocal message that will guide and underpin the work we do towards reconciliation and relationship building with First Nations and communities in the Trust Area.”

The Declaration takes guidance from key documents such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (TRC), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, and Islands Trust Council’s First Nations Engagement Principles.

The Islands Trust Council Chair will be writing to First Nations in the Islands Trust Area to provide Trust Council’s Reconciliation Declaration.

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Preserving *island* communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

The Islands Trust is a federation of local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-residents. The Islands Trust is responsible, as mandated by the *Islands Trust Act*, for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, co-operation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

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