

PROPOSED

GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

BYLAW NO.163

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 inserting the word “/Cha7élkwnech” after “Gambier Island” in the first sentence and throughout the Plan.

2.2 **Part 2 Community Goals, subsection Purpose of the Official Community Plan,** last paragraph is deleted and replaced with “The Plan may include policies that relate to 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 subsection in 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

PROPOSED

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 and other indigenous governing bodies. 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 should be 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.

PROPOSED

Protection of Archeological Sites

Part of the plan area's heritage includes archaeological sites – the physical evidence of how and where people lived in the past. For the vast majority of 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.

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 property rights. 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 Gambier Island/Cha7élkwnech.
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.

PROPOSED

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. Acknowledge the 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 initiativesto support protection of archaeological, ecological and culturally significant areas.”

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	21st	DAY OF	JULY	, 2026
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
--------------	--	--------	--	--------

PROPOSED

SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON