



200 - 1627 Fort St., Victoria, BC V8R 1H8
Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 660-2421. Elsewhere in BC
1.800.663.7867
Email information@islandstrust.bc.ca
Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

December 23, 2019

File Number: 0400-20

Via Email: Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca

Mr. Patrick Weiler, Member of Parliament, West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Weiler:

Re: Working Together on Local and Federal Issues Impacting the Islands Trust Area

Congratulations on your recent election success as Member of Parliament (MP) representing West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country.

The Islands Trust Council is delighted to have your representation in Ottawa. In your role as MP, there will be many opportunities to champion the issues that coastal communities care about.

We look forward to collaborating with you and your new federal colleagues on the areas of mutual interest of local and federal government during your term. In particular, we look forward to learning from you about how we can better influence federal decisions affecting the coastal environment, including oil spill prevention and response, vessel anchorages, and other threats to this precious coast.

Islands Trust was created through the provincial *Islands Trust Act*, and is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies elected by 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and approximately 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. The Islands Trust mandate is to preserve and protect the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, and education. We fulfil this role in cooperation with First Nations and other agencies, and through advocacy with organizations and community. The Islands Trust area covers the islands and waters of the Salish Sea between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. The area includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometers – it reflects the beauty and vitality of the Salish Sea.

The region is a scenic archipelago that provides habitats for an exceptional variety of species: more than 200 types of migratory and resident birds, more than 90 species at risk (according to the Federal *Species at Risk Act*), numerous species of fish, the iconic Orca whale, migrating Gray whales and diverse intertidal life, terrestrial wildlife and vegetation. The significance and sensitivity of the region, and the need for protective measures was internationally recognized in 1973.

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We warmly welcome you to visit us on one of the islands or at a Trust Council meeting whenever your schedule permits and we look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Luckham', written in a cursive style.

Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc: Shíshálh Nation
Tseil-Waututh Nation
Skwxwú7mesh Nation
Islands Trust Council
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust website