



News Release

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Public engagement plan in development More opportunities for community input on *DRAFT new Policy Statement* planned

Lək̓ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust has hired MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement Inc. to develop a public engagement plan for the next phase of Islands 2050, the *DRAFT new Policy Statement* engagement process.

The plan will include online and in-person engagement opportunities, and it will be considered for approval at the September 21-23 Trust Council meeting.

The *Islands Trust Policy Statement* is a legally required document that guides decision-making; it has not been substantially updated for over 25 years. The *DRAFT new Policy Statement* is an amended Policy Statement that reflects current priorities, including reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing. It prepares Islands Trust to respond to future challenges and strengthens the preserve and protect mandate. The *DRAFT new Policy Statement* is available for review and comment online (<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/New-Draft-Policy-Statement.pdf>), and formal engagement opportunities will take place later this year once a plan is approved.

“In July, Trust Council responded to public comments by postponing first reading and allocating additional funds for expanded engagement opportunities,” shared Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “We heard that there is a strong desire for enhanced public engagement on the *DRAFT new Policy Statement* before it goes to first reading, so we have brought in MODUS to develop an enhanced engagement plan. We look forward to considering what they propose and going into the next round of public engagement with some new ideas and a fresh approach to public engagement.”

MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement Inc. is a consulting firm specializing in planning, design, and public engagement that has worked with groups, agencies, First Nations and other governments to advance solutions that create a legacy of sustainable communities.

“We are excited to be working with the Islands Trust on this historical project and providing advice that supports them in seeking public input,” said Molly Steeves, Project Manager. “The MODUS team brings a unique set of skills and techniques to the project, and we are excited to be creating an engagement plan that meets the needs of island communities and the Islands Trust Council.”

Get Islands 2050 Updates

Make sure you don't miss any Islands 2050 engagement opportunities. Sign up for email updates at:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/>. Select “Islands 2050 Updates” and also consider signing up for your local trust committee updates.

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

Provide us with input

Submit feedback about the *DRAFT new Policy Statement* at any time. Please share your thoughts about the *DRAFT new Policy Statement* by sending us an email, writing a letter, or calling us if a written submission is a challenge.

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Islands 2050 Information

You can view the DRAFT new Policy Statement and associated information on the Islands Trust website at:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>

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About Islands Trust

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 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 through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, advocacy, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies. 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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