



News Release

200 - 1627 Fort Street Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Telephone **250.405.5151** FAX: 250.405.5155

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**

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

June 18, 2021 – for immediate release

2021-12-IT

July 7-8, 2021, Special Trust Council Meeting to Consider First Reading of the Draft of the New Policy Statement

Lək'wəḡən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust Council invites the public to participate in a special meeting being held electronically July 7-8, 2021, to consider first reading of the draft of the new Islands Trust Policy Statement. The public can view the electronic meeting live stream in real-time on a computer or smartphone via the Islands Trust website, listen and participate by telephone, or join the meeting by Zoom.

The special meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 7, with a town hall session until 9:00 p.m. that evening. Without giving any advance notice, members of the public can speak to trustees for up to two minutes. The meeting Chair will make every effort to hear all members of the public, but reserves the right to limit the number of speakers and speaking time. On the second day of the meeting, July 8, Trust Council will consider first reading of the draft of the new Policy Statement.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement expresses how Islands Trust Council plans to carry out its unique preserve and protect mandate and shapes land and marine use planning in the Islands Trust Area. The last version of the Policy Statement was written in 1994. This revision is a historic amendment that addresses the guiding principles of reconciliation and aligns the new Islands Trust Policy Statement with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. The Islands Trust Council is also updating the Policy Statement to address Trust Council's response to the climate emergency and affordable housing challenges. The Policy Statement helps shape the 20 official community plans—documents providing direction for the community—and associated bylaws, policies, and regulations.

“We are thankful for all the engagement and input from members of the public over the last 18 months and for the meaningful and collaborative relationships with First Nations as we worked towards developing a new draft of the Policy Statement. First reading will signal that Trust Council wants to advance the draft of the new Policy Statement for public and agency comment, and further First Nations engagement,” said Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council. “This is typically the stage where people get more deeply interested and comment on specific proposed policies. We invite everyone to read the document cover to cover to get a complete understanding about what is being proposed, the rationale, and the commitment to reconciliation. There will be at least three months available to provide feedback by email or letter, and there will also be a survey open for several weeks. Information about the draft bylaw will be provided on the Islands Trust website and at online open houses. All feedback will be considered as we work towards a revised version for second reading.”

Following first reading, while public engagement is going on, over 100 provincial and federal agencies, organizations, First Nations, and other governments will be invited to review and provide feedback on the proposed new Policy Statement bylaw.

Keep up-to-date with the Islands 2050 engagement process about the Policy Statement Amendment Project, by registering online to receive updates at: islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/. You can also view the Islands Trust website for more information islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/

Featured Sessions

Town Hall - Wednesday, July 7, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Members of the public are invited to speak at the Town Hall portion of the meeting on matters impacting the Trust Area. Speakers have two minutes to speak; however, time allotments are subject to change.

Get meeting details and information on how to listen, watch or attend at:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/trust-council-special-meeting-1/>

Trust Council Special Meeting - Thursday, July 8 – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Get meeting details and learn how to listen or watch at:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/trust-council-special-meeting-2/>

Until further notice, to protect the health and safety of trustees, Islands Trust employees, and the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, Trust Council meetings will be held electronically and broadcast using Zoom. The Islands Trust appreciates the public's understanding and assistance during this time.

- 30 -

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, via
Clare Frater, Director of Trust Area Services 250-405-5192