

## ***Southern Gulf Islands Groundwater Sustainability Strategy***

This project will develop information and data as part of a phased ecological approach to groundwater management and aquifer protection in the Southern Gulf Islands of the Islands Trust Area.

### **Project Charter**

[Master Project Charter](#) - July 4, 2019

[Request for Proposal](#) - October 10, 2019

### **Project Initialization Report**

February 28, 2019 - [Staff Report](#) to North Pender Local Trust Committee

### **Project Purpose**

Identifying evidence-based adaptation measures is imperative to protecting aquifers and preserving groundwater dependent communities and ecosystems in a changing climate. With vulnerabilities of seasonal precipitation changes, evapotranspiration forcing, recharge alterations, and saltwater intrusion, groundwater resources are a metric of climate change. Protection of aquifer recharge areas is identified in the Policy Statement and this project advances that commitment.

### **Project Background**

Groundwater is a unique amenity supporting ecosystem health and overall hydrological function of watersheds. Southern Gulf Island Local Trust Committees have identified groundwater resources as a priority in their Official Community Plans and as part of land-use applications over the past decades. In March 2019 the Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency in the Islands Trust Area, directing staff to include a central focus on equitable climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience into strategic planning. Actions with respect to an ecosystem vulnerability approach to groundwater sustainability strategy have been recommended by previous researchers, and the Province of BC supports deep collaboration in groundwater focused projects at the Local Government level, expressing interest as an external partner in this sustainability strategy.

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