



## Draft New Islands Trust Policy Statement Project Overview Briefing

(Updated July 15, 2021)

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### The Islands Trust – A Unique Mandate to Preserve & Protect

*Islands Trust Council acknowledges with respect that the Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉCEN, K'ómoks, Lək'wəḡən, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL, Qualicum, Quw'utsun Tribes, scəwáθən məsteyəxʷ, Scia'new, səlilwətaʔt, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Sk̓wxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Spune'luxutth, S̓XÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ʔaʔəmen, toq qaymıxʷ, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOLELP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu/ʔop qaymıxʷ, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.*

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government established in 1974 to preserve and protect over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea. The mandate of Islands Trust (known as the “Islands Trust Object”) is to: “*preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations, and the government of British Columbia*”. ([Islands Trust Act](#)) This is accomplished through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, engagement with First Nations, inter-agency coordination and advocacy, community engagement, and stewardship education.

The Islands Trust Area covers 5200 square kilometres and includes 13 major islands, 450 smaller islands, and is home to 26,000 residents, 10,000 non-resident property owners, and 28,000 Coast Salish People. The region features spectacular beauty, extensive archaeological and culturally important sites, and some of the world’s most endangered ecosystems.

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

All elected trustees are part of the 26-member Islands Trust Council. As a regional body, Trust Council acts on matters that affect the entire Islands Trust Area, including setting the annual budget; creating and monitoring a Trust-wide Strategic Plan; implementing and amending the Islands Trust Policy Statement; advocating on issues important to the entire region; and engaging with First Nations and other governments, agencies, and organizations to preserve and protect the Trust Area for future generations. Elected local trust committees’ and Bowen Island Municipality’s decisions on how land and marine areas are zoned and used must respect the preserve and protect mandate. This means that official community plans and land use bylaws in the Trust Area have a strong emphasis on preserving and protecting the unique amenities and environment of the region.

## The Islands Trust Policy Statement

As per Section 15 of *the Islands Trust Act*, Trust Council must adopt, by bylaw, a Policy Statement that contains the vision, principles and policies that guide how Trust Council interprets and implements its provincial mandate to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area.

The Policy Statement guides the development of the official community plans and land use bylaws of local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality and the development of Trust Council's Strategic Plan and advocacy program. It is the heart of the preserve and protect mandate for this special region. Within the Islands Trust Area, regional growth strategies do not apply; instead, official community plans and land use bylaws must be consistent with the Policy Statement. The Policy Statement is approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs after the Minister is satisfied that the provincial interest and the duty to have early and meaningful consultation with First Nations have been satisfied.

- [Learn more about the Islands Trust Policy Statement](#)
- View the current [Policy Statement Bylaw No. 17 \(2003 consolidated version\)](#)
- View the current [Policy Statement Amendment Policy \(1.2.1\)](#)
- View the current [Policy Statement Implementation Policy \(1.3.1\)](#)
- View the latest [draft new Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183](#) (Colour-Coded Version or Clean Version) on the Islands 2050 webpage

## Policy Statement Amendment Project Scope

In 2017, Trust Council assigned the Executive Committee, with involvement from Trust Programs Committee as appropriate, the task of updating the Islands Trust Policy Statement. The Policy Statement has not been substantively updated in over 25 years. In 2019, Trust Council defined three strategic priority areas for Policy Statement amendments - reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing – in addition to a general update of the Introduction, Part 1, Part 2, and Schedule 1-Definitions. These priorities reflect Trust Council's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, as well as its Reconciliation Declaration (2019) and Climate Emergency Declaration (2019). Trust Council also directed that the amendment process be informed by First Nations and public engagement processes, as well as feedback from a number of partner agencies and organizations.

Following more than 18 months of Islands 2050 engagement with First Nations and the public, and substantive policy analysis and discussion within Trust Council and its committees, a draft of a new Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183 was presented to a number of Trust Council's committees and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board for early feedback in May/June 2021. The specific policy changes proposed in the new draft Policy Statement were developed through Trust Programs Committee and Executive Committee, who were informed by Trust Council discussions and resolutions, public engagement since 2019, a discussion paper prepared by staff, and staff advice which was informed by engagement with First Nations. The draft was revised several times in May/June in response to feedback received from Council's committees prior to presenting the draft document to Trust Council.

The draft new Policy Statement was received by Trust Council at its special meeting on July 7-8, 2021. At Trust Council's request, the draft document will now be sent to referral agencies, First Nations and the public for feedback prior to First Reading.

# Islands 2050 Engagement Process

## **First Nations Engagement Update:**

It is important to note that this is the first time, in the history of Islands Trust, that First Nations have been engaged in a review of the Policy Statement and involved in all stages of the review process. All previous versions of the Islands Trust Policy Statement contained offensive, ahistorical, colonial language that supported further oppression and barriers to trust and respectful relationships. First Nations leaders, representatives and residential school survivors expressed their disappointment in Islands Trust, and highlighted how the maintenance of these policies for so many years led to further harm and destruction of cultural heritage, along with alienation from and irreparable desecration of their sacred sites, ancestral loved ones' resting places, and the cultural landscape from which they have been forcibly removed.

**A First Nations Engagement Update Report and other relevant background documents are available on the Islands 2050 webpage (see First Nations Engagement project folder) at: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>.**

## **Public Engagement Update:**

### **Public Engagement Phase 1:**

In Fall 2019, Islands Trust conducted the first phase of the Islands 2050 public engagement process to solicit feedback on priority values and concerns for the Trust Area over the next 30 years. After consulting with local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality on the engagement methods best suited to their communities, Islands Trust staff hosted 24 events across the Trust Area. They included open house evenings, information booths and collection of feedback in key community locations, information displays and feedback opportunities on ferries, and an online comment and discussion forum using the 'Thought Exchange' platform. Through online and in-person engagement, the following questions were asked:

1. What do you value about the Area?
2. In the context of a changing climate, what concerns do you have about the future of the Area?
3. What opportunities do you feel will help us preserve and protect the Area?

During the Fall 2019 public engagement process, 557 people attended open houses and information booths, 132 people spoke with staff on ferries, and 149 people browsed displays and materials. 789 people participated on the Thought Exchange online platform providing 1,269 comments and 24,257 ratings of the comments provided.

Following the first phase of public engagement in 2019, staff consolidated the online and in-person feedback into a final report [What We Heard - Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area](#). In July 2020, the "What We Heard" report was posted to the Islands Trust website and shared with email subscribers, advisory group members and First Nations.

### **Public Engagement Phase 2:**

In January 2021, in response to requests for more inclusive public engagement, staff added a second phase of public engagement by launching a mid-project [Policy Directions Report](#) and online survey that sought ideas and opinions from the public on the themes of climate change and affordable housing (noting that the other defined priority of reconciliation was the subject of a separate process of engagement with First Nations). The public survey was open from January 18 to February 7 and was completed by 406 members of the public who took, on average, 21 minutes to complete with a 97% estimated completion rate. Staff also received 10 e-mail submissions in response to the survey questions. Trust Council received the consolidated [survey results](#) in March 2021 and the results were

posted to the Islands Trust website on the surveys and polls page. On March 3, 2021 Islands Trust hosted a [Virtual Open House](#) via zoom webinar from 7:00-9:00pm. The event was attended by 108 people, and commenced with an acknowledgment and welcome by Hereditary Chief Bill Williams (Squamish). The webinar was co-hosted by a panel of staff and trustees representing the three Trust Programs Committee working groups on reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing. Following a short presentation outlining the Policy Directions Report, the panel answered questions.

#### **Promotion of Public Engagement Opportunities:**

Staff has promoted engagement opportunities to date through paid advertising in local newspapers, subscriber e-mail messages, social media posts, mail-outs, and the following news releases:

- [January 18, 2021: Public Survey about Updating Islands Trust Policy Statement](#)
- [July 20, 2020: Islands Trust Releases Islands 2050 What We Heard Report](#)
- [September 6, 2019: Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area](#)

A dedicated e-mail inbox ([islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca)) has been made available for all Islands 2050 related e-mails. Staff also produced an animated [video](#) about the Policy Statement Amendment Project in 2019 that has been widely shared. Additionally, trustees have promoted engagement opportunities through their own e-mail lists and networks.

To promote engagement opportunities during Public Engagement Phase 2, staff sent out subscriber messages, purchased ads in newspapers (Bowen Island Undercurrent, Gulf Islands Driftwood, Gabriola Sounder, Coast Reporter, Hornby Tribune, and Denman-Hornby Grapevine) and monthly publications (Active Page, Saturna Scribbler, Our Isle and Times, Mayneliner, Pender Post, The Flagstone), and feature online ads on the Salt Spring Exchange and the Bowen Island Undercurrent websites. In addition, staff directly e-mailed non-profit and other island organizations to encourage them to advise their members of the survey opportunity and supported trustees in their efforts to raise awareness. At the request of local trustees, and with their support, staff also arranged for Canada Post to deliver promotional flyers about the engagement opportunities to PO Box addresses on Saturna and Galiano Islands. Social media campaigns on both Facebook and Twitter complemented the print advertising. Through reaching out to organizations on the islands with Facebook and to island-based Facebook discussion groups, the survey posts were shared throughout the Trust Area. Islands Trust Facebook posts generated a total of 7274 “Reached,” 764 “Post Clicks,” 338 “Reactions, Comments and Shares”.

#### **Ongoing Public Correspondence:**

All public correspondence received at the [islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca) portal has been posted to the [Islands2050 webpage](#) for Trust Council’s consideration, and Trust Council has received 16 delegations and many town hall presentations related to the Policy Statement Amendment Project.

#### **Islands 2050 Engagement - Next Steps:**

At a special Trust Council meeting July 7-8, 2021 Trust Council passed the following resolutions.

1. *That the Islands Trust Council postpone consideration of first reading of Bylaw No. 183, cited as “Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw, 2021” to December 2021.*
2. *That the Islands Trust Council request staff to develop a revised project charter for public engagement on the draft new Policy Statement for approval and implementation by the Islands Trust Executive Committee by the end of August 2021.*
3. *That the Islands Trust Council receive the draft new Policy Statement and request that the draft new Policy Statement be referred to First Nations (early and meaningful engagement), Bowen Island Municipality, Local Trust Committees, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, Regional Districts, Improvement Districts, School Districts and Provincial and Federal government agencies or departments having jurisdiction in the Trust Area.*

4. That the Islands Trust Council ask all Trustees to share the draft Trust Policy Statement with their Local Trust Area constituents between now and September, asking for feedback to be provided to [Islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:Islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca)
5. That Trust Council approve an additional transfer of up to \$75,000 from the general revenue surplus fund in fiscal 2021/2022 for enhanced community and First Nations engagement on the draft new Policy Statement subject to approval of the revised engagement project charter by Trust Council.

Stay tuned to the [Islands 2050 webpage](#) or [subscribe to email updates](#) to keep apprised of next steps for the Islands 2050 engagement process.

## Amendment Rationale: Guiding Principles & Paradigms

After carefully considering the various streams of external input (First Nations and Public Engagement feedback) and internal input and analysis (by Trust Council, Trust Programs Committee, Executive Committee, and staff) since the Policy Statement Amendment Project's inception, a number of guiding principles and paradigms emerged to guide the amendment drafting process for the new Policy Statement.

### Reconciliation Principles

As reflected in its 2019 Reconciliation Declaration, Trust Council has committed to seek meaningful engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area, recognizing First Nations' treaty and territorial lands and waters, and to be guided by the specific reconciliation principles and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, that fall within Trust Council's jurisdiction. Key language changes throughout the document have been guided by the principles and foundational documents noted above and help to refute problematic concepts of *terra nullius* and the doctrine of discovery.

### Precautionary Approaches

In the face of widespread risks, vulnerabilities, and uncertainties around the rate and scale of climate change, and the ongoing cumulative effects of human activity, the need for more precautionary approaches to stewardship of the Trust Area has become apparent. The [Precautionary Principle](#) states that the lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental damage to habitats or species when there is a threat of serious or irreversible environmental degradation. The new Part 3 of the draft Policy Statement articulates an overarching commitment to be guided by the Precautionary Principle and this precautionary approach is integrated throughout the document. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has published helpful [\*Guidelines For Applying The Precautionary Principle To Biodiversity Conservation And Natural Resource Management\*](#).

### Area-Based Understandings

In the context of small rural islands in the Trust Area, each site-specific decision has impacts on the broader landscape and seascape. Engagement feedback and analysis revealed that, when assessing the appropriateness of site specific applications, it is important to start with a broad, area-based understanding of the full array of interactions at play and the ripple effects of any one single change. This area-based approach is favoured over a professional reliance model that considers only limited site specific information and places the financial burden for evidence-based assessments on applicants. The approach is most clearly articulated in Part 4 but is also woven throughout the document. It underpins

many of the interpretive context sections and is reflected in specific policies such as the establishment of a network of protected areas that can serve to better protect species migration corridors, ecosystem connectivity, and environmental integrity in each planning area.

### **Multiple Ways of Knowing**

In order to develop informed, area-based understandings, Trust Council will benefit from being guided by multiple ways of knowing that each hold unique value and wise counsel to support more informed decision making in the Trust Area. The current draft of the new Policy Statement articulates the need for decision-making to be guided by the best available area-based mapping, science, social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing. This requires not only an investment in research partnerships and engagement processes, but also a paradigm shift to hold space and be open to guidance from all of these multiple ways of knowing at the same time, rather than forcing them to mesh together or prioritizing one too heavily over the others.

### **Adaptive Management**

Engagement feedback and internal analysis both underscored that the specific impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises and their policy implications may be difficult to predict in exact detail, timing, and scope and that it will, therefore, be prudent to institute more adaptive management approaches in the Trust Area. Adaptive management approaches are structured, iterative processes of decision-making intended to reduce uncertainty over time through periodic monitoring and evaluation, and evidence-based policy adjustments. Adaptive approaches have been woven in throughout the document, particularly in Parts 4 and 6, and are supported by more specific commitments to nature-based solutions and climate vulnerability assessments.

### **Relational Stewardship**

The review process also highlighted the need to move towards more relational approaches to stewardship, reframing language around the sustainable use of “resources” towards more reciprocal relationships of stewardship that acknowledge the interconnectedness of people and place. This relational approach expresses a widely held aspiration to responsibly and respectfully care for the lands, waters, air, and other species in the Trust Area, acknowledging their intrinsic value as well as the important supports they provide to human well-being. This reframing also helps to acknowledge and be guided by Indigenous ways of knowing that reflect First Nations’ relationships as stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters since time immemorial. Within the Policy Statement, this led to a merging of the former Parts 3 and 4 and some reframing of preamble language and policies throughout the document.

### **Restoration, Regeneration, and Resilience**

The new draft Policy Statement also adds in some new terms related to restoration. Engagement feedback and analysis suggested that there is an imperative to restore fragile ecosystems and assist in their recovery due to the cumulative impacts of development and human use of natural areas, as well as the impacts of a changing climate. The recently launched [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#) aims to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean, acknowledging that this “can help to end poverty, combat climate change, and prevent a mass extinction if everyone plays a part”. Ecosystem restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Restoration can happen in many ways, such as active reforestation or wetland remediation, or by simply removing pressures so that nature can recover and adapt on its own. Regenerative approaches follow similar aims by instituting sustainable cultivation and harvesting practices that help to improve the overall health of natural systems, rather than destroying or depleting them. Resilience refers to the capacity of ecosystems and communities to continue to function in the face of external stressors such as climate change, while also learning to adapt and evolve.

## Equitable

Another key principle that emerged from engagement feedback and Trust Council discussion was an acknowledgment that sustainability and resilience in the Trust Area are strengthened by healthy, equitable, diverse, and inclusive communities. The impacts of climate change and other social, economic, and environmental dynamics in the Trust Area are likely to be experienced disproportionately by those who are already most socially or economically vulnerable. Adaptive management processes (noted above) will help to monitor the impacts of policies on those most vulnerable and inform adjustments as needed. Coordination and advocacy policies provide further opportunities to support those in need. The addition of new policies in Part 6 related to affordable housing and low-impact housing profiles also serve to support principles of equitable and sustainable land use.

## Integrated

Amendments to the Policy Statement have also been crafted with an overarching goal of strong policy coherence, such that various policies are aligned to strengthen each other or, at the very least, not counteract each other. Not unlike ecosystems in the Trust Area, the Policy Statement is a highly interconnected system. A change in one area has ripple effects throughout the whole document. Thus, the Policy Statement should always be read as a whole to discern the overarching principles and paradigms that manifest into an array of interconnected and integrated policies and approaches.

## Upholding the Islands Trust Object

In response to engagement feedback, as well as detailed policy analysis and research, the new draft Policy Statement underscores and centres the primacy of the Islands Trust Object. While the Policy Statement is often looked to as a regional planning or growth strategy, its singular purpose (as defined in the *Islands Trust Act*) is to establish a general statement of policies of Trust Council to carry out the Islands Trust Object to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area. Amendments have been made to the introductory sections of the document to clarify this purpose and to offer more detailed interpretations of the Islands Trust Object, in accordance with historical documents, analysis of the *Islands Trust Act*, publicly available legal advice, and feedback from elected officials and engagement partners. The March 2021 discussion paper on [“The Islands Trust Object: Past, Present, and Future”](#) provides further context for these refinements.

# OVERVIEW OF KEY AMENDMENTS

While the new draft Policy Statement must always be read as a whole and in its entirety, the following most notable amendments are highlighted here for easy reference.

### Key Structural Changes:

- **Introduction** now included as part of the bylaw
- **Section 1.1:** ‘Acknowledgment’ added to Introduction
- **Section 1.4:** ‘The Islands Trust Object and its Meaning’ section moved from previous Part 2
- **New Part 3:** Regional Governance
- **Consolidated Part 4:** Combines previous Parts 3 (Ecosystem Preservation & Protection) + 4 (Stewardship of Resources)
- **New Part 5:** Heritage Preservation and Protection
- **Part 6:** Consolidated and reframed as Sustainable AND RESILIENT Communities
- **New Section 6.2:** On Housing Policies

### **Section 1.3 (Present Context)**

- Updated to provide present context for each of Trust Council’s amendment priority areas (reconciliation, climate change, affordable housing) as well as an update on the current state of the islands

### **Section 1.4 (The Islands Trust Object and its Meaning)**

- Updated in accordance with historical documents, analysis of the *Islands Trust Act*, publicly available legal advice, and feedback from elected officials and engagement partners (See March 2021 discussion paper on [“The Islands Trust Object: Past, Present, and Future”](#))

### **Coordination & Advocacy Policies**

- Policies that were previously referred to as “recommendations” were strengthened into “coordination and advocacy policies” throughout the document
- Additional context was provided in Section 2.2 regarding the jurisdictional powers of Trust Council vis-à-vis interagency coordination and advocacy, and in making recommendations to the Province, as per Sections 8 and 9 of the *Islands Trust Act*

### **New Part 3 on Regional Governance**

- Builds on previous “Guiding Principles for Trust Council” and articulates bold and integrated commitments of Trust Council centred on upholding the Islands Trust Object
- Identifies general regional governance approaches centred in the Islands Trust Object while leaving flexibility for localized implementation in accordance with the unique needs of each island

### **Part 4 Ecosystem Preservation and Protection**

- Establishes area-based understandings through multiple ways of knowing, detailed ecosystem-based mapping, the establishment of protected area networks in each planning area, and collaboration with the Islands Trust Conservancy
- Calls for adaptive management approaches aided by cumulative effects studies, climate vulnerability assessments, and nature-based solutions
- Commits to take precautionary approaches to the sustainable stewardship of Trust Area ecosystems in cooperation with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, and the public, and on the basis of the best available area-based mapping, science, social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing
- Fosters a general approach to sustainable harvesting (forest, agriculture, and marine) in the Trust Area that is in alignment with the Islands Trust Object and the natural limitations of Trust Area ecosystems: “limited, small-scale, sustainable, regenerative, supportive of climate action and food security, respectful of Indigenous harvesting areas, and protective of the environmental integrity of the Trust Area.”

### **Freshwater**

- Strengthens language around protecting freshwater sustainability (4.2.7)
- Encourages rainwater harvesting as a supplemental (not primary) water source (4.2.12)
- Prohibits new desalination plants due to their high energy usage and adverse impacts to the marine environment (4.2.5, 4.2.9)

## **Forests**

- Supports forestry that is limited, small-scale, sustainable, regenerative, supportive of climate action, respectful of Indigenous harvesting areas, and protective of the environmental integrity of the Trust Area (4.3.3)
- States a policy that clear-cutting of forests and logging of old-growth trees is inappropriate anywhere in the Trust Area, acknowledging the multiple adverse impacts these activities incur on the fragile ecosystems, environmental integrity, and carbon capture and storage potential of the Trust Area (4.3.5)
- Articulates coordination and advocacy policies to the Province requesting jurisdictional authority to prohibit clear-cutting and logging of old growth in the Trust Area and to regulate tree cutting (4.3.9)

## **Agriculture**

- Acknowledges the role of agriculture in promoting local food security and climate action (4.4.2)
- Supports small-scale, sustainable, regenerative agriculture that is respectful of downstream impacts, wildlife habitat, and adjacent properties (4.4.3)
- Supports local farmers to play a leadership role in the protecting the integrity of the environment and cultural heritage in the Trust Area (4.4.6)

## **Soils**

- Prohibits the removal or excavation of soil or fill from middens or foreshore areas that have been identified as culturally significant areas (4.5.6)

## **Marine**

- Prioritizes the preservation and protection of eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, tidal salt marshes, mud flats, and coastal wetlands, acknowledging their multifaceted roles in supporting carbon capture and storage, soft shoreline protection, and the provision of habitats and spawning areas for coastal and marine aquatic species. (4.6.9)
- Prohibits new private docks, except where properties are boat access only, in order to minimize the cumulative impacts of docks on sensitive marine ecosystems and aquatic species at risk, eelgrass and kelp beds, forage fish spawning areas, as well as First Nations' cultural, archaeological, and traditional harvesting sites. (4.6.14)
- Contains directive to consider the current and anticipated impacts of sea level rise and determine shoreline buffers and setbacks accordingly (4.6.15)
- Contains directive to prohibit the use of seawalls and other hard shoreline armouring in the Trust Area and include policies that foster soft shoreline protection (4.6.16)
- Fosters stronger coordination and advocacy policies related to the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels and marine debris, the use of commercial freighter anchorage sites in the Trust Area, the prohibition of oil tankers from transiting through the waters in the Trust Area, and the need for oil spill preparedness and response plans. (4.6.18)

## **New Part 5 on Heritage Preservation and Protection**

- Acknowledges that the relationship of First Nations to these lands, waters, and place is intrinsically linked to the preservation and protection of the Trust Area.
- Recognizes Indigenous cultural heritage as a 'unique amenity' in the Trust Area.
- Institutes measures for the preservation and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage, community heritage, and natural heritage. (5.1.3 – 5.1.5)

## **Part 6 Sustainable and Resilient Communities**

- Fosters rural island planning approaches that are in alignment with the Islands Trust Object and the unique attributes and vulnerabilities of islands
- Fosters a general approach across all policies for development that is compact, energy-efficient, sustainable, and appropriately situated in order to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, reduce ecological footprints, and safeguard protected area networks, freshwater sustainability, a healthy marine environment, and Indigenous cultural heritage in the Trust Area.
- Calls for adaptive management approaches aided by cumulative effects studies, climate vulnerability assessments, and nature-based solutions

### **New Section 6.2 on Housing**

- Fosters low-impact housing profile for all housing types (6.2.1)
- Acknowledges the role of affordable housing in supporting sustainable communities and commits to foster a strategic, multijurisdictional, equitable, and integrated approach to address the diverse housing needs of Trust Area communities (6.2.2-6.2.3)
- Directs local trust committees and islands municipalities to identify appropriate locations that could safely accommodate density increases to support safe, secure, and affordable housing without jeopardizing protected area networks, freshwater sustainability, a healthy marine environment, and Indigenous cultural heritage (6.2.4)
- Calls for assessments of the impacts of short-term rentals of dwellings in each planning area and, where necessary, regulations to limit the number of short-term rentals (6.2.5)
- Calls for each planning area to define appropriate floor area and lot coverage limits for residential development to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, cumulative effects, biodiversity loss, climate vulnerability, and destruction of Indigenous cultural heritage (6.2.6)
- Advocates to other government and non-governmental agencies to foster safe, secure, and affordable housing in the Trust Area, in alignment with the Islands Trust Object. (6.2.7)
- Advocates for safe, secure, and affordable housing for Indigenous Peoples in the Trust Area. (6.2.8)

### **Transportation**

- Acknowledges that community sustainability and resilience are supported by appropriately situated public and active transportation networks that serve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support electric vehicles and electric bicycles, and promote health and well-being (6.3.1)
- Advocates for electrification of ferries in the Trust Area (6.3.10)

# Islands 2050

## Learn More:

The Islands 2050 webpage contains engagement feedback, reports, public correspondence, FAQs, and other relevant project info: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>

## Versions of the Policy Statement:

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  - View the current [Policy Statement Amendment Policy \(1.2.1\)](#)
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- View the latest [draft new Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183](#) on the Islands 2050 webpage
  - Colour-Coded Version (shows amendment areas, colour-coded by theme)
  - Clean Version (same content without colour-coding)

## Contact Us:

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