



News Release

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Information session added to Trust Council town hall meeting

Lək̓ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – A short information session will be offered prior to the Islands Trust Council's July 7, 2021 7:00 p.m. town hall session at 6:30 p.m. The intent is to provide an overview of the current Policy Statement amendment process and share information about the next public review and engagement process, which will go on for a number of months and involve the public, First Nations, agencies, and organizations.

“It’s inspiring to see so many people talking about the Policy Statement, and we are thrilled with the level of interest,” shared Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “Still, we’re concerned about misinformation, and we are deeply discouraged by the antagonistic and blaming dialogue we have witnessed. In the 26 years since the Policy Statement was last updated, the world has changed, and our priorities have shifted. As we consider updating and strengthening the Islands Trust’s policies to address reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing it is invaluable that so many community members have shared their values, concerns and ideas over the last 18 months, and that so many are keen to join the process.”

Despite rumours circulating, the draft new Policy Statement doesn’t centralize governance, cause the Islands Trust to work outside its jurisdiction, result in less support for healthy and inclusive communities, or cause anyone to take out existing infrastructure such as docks and seawalls. Reading the draft new Policy Statement cover-to-cover is essential to understanding how everything is interconnected.

At the July 8 Trust Council meeting, first reading of the draft new Policy Statement will be considered and a multi-month public engagement process will begin.

Information session and town hall meeting details

To listen, watch or attend, please click on the link:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/trust-council-special-meeting-1/>

You can learn about the Policy Statement amendment process, read the draft new Policy Statement that Trust Council will consider for first reading on July 8, read answers to frequently asked questions, and learn how to provide input at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050>.

The draft Policy Statement is available to view in the [July 7-8, 2021 Islands Trust Council agenda package](#).

A good starting point for learning about the Policy Statement amendment process is to watch a three-minute video called *Islands 2050: The future of the Trust Area*. It is a quick and entertaining overview and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNEHTUxxXmk&t=6s>

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

We also encourage people to sign up for notifications about the new Policy Statement amendment process to get advised of review and engagement opportunities. Select “Islands 2050 Updates” at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/>.

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About Islands Trust

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 territory 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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