



## News Release

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### **Islands Trust Council launches third phase of Islands 2050 public engagement with Online Survey and Virtual Question and Answer Session**

Ləkʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Today, Islands Trust is launching the third phase of public engagement for the Islands 2050 Policy Statement Amendment Project. Between February 25 and April 17, 2022, we are inviting anyone interested in the Islands Trust Area to share your feedback on draft changes to the Islands Trust Policy Statement, the document Trust Council uses to carry out its preserve and protect mandate.

Islands Trust is committed to providing meaningful engagement opportunities that are safe, inclusive and accessible. Our approach to public engagement is based on two-way communication and open dialogue to develop policies that support the preservation and protection of thriving and diverse ecosystems, natural and cultural heritage, and sustainable and resilient island communities, now and into the future. This is an opportunity for Islands Trust to share information about the [draft](#) new Policy Statement and to hear from you.

Through a variety of engagement channels, including a series of in-person events throughout the Trust Area, an online/paper survey, and virtual question and answer sessions, community workshops, and focus groups, Islands Trust is hoping to raise awareness and gather feedback that will help Trust Council further refine draft changes to the Policy Statement.

“Islands Trust is encouraging everyone interested in the project to attend one of the many engagement opportunities and then complete the survey which is open until April 17,” said Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “We are looking forward to sharing information about the project and hearing people’s views.”

Feedback from this phase of engagement will be considered by Trust Council, along with responses from First Nations, feedback from referral agencies, input from trustees and staff, and consideration of the preserve and protect mandate, to inform Trust Council’s next steps and future changes to the draft new Policy Statement.

The first engagement event is a virtual question and answer session on March 1, 2022, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Community members are invited to [register here](#) and submit questions in advance by email to [islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca). Islands Trust trustees and staff will be available to answer questions and share more information about the project. The session will be recorded but not live-streamed.

The survey is available to complete at: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>

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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

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More information about additional engagement opportunities, which will begin March 15, will be available soon at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/> along with additional informational products such as fact sheets and an updated Frequently Asked Questions document.

### **Policy Statement**

The Policy Statement is a general statement of policies that Islands Trust Council uses to carry out its special purpose government mandate to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Islands Trust Area. The document guides the development of local official community plans (OCPs) and regulatory bylaws in each local area, as well as regional advocacy and intergovernmental collaboration. The Policy Statement was first adopted in 1994 and has not been significantly updated in over 25 years. At the beginning of its 2018-2022 term, Trust Council set out its intentions to update the Policy Statement to better address its current priorities and commitments to reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing.

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### **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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