



ISLANDS 2050 - FACT SHEET

RECONCILIATION

The Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lək' wəŋən, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scəwáθən məsteyəx^w, Scia'new, səl' ilwətaʔɩ, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Spune'luxutth, S7ÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ɩaʔəmen, toq qaym ɩx^w, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOLEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu/ʔop qaym ɩx^w, and x^wməθk^wəy' əm.

Trust Council's understanding of the history and legacy of Indigenous Peoples in the Trust Area and the importance of reconciliation has evolved significantly since the formation of Islands Trust in 1974 and the adoption of the Policy Statement in 1994. Trust Council now wishes to update its policies to align with guiding principles of reconciliation.

Through its 2019 Reconciliation Declaration, Islands Trust Council committed to:

- Acknowledge that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honour the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.
- Establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process.
- Strive to create opportunities for knowledge-sharing and understanding as people come together to preserve and protect the special nature of the islands within the Salish Sea.

Reconciliation and the Policy Statement

It is important to underscore that the current Policy Statement does not acknowledge First Nations treaty and territorial rights, and was never reviewed by First Nations, Treaty Alliances, or Tribal Councils. Aligning the Policy Statement with guiding principles of reconciliation is in direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

This is the first time that Islands Trust is undertaking early and meaningful government-to-government engagement with First Nations, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils on the Policy Statement. It is also the first time that we are striving to hear from and learn from Indigenous Peoples living on the islands.

In addition to Islands 2050 public engagement, a parallel, early and meaningful engagement process has been occurring with First Nations governments, Treaty Alliances, and Tribal Councils since 2019. Following first reading of the Draft New Policy Statement, First Nations will receive a formal referral of the proposed bylaw for review and comment.

This is an important opportunity to honour Trust Council's reconciliation commitments and to work towards building long-term relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

How does the new draft Policy Statement address Reconciliation?

- Acknowledgment of First Nations' treaty and territorial rights, and relationships to these lands and waters since time immemorial;
- Policy alignment with Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration and reconciliation principles enshrined in the:
 - » United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - » Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
 - » Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action; and
 - » Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Calls for Justice
- Commitments to seek meaningful engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area
- Removal of incorrect statements about the history of First Nations and Indigenous Peoples in the Islands Trust Area;
- A new Part 5 on 'Heritage' and new policies related to preservation and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage, culturally significant species, and Indigenous ways of knowing
- Enhanced protection of coastal and marine environment, Indigenous food security, and shoreline archaeological sites



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

[ISLANDS 2050 WEBPAGE](#)

[ISLANDS 2050 PROJECT INTRODUCTION VIDEO](#)

[JULY 2021 - FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT REPORT](#)

[NOV 2021 - FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT REPORT](#)

[TRUST COUNCIL'S RECONCILIATION DECLARATION](#)