

DRAFT new Policy Statement



Islands Trust is a special-purpose government created in 1974 to Preserve and Protect over 450 islands, and their surrounding waters, in the Salish Sea.

Islands Trust is legally required to have a Policy Statement to guide decision-making, but ours hasn't been updated for over 25 years. A lot has changed during that time, so we created a *DRAFT new Policy Statement*, and now we want your input. The *DRAFT new Policy Statement* reflects current priorities like our commitment to reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing. It prepares us to respond to future challenges and strengthens our preserve and protect mandate. We hope you will take the time to read the *DRAFT new Policy Statement*, share your thoughts and participate in our Islands 2050 community engagement opportunities, which will be announced soon.

Upcoming Public Engagement

In June, we received a number of email and mail submissions about the *DRAFT new Policy Statement* and many asked us to do more public engagement.

Trust Council, which meets four times a year to discuss matters that impact the whole Trust Area, heard the request and will review a public engagement plan at the upcoming meeting, September 21 – 23.

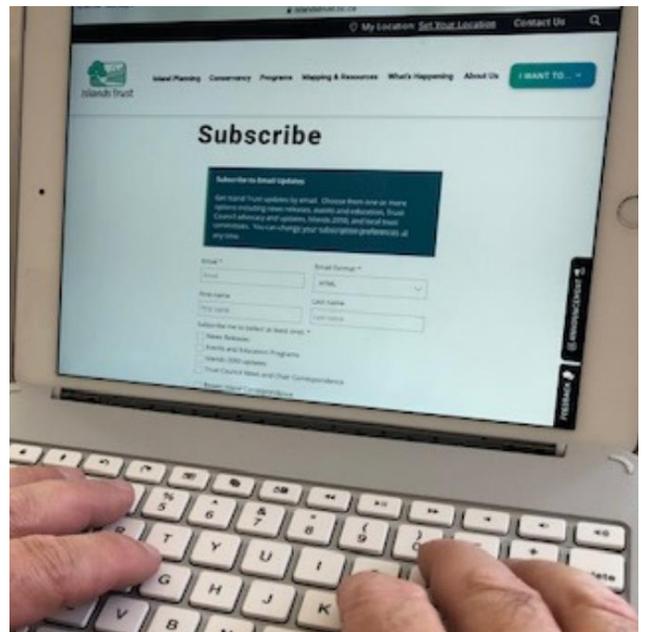
Following the September meeting, Trust Council will publicly announce plans for more public engagement and opportunities will be advertised later this year.

Islands 2050:

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.



How the Policy Statement was revised

Two years ago, Trust Council—made up of 26 Trustees from across the Islands Trust Area—approved a project to update the Policy Statement. Council asked for the inclusion of three new priorities: reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing and requested that First Nations and the public be engaged.

The *DRAFT new Policy Statement* was developed following Trust Council input, engagement with First Nations, and 18 months of public engagement, which produced thousands of comments, and many emails and letters. The engagement involved community events on large islands and BC Ferries, two online surveys, and information booths.

Misinformation about the Policy Statement

We've seen a lot of misinformation on social media about the *DRAFT new Policy Statement*, so we want to correct a few things. The *DRAFT new Policy Statement* doesn't take away from local decision-making, diminish Islands Trust's commitment to the environment, result in less support for healthy, inclusive communities, or cause anyone to take out existing infrastructure such as docks and seawalls.

Have you heard a rumour about the *DRAFT new Policy Statement* or do you have a question? Please contact us. See the next page for our phone number, email, and street address.

Learn more and view the *DRAFT new Policy Statement*

We have a webpage dedicated to Islands 2050. It includes a three-minute video called *Islands 2050: The future of the Trust Area*, which is an entertaining and informative overview of the Policy Statement Amendment Process. The page also has:

- The most recent version of the *DRAFT new Policy Statement*
- A colour-coded version of the *DRAFT new Policy Statement* (so you can see at a glance revisions related to climate change, reconciliation, housing and general edits)
- A project overview with details about the proposed amendments
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Links to all the letters and emails we have received about the *DRAFT new Policy Statement*

View the website at: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>

We want to hear from you

We welcome your input. 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.

E: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca,

T: 1-250-405-5151

M: Islands Trust, 200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

About Islands Trust

Why Islands Trust was created

The Province of British Columbia created the Islands Trust in response to development in the Gulf Islands and the need to protect the area's fragile ecosystems.

Islands Trust's Mandate

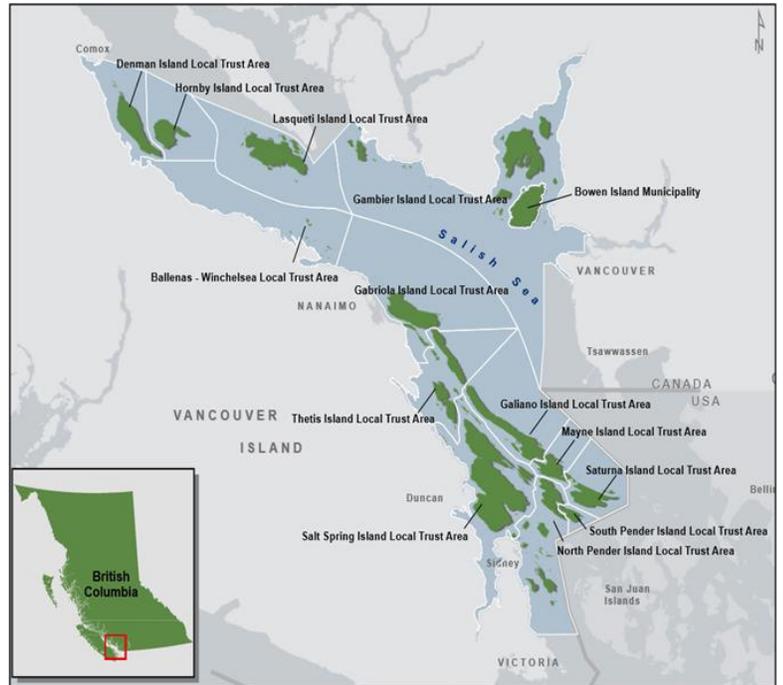
Islands Trust preserves and protects the Trust Area through land use planning, a conservancy, advocacy, education, and environmental protection programs.

The Islands Trust Area

The Islands Trust Area covers 5200 square kilometres between the mainland and Vancouver Island.

It extends from Comox in the North to Victoria in the south and includes 13 major islands, and more than 450 smaller islands. The area is home to 26,000 residents, 10,000 non-resident property owners, and 28,000 Coast Salish People.

The area includes Bowen Island, Howe Sound and the Gulf Islands.



How Islands Trust is organized

Local governance

Across the Trust Area, there are thirteen local trust areas (LTAs), including Bowen Island Municipality. Each LTA is made up of one major island and—other than Bowen Island Municipality—a group of smaller islands. Every four years, island residents elect two trustees to represent them on the Islands Trust Council and their local trust committee—or their municipal council in Bowen Island's case. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality make decisions about local land use planning and regulation.

Regional Governance - Trust Committee

The 26-member Trust Council is made up of two local trustees from each of 12 local trust areas and two municipal trustees from Bowen Island. Trust Council meets quarterly to discuss and act on matters impacting the entire Trust Area. Trust Council sets Islands Trust's annual budget, advocates on issues, and engages with First Nations and other governments, agencies and organizations to preserve and protect the Trust Area for future generations. Trust Council initiated the Policy Statement amendment process two years ago and guided all activity, including the Islands 2050 public engagement.