



## News Release

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### **Strengthening our ability to preserve and protect**

*Lək'wəjən*, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – With the intent of strengthening Islands Trust's ability to fulfil its preserve and protect mandate, Great Northern Management has been contracted to conduct a governance, management, and operations review.

Great Northern Management will be assessing Islands Trust's current performance, practices, work processes, and decision-making systems. They will review the organization's structure, policies and procedures; and will evaluate how effective and efficient the organization is at carrying out its mandate. The review excludes consideration of the Islands Trust Conservancy and Bowen Island Municipality, and legislation that guides and limits the Islands Trust's authorities. Islands Trust selected the Great Northern Management team through a request for proposals process.

Islands Trust operates in a complicated context to preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area. It is facing intense development pressures, increasing climate change impacts, one of the highest densities of species at risk in Canada, changing demographics, and high levels of community concern about freshwater sustainability and availability of affordable housing. The Islands Trust Council has also passed a Reconciliation Declaration and is committed to the implementation of reconciliation and alignment of policies with the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

"We are very much looking forward to conducting this review," shared Charles Kelly, Project Lead, Great Northern Management. "Islands Trust is unique as a special-purpose government and faces unique challenges and demands as it strives to preserve and protect the beautiful Trust Area. We will focus on the effectiveness of Islands Trust's governance in determining the strategic direction of the organization as well as reviewing the land use planning services and advocacy activities."

"Trust Council's goal for this review is to assess current performance and seek input on options for strengthening Islands Trust, so it can better fulfil its preserve and protect mandate into the future," shared Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. "Great Northern Management has considerable experience in governance, strategic planning and organizational assessment, and is well-positioned to provide insight into how Islands Trust can better serve the Trust Area."

The Trust Council Select Committee on Governance and Management Review, which holds meetings open to the public, will oversee the review process. Trust Council has budgeted \$75,000 from Islands Trust's surplus fund for the review. The final report is scheduled for delivery in March 2022.

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***Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea***

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

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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 Area is located within Coast Salish treaty and territorial lands and waters and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation 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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