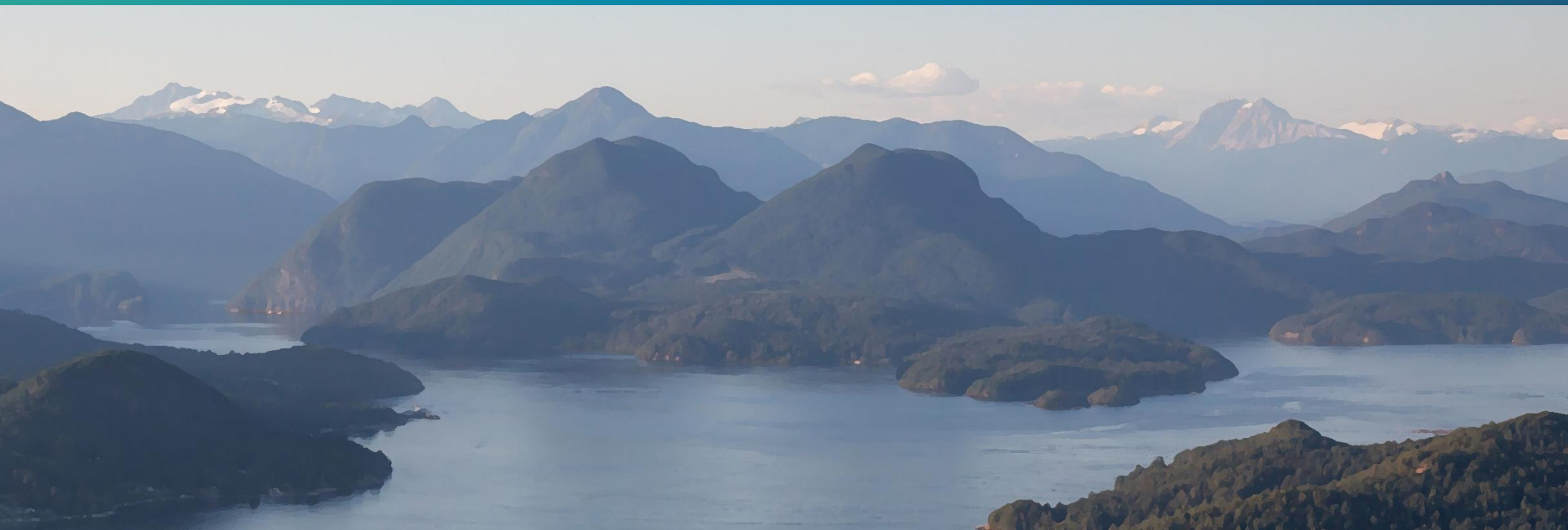


Islands 2050

Policy Statement Amendment Project

Orientation Session for Trust Council 2022-2026



We respectfully acknowledge that these lands and waters have been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We are committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.

Acknowledgement

Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy respectfully acknowledge that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We are committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea. The Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scaᵛaᵛan, saᵛilwatał, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Sᵛwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', SᵛÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ʔaʔamen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu, Xwsepsum, and xᵛməθkᵛəyəm First Nations.



Islands Trust Object

A Regional Mandate to Preserve and Protect

Islands Trust Act (1974)

Islands Trust Object:

“to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.”

– Islands Trust Act, Section 3

Islands Trust Policy Statement

“The trust council must, by bylaw, adopt a trust policy statement that applies to the trust area (...) a general statement of the policies of the trust council to carry out the object of the trust”

– Islands Trust Act, Section 15

Current
Policy Statement
Bylaw No. 17

Draft New
Policy Statement
Bylaw No. 183

Local Official
Community Plans

Local Regulatory
Bylaws

Islands Trust Policy Statement

Islands Trust Area



Regional Districts



“A bylaw... must not be approved by the executive committee or the trust council, as the case may be, if it is contrary to or at variance with the trust policy statement.”

– Islands Trust Act, Section 15

Islands Trust Policy Statement

What It IS:

- Required under the *Islands Trust Act*
- Developed and amended by the 26-member federation of Trust Council
- General statement of policies that applies to the Islands Trust Area as a whole
- Centred on how the federation of Trust Council plans to carry out its mandate to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area
- Guides the development of more detailed official community plans and bylaws by local trust committees/island municipalities through the lens of the Islands Trust Object

What It IS NOT:

- NOT a regional or harmonized official community plan (OCP)
(but local OCPs must be consistent with the regional Policy Statement)
- NOT a thematic strategy or action plan
- Current Policy Statement has NOT been meaningfully updated in over 25 years
- Current Policy Statement does NOT meet Trust Council's commitments to address reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing
- Current Policy Statement does NOT reflect First Nations rights, interests, or input

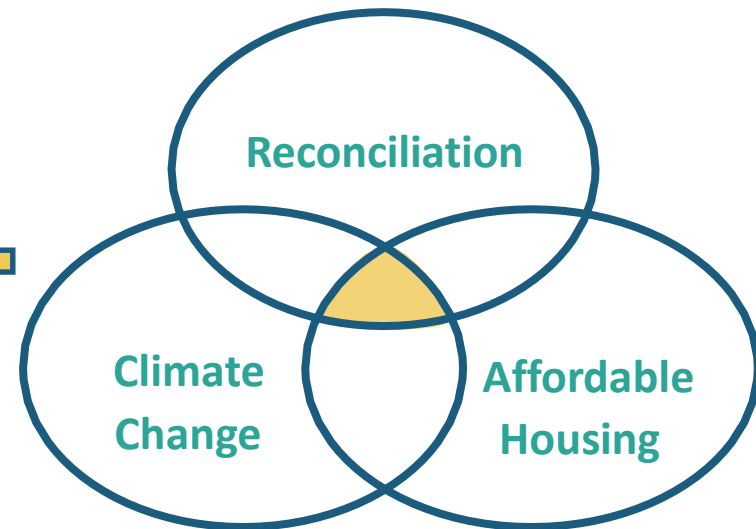
Amendment Project Scope

Trust Council 2018-2022

Initial Project Scope

General Update:

- **Introduction**
- **Part 1** (Purpose and Implementation of the Trust Policy Statement)
- **Part 2** (The Islands Trust Object and Guiding Principles)
- **Schedule 1** (Definitions)



Guided By:

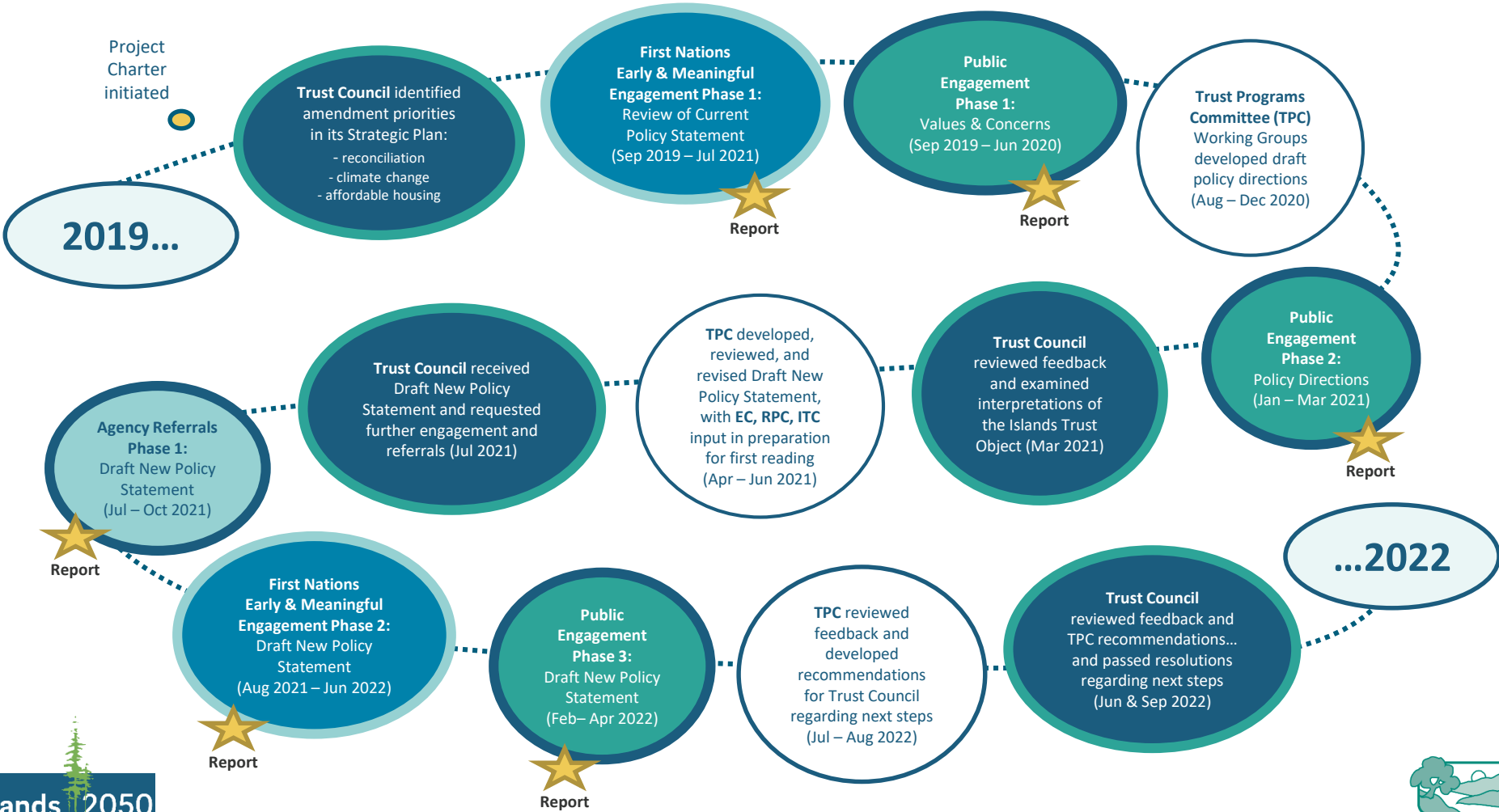
Public
Engagement

First Nations
Engagement

Agency
Referrals

Project History

2019 – 2022



Engagement & Referral Feedback



Public Engagement

- Phase 1: Values & Concerns ([What We Heard Report](#))
- Phase 2: Policy Directions ([Survey Results](#))
- Phase 3: Draft New Policy Statement ([ISL Engagement Summary Report](#))



First Nations Early & Meaningful Engagement

- Phase 1: Review of Current Policy Statement ([Summary Report](#))
- Phase 2: Review of Draft New Policy Statement ([Summary Report](#))



Agency Referrals

- Phase 1: Review of Draft New Policy Statement ([Summary Report](#))

All engagement summary reports are available on the Islands 2050 webpage:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>

Governance Review Insights



“The absence of an overarching vision for the Trust Area as a whole, setting out limits to growth, measures for protection of the environment, and sustainable strategies for development must be addressed.”



“The first challenge that confronts the Trust is to agree on how to interpret the Preserve and Protect Object. This absence of consensus is described in a variety of ways; one that seems to have resonated with many is to ask if the Trust is an environmental steward with land use regulatory powers, or a land use regulator with a particular concern for environmental stewardship. Not to be dismissed as semantics, the question reflects a long-time inability to reach agreement on most of the important questions facing Council.”



“The very contentious nature of debate at both Trust Council and among Trust Area residents on the proposed amendments (to the Policy Statement) is a strong indication of the divisions which exist regarding how the Islands Trust Object should be interpreted.”



“Trust Council must become a deliberative body focussed on the exchange of ideas and the development of consensus, rather than a transactional body endorsing proposals put before it.”

(Governance Review – Great Northern Management Consultants – February 2022)

2022 Trust Council Resolutions

In June and September 2022, after receiving engagement feedback from First Nations, referral agencies, and the public, the outgoing 2018-2022 Trust Council passed a number of resolutions guiding further work on the Policy Statement Amendment Project, for review by the new 2022-2026 Trust Council and its committees in early 2023.

Part 1 – Structural Revisions:

1. Refine the draft Trust Policy Statement to clarify the structure and shorten the length to improve readability and understanding. For example, separate the mandatory director policies from the remainder of the Trust. (June 2022)
2. Develop a glossary of terms used in the Trust Policy Statement to be an appendix to that document. (June 2022)
3. Review director coordination policies from each subsection and instead develop more general coordination principles in accordance with the object of the Trust. (Sept 2022)
4. Review director “statements of Trust Council” from each subsection and instead develop more general guiding principles in accordance with the object of the Trust. (Sept 2022)
5. Add a new category of “recommendation policies” that both Trust committees and island municipalities should address in addition to the existing categories of “directive policies” (trust-made in local-official community plans and regulatory bylaws). (Sept 2022)
6. Draft a companion handbook to better better understand for Trustees and across the Trust that includes greater detail on the categories for policies and how local Trust committees and island municipalities are expected to implement each policy. (Sept 2022)
7. Separate out ministerial/policy actions from the official bylaws and place them in the companion handbook. (Sept 2022)
8. Prepare updating and integrating Trust Council’s Policy Statement Amendment Policy 2.2.2 and Policy Statement Implementation Policy 2.2.1 into the draft Policy Statement bylaw. (Sept 2022)

Part 2 – Revisions to Existing Content:

9. Amend the draft director policy to prohibit new development plans. (June 2022)
10. Change the term “judgement away of knowing” to “judicious, reasonable”. (June 2022)
11. Revise “open preservation” language to better reflect relationships to past, present, and future generations. (June 2022)
12. Refine the draft director policy and recommendation policies prohibiting new private docks to highlight areas of concern, for example prohibiting or limiting new private docks in areas that have been identified as culturally significant for First Nations, identified for connectivity use, or in locations that provide critical habitat for species at risk, and/or requiring cumulative effects assessment prior to approval of development. (Sept 2022)
13. Refine the draft agricultural policy and recommendation policies to highlight the value of sustainable agriculture on the Trust area, while also suggesting preferred approaches that are aligned with the object of the Trust, and First Nations’ rights and interests. (Sept 2022)
14. Refine the draft director policy and recommendation policies prohibiting new rowing or boat shelter structures to instead direct Trust committees and island municipalities to consider guidelines as shown in Green Shores or other self-sheltering approaches to set requirements for sheltering structures. (Sept 2022)
15. Amend the draft committee/coordination policies and recommendation policies addressing fire activity to require fire logging, acknowledging that Trust Council may continue to release fire in this jurisdiction of the Trust’s inclusion in the Policy Statement. (Sept 2022)
16. Explore the inclusion of general guiding principles, recommendation policies, and/or director policies that aim to ground all decisions made in the “Preservation Principle”, with a clear definition of this aim in the Glossary and related implementation guidelines in the companion handbook. (Sept 2022)

Part 3 – Development of Additional Content:

17. Provide options for draft policies (especially for the draft Policy Statement to encourage preservation of forests cover in the Trust area, this will include reference to sustainable forest management practices. (June 2022)
18. Reaffirm Trust Council’s Recognition Declaration of March 2018 and its inherent commitment to an agreement to the Nations’ engagement on the Trust Policy Statement as directed by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (June 2022)
19. Provide more regulatory context on First Nations rights and responsibilities, and implications of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, with corresponding “recommendation policies” to guide First Nations’ engagement and reconciliation work. (Sept 2022)
20. Add greater detail on First Nations’ governance interests and the need for collaborative frameworks to work together on all stages of public development and implementation, and to all decision-making. (Sept 2022)

Part 4 – Coordination with Referral Agency Partners:

21. Strengthen policy language around First Nations’ constitutional rights to access culturally significant areas and healthy ecosystems for their cultural, spiritual, and economic uses. (Sept 2022)
22. Strengthen policy language around preservation and protection of the coastal and marine environment to support First Nations’ food security or Indigenous-led harvesting areas. (Sept 2022)
23. Strengthen policy language around engaging with First Nations and cultural members to better protect historic and cultural heritage sites, through clearly defined collaboration frameworks. (Sept 2022)

Part 5 – Engagement, Reviews, and Next Steps:

24. Work with Bowen Island Municipality staff and island Trust Governance staff to integrate their specific amendment requests. (Sept 2022)
25. Meet with Ministry of Agriculture & Food, and Agricultural Land Commission staff to refine the wording of the draft agricultural policy. (Sept 2022)
26. Address regional district staff recommendations for revisions to policies relating to animal husbandry, active transportation, trails, and climate emergency preparedness, as appropriate. (Sept 2022)
27. Address improvement district recommendations around water management, including water conservation, water sharing, and water conservation, as appropriate. (Sept 2022)
28. Prepare the address referrals to local Trust committees until the next draft of the document has been reviewed by the incoming Trust Council and its committees. (Sept 2022)
29. Continue to build staff-to-staff relationships with First Nations who provided input to the Policy Statement Amendment Project in Phase 1 and of early and meaningful engagement, and provide additional capacity funding to support continued First Nations’ engagement on this project. (Sept 2022)
30. Coordinate the provision of expert advice and training to the incoming Trust Council, early in the new term, on the range of public engagement and consultation, building on lessons learned from the first three phases of island 2050 public engagement from 2017 – 2021. (Sept 2022)
31. Prepare a new Policy Statement Amendment Project Charter for the consideration of the incoming Island Council and Trust Council in early 2023. (Sept 2022)
32. Prepare a Policy Statement Amendment Project Communications Strategy for the consideration of the incoming Executive Committee and Trust Council in early 2023. (Sept 2022)

For more information on the Policy Statement Amendment Project:
<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>

Read the summary of Trust Council’s June & September 2022 resolutions:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/policy-statement-amendment-project-2022-trust-council-resolutions/>

Possible Next Steps



● ● ● Legislative Process - timeline to be confirmed:



Key Takeaways

- **Early and ongoing Trust Council discussion and consensus-building around interpretations of the Islands Trust Object will be essential to the success of this amendment project.**
- **This is the first time that First Nation governments have been engaged in the policy development process. Early and meaningful engagement is critical to Trust Council's commitments to reconciliation, to addressing past and ongoing injustices in the Trust Area, and to building strong collaborative relationships for the future.**
- **It is anticipated that the 2022-2026 Trust Council will make decisions on a new project charter, timeline, and communications strategy for the Policy Statement Amendment Project at its March 2023 meeting.**
- **Staff will be revising the draft Policy Statement over the coming months according to Trust Council's June & Sept 2022 resolutions. It is anticipated that Trust Council and its committees will review the next draft in May-June 2023 and begin a process of iterative revisions.**
- **After reviewing and revising the next draft, Trust Council can then determine when the document is ready for first reading and notify all interested and affected parties.**

- **Please reach out to staff with questions at any time.**

Learn More

The Islands 2050 webpage – our single source of truth:
<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>



Direct public correspondence or project related questions to:
islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca

Questions?

