



News Release

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Islands Trust Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Lekwungen, METULIYE/Victoria, BC - We understand many people in island communities have concerns about coronavirus (COVID-19). Islands Trust is actively monitoring coronavirus information and will adjust our operations as needed to respond to evolving information from health authorities and government agencies. Islands Trust is working to be part of the solution by taking precautionary measures and providing trusted COVID-19 information.

The information provided below does not indicate additional risks in island communities.

Meeting and Event Cancellations

We have postponed the upcoming screenings of *Dust n' Bones* on Denman, Galiano and Salt Spring Islands. We will consider cancellation of local trust committee and other business meetings based on local circumstances and recommendations from public health officials. In the meantime, meetings will be conducted in compliance with the Provincial Health Officer's prevention recommendations including social distancing and the avoidance of person-to-person contact.

Any meeting cancellations will be sent to e-mail subscribers and announced on our:

- Website <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/>
- Facebook page @IslandsTrust
- Twitter page @Islands_Trust

Our Offices

Our offices, located in Victoria, on Salt Spring Island, and on Gabriola Island, will remain open. Staff who feel unwell have been requested to stay home, and we are following Island Health prevention recommendations, which are the same precautions used to prevent the spread of the common cold and flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water and avoid touching your face
- Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow when you sneeze or cough.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick

Members of the public continue to be welcome at Islands Trust offices. We request that if you are sick, you stay home and contact us by phone or email.

Trusted Sources of Information

During this time, we recommend using trusted, evidence-based sources for up-to-date information about novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Anyone concerned that they may have been exposed to, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, should contact their health-care provider, or call 8-1-1.

Preserving *island* communities, culture and environment

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

Information lines

- Government of Canada Coronavirus Information Line: 1-833-784-4397
- HealthLink BC 8-1-1

Frequently Asked Questions

[BC Centre For Disease Control](#)

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

[For schools and childcare](#)

[Self-isolation and testing](#)

[Event Planning](#)

The BCCDC on Twitter - [@CDCofBC](#)

Regional Districts

The Province of BC coordinates agencies during a pandemic event. Regional Districts in the Trust Area have responsibility for coordinating emergency response on the islands. For local information:

[Capital Regional District](#) (see: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/news/covid-19-information>)

[Comox Valley Regional District](https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/connect/public-notice/covid-19-coronavirus-update) (<https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/connect/public-notice/covid-19-coronavirus-update>)

[Cowichan Valley Regional District](https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2159) (see: <https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2159>)

[Metro Vancouver](#)

[Sunshine Coast Regional District](#) (no information posted at this time)

[Regional District of Nanaimo](#) (see <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/pandemic>)

[Qathet Regional District](#) (no information posted at this time)

Travel Advisories and Information

Government of Canada

[Federal travel recommendations](#)

[Precautions at international airports and borders](#)

Global information about COVID-19

[World Health Organization](#)

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The Islands Trust is a federation of government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 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 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 5,200 square kilometres.

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