



News Release

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Islands Trust to return to in-person meetings

Lək̓ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – After eighteen months of electronic meetings to ensure compliance with public health orders around public gatherings and social distancing, Islands Trust will once again welcome in-person attendance at public meetings and public hearings.

Before the COVID pandemic, electronic meetings were not an option as provincial law required Islands Trust to provide for in-person attendance by the public. Shortly after the pandemic's start, to ensure business continuity, the Province of B.C. issued Ministerial Order M192 to allow Islands Trust to legally conduct electronic meetings. The Order will expire on September 28, 2021, and beginning September 29, Islands Trust meetings will be in person.

“A lot of trustees and islands residents have missed in-person meetings and look forward to them starting up again,” shared Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “We also know that many people enjoyed having the ability to watch meetings live and recorded from the comfort of their own homes. To accommodate both preferences we’re exploring opportunities and figuring out how to continue to offer livestreaming and meeting recordings. The recordings have been a great option for people who aren't available at meeting times and they are a valuable reference.”

Islands Trust is booking community halls and venues in preparation for in-person meetings while also working towards continued livestreaming and recording. Livestreaming will depend on the internet bandwidth available at the host venue and will vary from island to island.

The Islands Trust bodies, which consist of 13 local trust committees, Trust Council—made up of the 26 elected trustees from across the Trust Area, the Executive Committee, and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, can review meeting procedures bylaws to enable or improve electronic meetings. The public may see procedure changes on future agendas.

All people attending in-person meetings will be required to wear masks, but Islands Trust is not obligated to check for proof of vaccination for in-person meetings.

Islands Trust staff and trustees appreciate meeting participants practicing safe distancing and staying home if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

In-person seating at Islands Trust meetings will be limited to no more than 50 persons, or 50% of the seating capacity, whichever is greater.

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

The transition back to in-person meetings will begin with the following meetings:

- September 24 South Pender Island Local Trust Committee Meeting
- September 27 Mayne Island Local Trust Committee Meeting
- October 2 Galiano Island Local Trust Committee Community Information Meeting
- October 4 Galiano Island Local Trust Committee Meeting
- October 4 Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee Meeting
- October 5 Islands Trust Conservancy Board Meeting
- October 5 Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Meeting

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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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