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## ISLANDS TRUST RESPONDS TO GOVERNMENT DECISION ON TRANS MOUNTAIN

Lekwungen territory, Victoria—The Islands Trust Council expressed disappointment on learning of today’s announcement that the Federal Government plans to continue with the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project.

Last year, the Federal Court of Appeal quashed the government’s approval of the project, citing the need for better and more fulsome consultation with Indigenous communities and a more comprehensive look at the impact the project will have on marine life off the coast of British Columbia.

“We are disappointed that the Prime Minister did not seize the opportunity the Court of Appeal presented him with to correct course on this issue,” said Islands Trust Council Chair, Peter Luckham. “The Islands Trust Council remains resolutely opposed to the Trans Mountain expansion project, believing that the massive increase in tanker traffic will bring intolerable environmental risks to the waters and islands in the Salish Sea, along with very real impacts on the communities who live and work along the oil tanker transport corridor and who are being asked to shoulder the burden of this decision for generations.”

In September of last year, in response to the Court of Appeal Decision, trustees from Islands Trust along with councilors from San Juan County in Washington State [wrote an open letter](#) to the Prime Minister outlining the reasons for their opposition to the expansion project. In their letter they wrote the following:

Is this our new reality: summers of dying whales and unbreathable air? A reality shaped by climate change. A reality shaped by short-sighted dependence on fossil fuels. We object to Trans Mountain not just because we live along the corridor of risk but because we believe that the environmental and economic costs are simply too high. We believe there are more visionary and less risky ways to spend billions of dollars to generate jobs and taxes for roads, schools, and hospitals.

“It is distressing that the day after declaring a national climate emergency,” continued Chair Luckham, “the Federal Government continues to support pipeline expansion, even as the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt. In March of this year, the Islands Trust Council declared a climate change emergency in the Trust Area, following the example of other governments who have made similar declarations in their jurisdictions. As part of the declaration, we called on all levels of government to take action. For our part, we don’t use the term ‘emergency’ lightly. The declaration is a clear acknowledgement that the climate situation is now so serious that urgent action is required. We must change the way we do business. The status quo is no longer acceptable.”

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The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible 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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