



News Release

200 - 1627 Fort Street Victoria B.C. | V8R 1H8

Telephone 250.405.5151 | FAX: 250.405.5155

Toll Free via Service BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421 | in B.C. 1.800.663.7867

information@islandstrust.bc.ca | www.islandstrust.bc.ca

February 17, 2021 – for immediate release

2021-06-IT

Islands Trust Policy Statement amendment open house March 3 Final opportunity for public comment prior to the new policy drafting step

Lək̓ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust staff and trustees will co-host a virtual open house event the evening of March 3. The event will include an overview of the Islands 2050 (Policy Statement Amendment) Project and provide time for questions. This is an opportunity for the public to ask questions about the amendment process and the role of the Policy Statement in shaping the future of islands in the Salish Sea. The open house follows an Islands Trust public survey that closed on February 5 about the [Islands 2050 Policy Directions report](#) released in January 2021.

“We are listening to all public input on the Policy Statement Amendment Project,” said Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “We are also engaging with First Nations throughout the process. While we have had more than 400 responses to our recent survey about the Policy Directions report, Trust Council would like to offer another avenue for community members to learn about the project and ask questions. Through the coming months, we will move forward into policy writing based on the engagement from First Nations, and informed by community survey responses, e-mailed comments, presentations to Trust Council, and open house questions.”

The Policy Statement is the foundational document that sets out how Islands Trust accomplishes its preserve and protect mandate. The document guides policy decisions about island landscapes and the waters surrounding them. It includes recommendations to other levels of government. Notably, it informs how local official community plans and land use bylaws are created.

Those wishing to take part can register for the event, and send questions in advance. Questions on the day will also be welcomed and the hosts will respond to as many as possible in the time allotted.

Summary of event details:

Topic: Islands 2050 (Policy Statement Amendment) Project Virtual Open House

Date: Wednesday, March 3

Time: 7 – 9 p.m.

To register and learn more about the Islands 2050 (Policy Statement Amendment) Project: <http://islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/islands-2050/>

Send a question in advance: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VOHQuestions>

Anyone who has questions about the event or requires assistance is invited to reach out via islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca or 250-405-5151.

- 30 -

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 Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 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. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. 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.

Contact:

Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council 250-210-2553

Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust, via Erin Coulson, A/Communications Specialist 250-405-5197