



News Release

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December 20, 2019

2019-25-IT

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL APPROVES STRATEGIC PLAN

Lekwungen territory, Victoria —The Islands Trust Council has adopted its [Strategic Plan for the 2018-2022 term](#). The plan, which focuses the work of the Islands Trust, has five priority areas: climate change; land stewardship; marine and freshwater stewardship; community and communication; and governance.

“The Islands Trust mandate is to preserve and protect,” shared Peter Luckham, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “Having adopted our Strategic Plan, we will now focus on responding to the challenges facing the Islands Trust Area. We will be working at both the regional and local levels to advance the priorities of this Trust Council. This past year Council joined the many other voices around the globe to declare a climate emergency, many elements of the Strategic Plan will address climate change mitigation and adaption.”

The adopted Strategic Plan provides a framework to guide decision-making and resource allocation in addition to forming a basis for 2020-21 fiscal year budget preparations. As the Strategic Plan implementation takes place, Reconciliation will be fundamental to the Islands’ Trust work. Through the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Islands Trust Council will strive to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action.

The Strategic Plan includes 23 strategies in support of the following 9 objectives:

- Preserve, protect and advocate for forest and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Preserve and protect marine ecosystems.
- Protect the quality and quantity of freshwater resources of the Trust Area.
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.
- Improve community engagement and participation in Islands Trust work.
- Strengthen housing affordability throughout the Islands Trust Area.
- Strengthen relations with First Nations.
- Improve and modernize the ability of the Islands Trust to regulate land use activity and work with others.
- Amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

The Strategic Plan, adopted during the December 3-5, 2019 meeting of the Islands Trust Council, can be viewed on the Islands Trust website at http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/348685/tc_2019-12-14_strategicplan_2018-2022_final.pdf

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The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 25,000 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.

The 26-member Islands Trust Council makes decisions about overall policy and financial management for the Islands Trust and has broad responsibilities to uphold the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect the islands. Trust Council does not make local land use decisions, which are the responsibility of the local trustees within their respective local trust areas and Bowen Island Municipality.

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