



File No.: 6500-20
(Gambier Island
OCP/LUB Review
Project)

DATE OF MEETING: May 26, 2026

TO: Gambier Island Local Trust Committee

FROM: Sonja Zupanec, Island Planner
Northern Team

SUBJECT: Consideration of Amendments to Draft Bylaw No. 163 (OCP)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee request the following amendments be made to Draft Bylaw No. 163 for consideration of First Reading at the July 21, 2026 regular business meeting: (*specify amendments*)
2. That the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee request staff to schedule and facilitate up to two Community Information Meetings subject to available resources, in-person and/or online in July or August 2026, to provide information and receive public feedback on the proposed draft shoreline protection development permit area language.
3. That the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to finalize the shoreline protection public engagement survey, incorporating Advisory Planning Commission feedback and launch the digital survey for public participation in early July, closing mid-September 2026.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report introduces Trustees suggested edits to draft Gambier Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 163, to amend the Indigenous context, acknowledgment, objectives and policies. Staff are also providing a verbal update on Advisory Planning Commission (APC) suggested edits to the draft shoreline protection survey questions and information video script to support public engagement this summer.

BACKGROUND

At the March 2026 regular business meeting the Local Trust Committee (LTC) passed the following resolutions. Status updates are provided for each:

GM-2026-018 It was MOVED and SECONDED

that the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee request staff to release project funds from the Official Community Plan Review Project to support the development of

- a) *short recorded video to be posted online and*
- b) *schedule three community engagement sessions in July and August for public review of the draft shoreline development permit area. CARRIED*

Major project funds may be used to support venue rental and light refreshments for up to two in-person Community Information Meetings (CIMs) in August: at the Gambier Island Community Hall and/or at a suitable venue in Vancouver. Due to limited staff availability and resources in July and August, staff also recommend hosting one online CIM during that period.

GM-2026-019 It was *MOVED* and *SECONDED*

that the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee request staff to work with Gambier Island Advisory Planning Commission members on:

- a) the development of a draft public survey on the shoreline Development Permit Area working draft document;*
- b) the development of an information video; and that the draft survey and video be referred to the Advisory Planning Commission for comment prior to being presented to the Local Trust Committee. **CARRIED***

The APC has reviewed the draft survey questions and video script prepared to support public introduction of the draft shoreline Development Permit Area guidelines this summer. At the time this report was prepared, the APC's recommended amendments had not yet been finalized and are anticipated to be included as a late item in the May 26 LTC agenda package for consideration.

GM-2026-020 It was *MOVED* and *SECONDED*

that the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee request staff to:

- 1) explain the origins and purposes of the contextual language in draft Bylaw No. 163;*
- 2) address the scope and limitations of the Local Trust Committee's jurisdiction to fulfill the Official Community Plan objectives identified in the draft; and*
- 3) include and address in the staff report the specific edits to the draft proposed by Trustees Stamford and Bernardo in their recent emails to the Local Trust Committee and staff, as part of its preparation of the agenda of the Local Trust Committee's May 26th, 2026 meeting. **CARRIED***

The analysis section of this staff report attempts to address the LTC's request regarding Trustee edits as show in Attachments 1 and 2.

ANALYSIS

Context and Origins of the Draft OCP Language in Bylaw No. 163

The proposed amendments in Bylaw No. 163 were prepared based on the scope in the approved LTC project charter regarding strengthening relations with First Nations. Through that direction, staff prepared draft bylaw language in direct response to referral comments and recommendations received from the Squamish Nation regarding the Gambier Island Official Community Plan. Staff drafted the proposed language to reflect the Nation's request for more explicit acknowledgment of Indigenous history, ongoing relationships to Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island), and the importance of incorporating reconciliation principles into local land use planning.

Staff also note that the proposed bylaw language has been prepared by the Regional Planning Team for broader application across several Local Trust Areas, to remain within the scope of local government planning authority while still meaningfully recognizing Indigenous interests and relationships. The draft language attempts to balance reconciliation-related policy direction with the Local Trust Committee's jurisdiction over land use planning matters.

The following recommendations were provided to the LTC by Squamish Nation staff and form the basis of the draft OCP bylaw amendment language:

Recommendation A1: Update OCP with Cha7éłkwnech (Gambier) Island references throughout.

Recommendation A2: Amend OCP with appropriate land acknowledgment.

Recommendation A4: Amend OCP with specific commitments to reconciliation as overarching framework for all policy guidance.

Recommendation A5: Amend OCP to explicitly recognize the impacts of existing patterns of settlement, protected areas and residential development on First Nations rights and title.

Draft Bylaw No. 163 is also informed by broader policy direction established by Islands Trust Council, including the 2019 Reconciliation Declaration and related strategic commitments being advanced across Local Trust Areas through the Regional Planning Team. These commitments support Indigenous engagement, cultural heritage recognition, and cooperative land use planning. The draft language was developed to incorporate Indigenous referral feedback and Trust-wide reconciliation objectives into an Official Community Plan policy framework within the Local Trust Committee's jurisdiction. Based on this policy support and direction from the LTC, this proposed bylaw is presented to the LTC for review, revision and indicate support for bylaw readings.

Official Community Plans commonly include contextual policy statements addressing historical, cultural, environmental, and governance considerations that inform future land use planning and decision-making. In this case, the proposed language recognizes the longstanding Indigenous presence, stewardship, and interests within the plan area and establishes a policy basis for future engagement, cultural heritage protection, and ecological stewardship in planning decisions.

Scope of Local Trust Committee Authority

The Local Trust Committee's authority is established under the Islands Trust Act and the Local Government Act. The proposed language in draft bylaw No. 163 does not create or alter Indigenous rights, private property ownership, Crown title, reserve boundaries, or legal interests in land. Rather, the policies provide land use planning guidance respecting how the Local Trust Committee may approach future planning processes, referrals, policy development, and consideration of cultural and ecological values within its statutory mandate. The proposed wording does not expand the regulatory jurisdiction of the Local Trust Committee beyond existing legislative authority.

Trustee Proposed Edits to Draft Bylaw No. 163

Staff have reviewed the edits proposed by Trustees (Attachment 1 and 2) that were received by email in March 2026. The following analysis presents factors in considering the trustees' proposed revisions along with the Squamish recommendations. The LTC is being asked to identify which revisions to the draft bylaw it wishes to advance to first reading.

Attachment 1 Edits:

The proposed Trustee suggested edits in **Attachment 1** generally retain the core intent of **Squamish Nation Recommendations A1, A2, A4, and A5**, including explicit references to Cha7éłkwnech

(Gambier Island), Indigenous acknowledgment, reconciliation, Indigenous rights and title, and the impacts of colonial settlement patterns.

Attachment 1 edits appear to preserve substantial historical and cultural context respecting Squamish Nation presence and stewardship on Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island), which more fully addresses **Recommendation A2** respecting land acknowledgment.

The edits in Attachment 1 recognize that patterns of colonial settlement, subdivision, protected area designation, and residential development occurred without recognition of Indigenous title and rights, which directly responds to **Recommendation A5**.

Attachment 1 edits explicitly acknowledge Indigenous rights and title as “inherent and constitutionally protected,” and retains language respecting collaborative planning relationships, co-development opportunities, and integration of Indigenous perspectives into planning processes.

Attachment 2 Edits:

The proposed Trustee suggested edits in Attachment 2 adopt a more limited approach to contextual acknowledgment requested by the Squamish Nation and therefore only partially address **Recommendation A2** respecting “appropriate land acknowledgment.”

Several edits appear to remove references describing the ongoing relationships of Indigenous Nations to Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island), including stewardship, governance, cultural continuity, and enduring connections to land and marine waters. This may be seen to weaken or narrow the scope of acknowledgment originally requested through Nation engagement.

Recommendation A4 requested that reconciliation be established as an “overarching framework for all policy guidance.” Several proposed edits in Attachment 2 instead reposition reconciliation language as limited procedural guidance, reducing its role as a foundational planning principle within the Official Community Plan.

A concern with the proposed revisions is that it could appear to qualify or remove language respecting Indigenous rights, interests, and stewardship perspectives, reducing alignment with the intent of **Recommendation A4** to embed reconciliation meaningfully within land use planning policy.

Recommendation A5 specifically requested explicit recognition of “the impacts of existing patterns of settlement, protected areas and residential development on First Nations rights and title.” Attachment 2 edits revise portions of the draft language that directly acknowledge these historic and ongoing impacts and therefore respond more narrowly to Recommendation A5.

While some edits improve clarity respecting the Local Trust Committee’s limited statutory authority, there is a concern that the overall effect of the revisions in Attachment 2 appear to significantly narrow the reconciliation framework originally drafted based on what staff heard through the Squamish Nation recommendations.

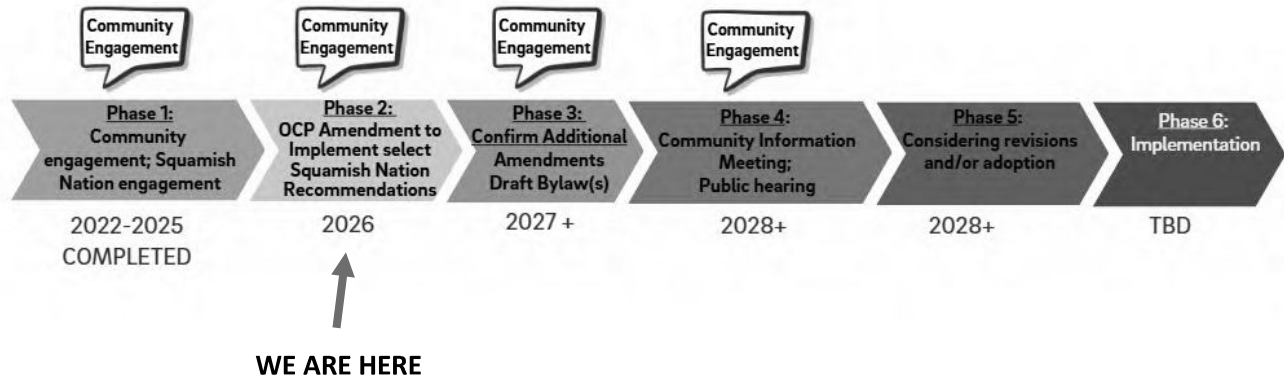
Attachment 1 edits appear to be substantially responsive to the substance and intent of the recommendations received from the Squamish Nation.

Attachment 2 edits appear to provide a narrow implementation of Recommendations A2, A4 and A5 within the OCP.

The LTC is asked to identify which edits are to be incorporated into the draft bylaw for consideration of first reading at the next business meeting July 21, 2026.

Project Status:

The OCP/LUB Review project is currently in Phase 2, which includes limited public engagement on the draft shoreline protection bylaw language and review of proposed OCP amendments responding to Squamish Nation recommendations summarized in this report.



Alternatives

The LTC may consider the following alternatives to the recommendation:

Proceed no further

The LTC may choose to proceed no further with the draft OCP bylaw and focus their final months of the term on public engagement of draft shoreline protection area guidelines. Staff advise that the implications of this alternative are that the project charter will need to be updated/amended to reflect the LTC’s desired objectives and deliverables:

That the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee proceed no further with draft Bylaw No. 163 (OCP).

NEXT STEPS

If the LTC supports the staff recommendations outlined on page one of this report, up to two in-person Community Information Meetings (CIMs) and one online CIM will be scheduled in July and August, and the public survey on the draft shoreline Development Permit Area language will be finalized and released. Any LTC-endorsed amendments to Draft Bylaw No. 163 (OCP) will be incorporated into the revised draft and presented to the LTC in July for consideration of first reading.

The Regional Planning Manager notes that further changes to expand the scope or timeline of the project is subject to available resources and may as a result in work being paused, and may also be subject to LTC approval to continue in the new year following local elections, and direction to proceed in the next fiscal year.

Submitted By:	Sonja Zupanec, RPP MCIP, Island Planner	May 14, 2026
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Concurrence:	Renée Jamurat, RPP MCIP, Regional Planning Manager	May 15, 2026
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ATTACHMENTS

1. Trustee Stamford Proposed Edits to Draft Bylaw No. 163 (OCP)-March 2026
2. Trustee Bernardo Proposed Edits to Draft Bylaw No. 163 (OCP)-March 2026
3. Draft Bylaw No. 163 (March 2026)
4. Advisory Planning Commission edits to draft shoreline development permit area survey questions – **PENDING LATE ITEM**

Sonja Zupanec

From: Kate-Louise Stamford
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 5:11 AM
To: Joe Bernardo; Laura Patrick; Sonja Zupanec
Cc: Renee Jamurat
Subject: Suggested Bylaw language for desired changes - ignore last night's email

After ruminating and re-reading I recognize that I can't add in goals from the Policy Statement that aren't in there yet or necessarily add "musts" into the OCP that aren't musts, so here is a possible version written for bylaw consideration. I want to review Trustee Bernardos specific amendments within this context as well:

1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “Gambier Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 73, 2001, Amendment No. 1, 2026”.

2. Gambier Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 73, 2001, is amended as follows:

2.1 Part 2 Community Goals, subsection Purpose of the Official Community

Plan, paragraph one is amended by inserting the word “(Cha7élkwnech)” after

“Gambier Island” in the first sentence. (or the reverse as per Trustee Bernardo’s suggestion)

Part 2 Community Goals, Purpose of the Official Community Plan, last paragraph is deleted and replaced with:

2.2 The Plan may include policies related to ~~social needs~~, social well-being and development, the integration of respectful engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, cultural heritage and indigenous ecological management, the maintenance and enhancement of farming, and the regulation of the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

2.3 Part 2 Community Goals, subsection Gambier Planning Area, first bullet is

amended by removing the words “except for District Lot 5925 and the Remainder and South part of District Lot 477 all of Group 1, New Westminster District”.

2.4 Part 2 Community Goals, is amended by inserting the following new subsections immediately following the Gambier Planning Area subsection and before the Community Goals subsection:

Historical and Cultural Context of Gambier Island

Gambier Island, known as Cha7élkwnech, in Squamish language, is located within the traditional territories of the **Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)** and other Indigenous Nations with longstanding connections to the

island and surrounding waters. The **Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw** have lived on, travelled through, harvested from, and cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial. The island and surrounding marine areas form part of a rich cultural landscape that includes traditional travel routes, seasonal harvesting sites and spiritual places. The enduring presence, knowledge, and stewardship of the Squamish Nation continue to shape the identity and ecological health of the region.

Long before the arrival of settlers, the island was embedded in a system of governance, resource management, and cultural practice. The rights and title of the Squamish Nation are inherent and constitutionally protected, and remain central to the ongoing story of Gambier Island.

Non-Indigenous settlement on Gambier Island began in the mid- to late-19th century, following the arrival of European newcomers who established small homesteads, logging operations, and shoreline camps. Early activity focused on resource extraction—particularly timber harvesting—supported by a network of float camps, hand-logging sites, and later small sawmills that operated intermittently around the island. As transportation routes expanded through Howe Sound, settlers created modest agricultural clearings, fishing sites, and seasonal dwellings, gradually forming loosely connected shoreline neighbourhoods.

Today, Gambier Island reflects this layered history: a blend of multi-generational recreational neighbourhoods, a growing full-time population, and visitors who are drawn to its natural beauty, quiet pace, and strong sense of place. Despite changes over time, the island retains a predominantly rural, forested landscape that continues to shape community identity and the values expressed in this Plan.

This Official Community Plan acknowledges that Gambier Island’s past, present, and future are inseparable from the rights, title, and cultural heritage of the Squamish Nation. The Plan is grounded in a commitment to respectful relationships, shared stewardship, and reconciliation, recognizing that planning for the island’s future must honour its full history and support a sustainable, inclusive path forward.

Indigenous Acknowledgment and Reconciliation

Indigenous Nations have maintained enduring relationships with these lands and waters since time immemorial. Archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, place names, and oral histories reflect continuous stewardship, governance, and use.

Patterns of colonial settlement, reserve allocation, subdivision, residential development, and protected area designation occurred without recognition of Indigenous title and rights. These patterns continue to shape land ownership and land use within the Local Trust Area.

Future policy development and land use planning decisions are to be approached in a manner grounded in respect for Indigenous interests. This includes the protection and stewardship of ecological systems, cultural heritage, burial places, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes, as well as consideration of Indigenous Governing Bodies interests in reconnecting with the lands and marine waters of Gambier Island within land use decision-making processes.

Reconciliation as a Planning Framework

For the purposes of this Plan, reconciliation in land use planning includes:

- a. Building respectful, collaborative government-to-government relationships;
- b. Recognizing Indigenous rights and interests in land and waters;
- c. Supporting the protection of cultural, ecological and archaeological values; and
- d. Integrating Indigenous knowledge and stewardship perspectives into planning and decision-making processes.

Reconciliation as expressed by implementation of policies in this Plan does not alter ownership of private lands or existing legal interests. It guides how land

use decisions are approached within the Local Trust Area.

Reconciliation Objectives

1. Strengthen relationships with Indigenous Governing Bodies with interests in Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island).
2. Integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into land use planning processes and ensure property owners and developers are aware of their responsibilities under *the Heritage Conservation Act* when conducting land altering activities.
3. Avoid unauthorized damage to protected archaeological sites in accordance with the *Heritage Conservation Act* and protect culturally significant landscapes.
4. Support efforts to co-develop planning, land use, and land protection processes with Indigenous Governing Bodies within the Local Trust Area;
and
5. Respond to the ~~generous~~ guidance and teachings that have been shared with staff and trustees by Indigenous Peoples.

I don't know how to add this in but they should be separate sections:

Protection of Archeological Sites section of the OCP

Part of the plan area's heritage includes archaeological sites – the physical evidence of how and where people lived in the past. For 98% of the time people have lived in this area, no written records were made. Archaeological sites and oral tradition are the only vestiges of this rich history extending back many thousands of years. The Plan area contains recorded and non-recorded archaeological sites and due to their sensitive nature, the locations are not identified in this Plan. This Plan

acknowledges a historical disregard for and lack of protection of collective heritage of the area for Indigenous Peoples. All archaeological sites are protected by the Provincial Government through the *Heritage Conservation Act*. This protection applies to all lands and means any person wishing to undertake any land-altering activities must have a provincial heritage permit to alter or develop with an archaeological site.

setbacks section of the OCP

The Local Trust Committee understands Indigenous Nations' fundamental values include protecting the lands, waters, and resources that have sustained the Nation since time immemorial. As stewards of the land, Indigenous Governing Bodies expect that development on the island be sustainable and aligned with Indigenous laws and knowledge systems. Particular concern has been expressed regarding access to freshwater, and ensuring that sufficient water exists not only for residents, but also for the flora and fauna that support ecological integrity and cultural continuity.

*Kate-Louise Stamford
Gambier/Keats Local Trust Committee
Gambier Island
778-235-2240*

**GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL
TRUST COMMITTEE BYLAW
NO.163**

xx

A BYLAW TO AMEND GAMBIER ISLAND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN, 2001

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee, being the Trust Committee having jurisdiction in respect of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area under the *Islands Trust Act*, enacts as follows:

1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “Gambier Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 73, 2001, Amendment No. 1, 2026”.

2. Gambier Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 73, 2001, is amended as follows:

2.1 **Part 2 Community Goals, subsection Purpose of the Official Community Plan, paragraph one** is amended by deleting the words inserting the word “(Cha7éłkwnech)” after “Gambier Island” in the first sentence and replacing them with “(Cha7éłkwnech (Gambier Island))”.

2.2 **Part 2 Community Goals, subsection Gambier Planning Area, first bullet** is amended by removing the words “except for District Lot 5925 and the Remainder and South part of District Lot 477 all of Group 1, New Westminster District”.

2.3 **Part 2 Community Goals**, is amended by inserting the following new subsection ~~in~~ immediately following the Gambier Planning Area subsection and before the Community Goals subsection:

“Indigenous Context, Acknowledgment and Reconciliation

Gambier Island, known as Cha7éłkwnech, in Squamish language, is located within the traditional territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and other Indigenous Nations with longstanding connections to the island and surrounding waters.

Indigenous Nations have maintained enduring relationships with these lands and waters since time immemorial. Archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, place names, and oral histories reflect continuous stewardship, governance, and use.

Patterns of colonial settlement, reserve allocation, subdivision, residential development, and protected area designation ~~have occurred without recognition of the continuing rights and interests of Indigenous Nations, title and rights. These patterns continue to shape land ownership and land use within the Local Trust Area.~~

~~Part of the plan area's heritage includes archaeological sites — the physical evidence of how and where people lived in the past. For 98% of the time people have lived in this area, no written records were made.~~

~~Archaeological sites and oral tradition are the only vestiges of this rich history extending back many thousands of years. The Plan area contains recorded and non-recorded archaeological sites and due to their sensitive nature, the locations are not identified in this Plan. This Plan acknowledges a historical disregard for and lack of protection of collective heritage of the area for Indigenous Peoples. All archaeological sites are protected by the Provincial Government through the *Heritage Conservation Act*. This protection applies to all lands and means any person wishing to undertake any land-altering activities must have a provincial heritage permit to alter or develop with an archaeological site. The Local Trust Committee understands Indigenous Nations' fundamental values include protecting the lands, waters, and resources that have sustained the Nation since time immemorial. As stewards of the land, Indigenous Governing Bodies expect that development on the island be sustainable and aligned with Indigenous laws and knowledge systems. Particular concern has been expressed regarding access to freshwater, and ensuring that sufficient water exists not only for residents, but also for the flora and fauna that support ecological integrity and cultural continuity.~~

Future Local Trust Committee policy development and land use planning decisions ~~will be~~ approached in a manner grounded in respectful ~~acknowledgement of~~ Indigenous interests. This includes the protection and stewardship of ecological systems, cultural heritage, burial places, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes, as well as consideration of Indigenous Governing Bodies interests in reconnecting with the lands and ~~marine~~ waters

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of Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island) within land use decision-making processes.

The Local Trust Committee plays an important role in advancing this work by integrating cultural heritage protection and ecological conservation into land use planning through strengthened policies, improved site protection, and respectful, ongoing engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies.

This plan affirms a commitment to advancing reconciliation within the Islands Trust mandate and increasing opportunities for Indigenous Nations to preserve and protect their own heritage through cooperative land use decision-making.

On March 14, 2019, Islands Trust Council unanimously adopted the Reconciliation Declaration:

“Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.

Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to Reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship building and healing process.

Islands Trust Council will 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.”

The Local Trust Committee plays a key role in integrating cultural heritage and ecological conservation into land use planning. This is best achieved by strengthening policies, archaeological, cultural, ecological site protection, and respectful engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies.

Reconciliation as a Planning Framework

For the purposes of this Plan, reconciliation in land use planning includes:

- a. Building respectful, collaborative government-to-government relationships;
- b. ~~Acknowledging~~ Recognizing Indigenous claims to rights and interests in lands and waters;
- c. Supporting the protection of cultural, ecological and archaeological values; and
- d. Acknowledging and, when appropriate, ~~Integrating~~ Indigenous knowledge and stewardship perspectives into planning and decision-making processes.

Reconciliation as expressed by implementation of the policies in this Plan ~~is does not intended to alter~~ ownership of private lands or existing legal interests and does not do so. It is guidance to be incorporated into es ~~how the making of land use decisions for Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island) that are consistent with the Local Trust Committee's existing limited statutory authority, are~~ approached within the Local Trust Area.

Reconciliation Objectives

1. Strengthen relationships with Indigenous Governing Bodies with interests in Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island).
2. When appropriate, ~~Integrate~~ Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into land use planning processes.
3. ~~and e~~Ensure property owners and developers are aware of their responsibilities under *the Heritage Conservation Act* when conducting land altering activities, ~~prevent~~ Avoid unauthorized damage to protected archaeological sites, ~~in accordance with the Heritage Conservation Act~~ and protect culturally significant landscapes.
4. ~~Support efforts to co-develop planning, land use, and land protection processes~~ Work with Indigenous Governing Bodies with interests in Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island), and with the Islands Trust Council and the Province, the Local Trust Area to jointly develop legislative changes to enable appropriate participation of those Indigenous Governing Bodies in the administration of the Islands Trust Act on Cha7élkwnech (Gambier

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Island);-and

~~5.4. Respond to the generous guidance and teachings that have been shared with staff and trustees by Indigenous Peoples.~~

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Reconciliation Policies

1. The Local Trust Committee should seek early and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies with interests in Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island) regarding:
 - a. Official Community Plan amendments;
 - b. Land Use Bylaw amendments;
 - c. Development Permit Area establishment or amendment; and
 - d. Consideration of Heritage Conservation Areas.

2. The Local Trust Committee should consider regulatory tools, where appropriate and consistent with statutory authority, including:
 - a. Development Permit Areas;
 - b. Heritage Conservation Areas;
 - c. Covenants; and
 - d. Educational initiativesto support protection of ~~archaeological, ecological and culturally significant areas, archaeological sites and ecologies of cultural significance to those Indigenous Nations with interests in Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island).~~"

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	DAY OF	, 202x
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	DAY OF	, 202x
PUBLIC HEARING HELD THIS	DAY OF	, 202x
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	DAY OF	, 202x

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS TRUST THIS

DAY OF

, 202x

APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

THIS

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ADOPTED THIS

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| _____
SECRETARY

_____ **CHAIRPERSON**

DRAFT

GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
BYLAW NO.163

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A BYLAW TO AMEND GAMBIER ISLAND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN, 2001

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee, being the Trust Committee having jurisdiction in respect of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area under the *Islands Trust Act*, enacts as follows:

1. Citation

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2. Gambier Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 73, 2001, is amended as follows:

2.1 **Part 2 Community Goals, subsection Purpose of the Official Community Plan, paragraph one** is amended by inserting the word “(Cha7élkwnech)” after “Gambier Island” in the first sentence.

2.2 **Part 2 Community Goals, subsection Gambier Planning Area, first bullet** is amended by removing the words “except for District Lot 5925 and the Remainder and South part of District Lot 477 all of Group 1, New Westminster District”.

2.3 **Part 2 Community Goals**, is amended by inserting the following new subsection in immediately following the Gambier Planning Area subsection and before the Community Goals subsection:

“Indigenous Context, Acknowledgment and Reconciliation

Gambier Island, known as Cha7élkwnech, in Squamish language, is located within the traditional territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and other Indigenous Nations with longstanding connections to the island and surrounding waters.

Indigenous Nations have maintained enduring relationships with these lands and waters since time immemorial. Archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, place names, and oral histories reflect continuous stewardship, governance, and use.

Patterns of colonial settlement, reserve allocation, subdivision, residential development, and protected area designation occurred without recognition of Indigenous title and rights. These patterns continue to shape land ownership and land use within the Local Trust Area.

Part of the plan area’s heritage includes archaeological sites – the physical evidence of how and where people lived in the past. For 98% of the time people have lived in this area, no written records were made. Archaeological sites and oral tradition are the only vestiges of this rich history extending back many thousands of years. The Plan area contains recorded and non-recorded archaeological sites and due to their sensitive nature, the locations are not identified in this Plan. This Plan acknowledges a historical disregard for and lack of protection of collective heritage of the area for Indigenous Peoples. All archaeological sites are protected by the Provincial Government through the *Heritage Conservation Act*. This protection applies to all lands and means any person wishing to undertake any land-altering activities must have a provincial heritage permit to alter or develop with an archaeological site.

The Local Trust Committee understands Indigenous Nations’ fundamental values include protecting the lands, waters, and resources that have sustained the Nation since time immemorial. As stewards of the land, Indigenous Governing Bodies expect that development on the island be sustainable and aligned with Indigenous laws and knowledge systems. Particular concern has been expressed regarding access to freshwater, and ensuring that sufficient water exists not only for residents, but also for the flora and fauna that support ecological integrity and cultural continuity.

Future policy development and land use planning decisions are to be approached in a manner grounded in respect for Indigenous interests. This includes the protection and stewardship of ecological systems, cultural heritage, burial places, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes, as well as consideration of Indigenous Governing Bodies interests in reconnecting with the lands and marine waters of Gambier Island within land use decision-making processes.

The Local Trust Committee plays an important role in advancing this work by integrating cultural heritage protection and ecological conservation into land use planning through strengthened policies, improved site protection, and respectful, ongoing engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies.

This plan affirms a commitment to advancing reconciliation within the Islands Trust mandate and increasing opportunities for Indigenous Nations to preserve and protect their own heritage through cooperative land use decision-making.

On March 14, 2019, Islands Trust Council unanimously adopted the Reconciliation Declaration:

“Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.

Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to

Reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process.

Islands Trust Council will 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.”

The Local Trust Committee plays a key role in integrating cultural heritage and ecological conservation into land-use planning. This is best achieved by strengthening policies, archaeological, cultural, ecological site protection, and respectful engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies.

Reconciliation as a Planning Framework

For the purposes of this Plan, reconciliation in land use planning includes:

- a. Building respectful, collaborative government-to-government relationships;
- b. Recognizing Indigenous rights and interests in land and waters;
- c. Supporting the protection of cultural, ecological and archaeological values; and
- d. Integrating Indigenous knowledge and stewardship perspectives into planning and decision-making processes.

Reconciliation as expressed by implementation of policies in this Plan does not alter ownership of private lands or existing legal interests. It guides how land use decisions are approached within the Local Trust Area.

Reconciliation Objectives

- 1. Strengthen relationships with Indigenous Governing Bodies with interests in Cha7élkwnech (Gambier Island).
- 2. Integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into land use planning processes and ensure property owners and developers are aware of their responsibilities under *the Heritage Conservation Act* when conducting land altering activities.
- 3. Avoid unauthorized damage to protected archaeological sites in accordance with the *Heritage Conservation Act* and protect culturally significant landscapes.
- 4. Support efforts to co-develop planning, land use, and land protection processes with Indigenous Governing Bodies within the Local Trust Area; and
- 5. Respond to the generous guidance and teachings that have been shared with staff and trustees by Indigenous Peoples.

Reconciliation Policies

- 1. The Local Trust Committee should seek early and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies regarding:
 - a. Official Community Plan amendments;
 - b. Land Use Bylaw amendments;
 - c. Development Permit Area establishment or amendment; and
 - d. Consideration of Heritage Conservation Areas.

- 2. The Local Trust Committee should consider regulatory tools, where appropriate and consistent with statutory authority, including:
 - a. Development Permit Areas;
 - b. Heritage Conservation Areas;
 - c. Covenants; and
 - d. Educational initiatives
 to support protection of archaeological, ecological and culturally significant areas.”

READ A FIRST TIME THIS DAY OF , 202x
 READ A SECOND TIME THIS DAY OF , 202x
 PUBLIC HEARING HELD THIS DAY OF , 202x
 READ A THIRD TIME THIS DAY OF , 202x

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS TRUST THIS DAY OF , 202x

APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING THIS DAY OF , 202x

ADOPTED THIS DAY OF , 202x

SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON