

Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area

What you need to know about the DRAFT new Policy Statement



A Message from the Islands Trust Council Chair July 2021

At Islands Trust, we're getting emails, letters, and messages and seeing many social media posts about the draft new Policy Statement.

It's inspiring to see all this interest. Still, we're concerned about misinformation, and we are troubled by some of the antagonistic and blaming dialogue we have witnessed.

What is a Policy Statement?

The Islands Trust Policy Statement contains the vision, principles, and policies that guide how Islands Trust implements its provincial mandate to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area. It guides our decision-making, but it hasn't been updated for more than 25 years. We're amending it now to reflect current realities like climate change, and affordable housing, and we're making changes to prepare us to respond to future challenges. As well, we are making amendments to align the Islands Trust Policy Statement with reconciliation as set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Despite rumours circulating, the draft new Policy Statement doesn't centralize governance, diminish the commitment to the environment, cause the Islands Trust to work outside its jurisdiction, result in less support for healthy and inclusive communities, or cause anyone to take out existing infrastructure such as docks and seawalls.

Also, under no circumstances will Trust Council adopt the draft new Policy Statement at the July 8th Trust Council meeting. First reading simply indicates Trust Council has a draft new Policy Statement that is ready for public review. It signals the start of a review and community engagement process that will last at least three to five months and encourage more public participation, First Nations engagement, and the input of agencies and organizations. All feedback gathered during this time will be considered before revising the draft new Policy Statement for second reading.

You can learn about the Policy Statement amendment process, read answers to frequently asked questions, read the draft new Policy Statement, and learn how to have your say on the Islands Trust website (<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>). We highly recommend you start exploring this content by watching our three-minute video called "Islands 2050: The future of the Trust Area". It provides an entertaining and informative overview of the Policy Statement Amendment Process.

Thank you to everyone who has engaged with us already and helped get us to this point. We look forward to hearing from many more people in the days ahead. We have months of public engagement planned and can't wait to receive your feedback and ideas. Please read the draft new Policy Statement cover-to-cover to understand how everything is integrated and worth considering.

Chair, Islands Trust Council



Islands Trust

Contact Us

We welcome your input. Please send us an email with your thoughts at islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca, call 1-250-405-5151 or write to us at:

200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

How the Policy Statement was revised

Two years ago, Trust Council approved a project to update the Policy Statement with three priorities for amendments: reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing. As part of the directive, Trust Council asked that First Nations and public engagement inform the update. The work was delegated to Trust Council's Executive Committee, with the support of the Trust Programs Committee. The draft new Policy Statement was informed by Trust Council discussions and resolutions, policy analysis, early and meaningful engagement with First Nations, and 18 months of public engagement, which produced thousands of comments, and many emails and letters. The engagement involved community events on large islands and BC Ferries, two online surveys, and information booths. Several of Trust Council's committees reviewed the first and second drafts in May and June and requested some changes. The latest draft, which incorporates those changes, will be considered by Trust Council on July 8th.

First reading kicks off public review and engagement

Now that there is draft new Policy Statement for Trust Council to consider, it's good that it is getting a lot of attention because this is when the most important work begins. **Once Trust Council has reviewed the new draft Policy Statement and agrees to a draft version, possibly at special meeting on July 8th, the formal public review and engagement process will begin.** During the first reading review, which will go on for at least three to five months, the public is invited to read the proposed draft Policy Statement and provide input by letter or email. The public can also get involved in a formal Trust Area-wide engagement process that will involve webinars and an online survey. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may also host local electronic or in-person engagement events.

Attend an information session and town hall meeting

On July 7th, 2021, Trust Council is holding an information meeting about the draft Policy Statement and a town hall meeting will follow. You can attend the information meeting and town hall electronically via Zoom. The information meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., and the town hall follows at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Learn how you can attend, watch or listen:

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

Public engagement

Sign up for notifications about the review and engagement process. Select "Islands 2050 Updates" when you subscribe at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/> so you will be informed about formal public reviews and engagement invitations later in the summer.

About Islands Trust

The Islands Trust is a special-purpose government established in 1974 to preserve and protect over 450 islands in the Salish Sea. We do this work through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, engagement with First Nations, interagency coordination and advocacy, community engagement and stewardship education.

The Trust Area

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.

Local governance

Across the Trust Area, there are thirteen local trust areas (LTA) 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.

Regional governance

All elected trustees are part of the 26-member Islands Trust Council. As a regional body, they act on matters that affect the entire Islands Trust Area, including setting the annual budget; creating and monitoring a strategic plan; adopting the 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.