



Islands Trust

200 - 1627 Fort St., Victoria, BC V8R 1H8  
Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155  
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**  
Email [information@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:information@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
Web [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

September 12, 2019

File No.: 0400-50; 5590-30

Capital Regional District  
Board of Directors  
Via Email: [CRDBoard@crd.bc.ca](mailto:CRDBoard@crd.bc.ca)

Comox Valley Regional District  
Board of Directors  
Via Email: [administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca)

Cowichan Valley Regional District  
Board of Directors  
Via Email: [board@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:board@cvrd.bc.ca)

Metro Vancouver Regional District  
Board of Directors  
Via Email: [icentre@metrovancover.org](mailto:icentre@metrovancover.org)

Regional District of Nanaimo  
Board of Directors  
Via Email: [inquiries@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:inquiries@rdn.bc.ca)

qathet Regional District  
Board of Directors  
Via Email: [administration@qathet.ca](mailto:administration@qathet.ca)

Sunshine Coast Regional District  
Board of Directors  
Via Email: [info@scrd.ca](mailto:info@scrd.ca)

Dear Board of Directors:

**Re: Request for Greater Support for Solar Energy in Rural and Remote Communities**

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council to invite your Board to consider signing the attached draft letter (Appendix 1) to the Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, requesting a financial incentive program for hybrid solar photovoltaic systems with batteries for community buildings in rural and remote communities.

In June 2018, the Islands Trust Council received a community presentation regarding the benefits of solar photovoltaics systems within the Islands Trust Area. In response to that presentation, the Islands Trust Council resolved to work with regional districts in the Islands Trust Area to develop a strong, united voice in support of solar energy in rural and remote communities.

We have learned that hybrid solar photovoltaic systems with batteries can be used by rural and remote communities throughout the year and are particularly useful for off-grid communities to help reduce or eliminate their need for diesel generators to produce power. Solar photovoltaic systems with batteries are also beneficial during emergency situations when power outages occur, since power can be generated and used throughout the day and stored in batteries for use at night. The application and benefits for solar energy are multiple which is why Islands Trust wants to ask Minister Mungall to offer a financial incentive program for the use of these systems in rural and remote communities.

.../2

The provision of solar energy on community buildings is an important way to reduce the impacts of climate change felt by our rural and remote communities. I hope that you will join the Islands Trust Council in working toward climate resiliency and will consider co-signing the attached letter to Minister Mungall requesting a financial incentive program for hybrid solar photovoltaic systems with batteries for community buildings in rural and remote communities.

Please contact Lori Foster at [lfoster@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lfoster@islandstrust.bc.ca) by November 15, 2019 with any questions or to convey the decision of your Board.

Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Attachment: Draft letter to the Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

cc: BOKÉCEN (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  
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation  
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation  
SÁÁUTW (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  
WJOLEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation  
WŚIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation  
x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm Musqueam  
First Nations Leadership Council  
Michelle Stilwell, MLA – Parksville-Qualicum  
Adam Olsen, MLA – Saanich North and the Islands  
Nicholas Simons, MLA – Powell River-Sunshine Coast  
Scott Fraser, MLA – Mid Island-Pacific Rim  
Jordan Sturdy, MLA – West Vancouver-Sea to Sky  
Doug Routley, MLA – Nanaimo-North Cowichan  
Islands Trust Council  
Islands Trust website

# Appendix 1



200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8  
Telephone (250) 405-5151 Fax (250) 405-5155  
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660-2421. Elsewhere  
in BC 1.800.663.7867  
Email [information@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:information@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
Web [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

**Commented [LV1]:** Regional Districts – your logo will go along side Islands Trust logo if you sign on to the letter going to Minister Mungall.

XXXX XX, 2019

File No. 0400-30; 5590-30

## **DRAFT for review and comment**

Via e-mail: [EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Michelle Mungall  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
PO Box 9060, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W9E2

Dear Minister Mungall:

### **Re: Request for Greater Support for Solar Energy in Rural and Remote Communities**

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council and the XX Regional Districts, we are requesting that the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources offer a financial incentive program for hybrid solar photovoltaic systems with batteries for community buildings in rural and remote communities.

Hybrid solar photovoltaic systems with batteries are a low-carbon renewable energy source and can be used with grid-tied and off-grid systems. We are seeking a funding program for these systems on community buildings such as fire halls, community halls, and schools because installation of these systems can ensure there is a community space with light, internet, and working groundwater wells during emergency situations such as wind and rainstorm event that cause power outages. In addition, communities would be able to reduce costs during normal operating conditions since they would be using less electricity from a grid or diesel generated system.

We understand that hybrid solar photovoltaic systems with batteries are designed to automatically disconnect from the grid when the power goes out to ensure the safety of hydro workers, thus making them a safe and reliable power source uniquely suited to address the issues rural and remote communities face during power outages.

In remote locations where there is no grid or when power is temporarily unavailable due to an emergency, a hybrid solar photovoltaic system with batteries can provide power day or night. The powerful wind storm of December 2018, resulted in many coastal communities being without power for extended periods. Galiano Island was without power for 10 days, and community members on Galiano Island benefited from the Galiano Conservancy's off-grid solar system which was able to power a community space with lights and internet, and power the groundwater well pump for residents who had run out of fresh water.

.../2

*Preserving island communities, culture and environment*

Bowen Denman Homby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

The province's CleanBC plan indicates that there will be focused effort on supporting solar photovoltaics in remote and off-grid communities through the new Remote Community Energy Strategy. It is our interpretation that this strategy will focus on communities typically powered with diesel generators. While we commend this commitment, we are asking the provincial government to extend this strategy to other rural and remote communities -- both with off-grid and grid-tied systems -- that want to have access to solar photovoltaic systems for community buildings. If community members know there will be a community space with light, internet and water, they will be less likely to invest in personal diesel generators.

Increased use of solar energy with battery backup on community buildings is an important climate adaptation measure that can assist communities to become more resilient, and better prepared for emergencies.

Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Luckham  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES HERE

cc: Michelle Stilwell, MLA – Parksville-Qualicum  
Adam Olsen, MLA – Saanich North and the Islands  
Nicholas Simons, MLA – Powell River-Sunshine Coast  
Scott Fraser, MLA – Mid Island-Pacific Rim  
Jordan Sturdy, MLA – West Vancouver-Sea to Sky  
Doug Routley, MLA – Nanaimo-North Cowichan  
The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of  
Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
Capital Regional District  
Comox Valley Regional District  
Cowichan Valley Regional District  
Metro Vancouver Regional District  
qathet Regional District  
Sunshine Coast Regional District  
BOKÉCEN (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  
Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation  
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation  
S̓TÁUTW̓ (Tsawout) First Nation  
Stz'uminus First Nation  
SXIMELEŁ (Esquimalt) Nation  
Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation  
Tsawwassen First Nation  
Tseil-Waututh Nation  
T'Sou-ke Nation  
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation  
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation  
W̓JOLELP (Tsartlip) First Nation  
W̓SIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation  
x̓m̓əθk̓əy̓əm Musqueam  
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group  
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society  
Nanwakolas Council  
Te'mexw Treaty Association  
W̓SÁNEĆ Leadership Council  
First Nations Leadership Council  
UBCM Executive  
Islands Trust Council  
Islands Trust website

**Commented [LV2]:** Regional Districts – Your signature block will go along side Islands Trust if you sign on to the letter going to Minister Mungall.