



News Release

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Extensive Policy Statement engagement planned

Lək̓ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Two years into the *Islands 2050 Public Engagement Program*, Islands Trust is preparing for Phase Three by seeking qualified firms to design, lead and implement a robust public engagement process across the whole Trust Area.

Islands 2050 involves seeking community input about potential changes to the Islands Trust Policy Statement, which contains the principles and policies that guide the Islands Trust’s work. The Islands Trust Council is updating the Policy Statement to be current, adapt to future challenges, and take advantage of new and developing opportunities.

“After receiving a great deal of feedback from the public, Trust Council decided to expand plans for the third phase of the Islands 2050 engagement process,” shared Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “We have put out a request for proposal to find a qualified firm to support us in inviting feedback in multiple ways over a number of months. Our goal is to meaningfully inform and consult the public on the contents of the draft new Policy Statement.”

The current Policy Statement has not been updated for over 25 years and lacks any reference to Trust Council’s current priorities of reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing.

The document is critical to Islands Trust planning. It influences the development of local official community plans and land use bylaws and inter-agency cooperation, advocacy, engagement, and Trust-wide strategic planning and programming. The work of updating the Policy Statement is guided by input from the public and other government agencies, and through early and meaningful engagement with First Nations.

In addition to the upcoming Islands 2050 Phase 3 public engagement, meaningful engagement with First Nations and inter-agency referrals are occurring at a government-to-government level. Each process will inform Trust Council’s amendment of the Policy Statement.

The *Islands 2050 Policy Statement Public Engagement Program* request for proposals (RFP) may be viewed online at: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/whats-happening/bid-opportunities/>. RFP responses will be accepted up until 2:00 p.m. on November 12, 2021.

Members of the public and community organizations are invited to learn more about the Policy Statement and provide input by visiting: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>. Indigenous people living on the islands can engage through the Islands Trust reconciliation email at reconciliation@islandstrust.bc.ca.

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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

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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