



From Makaila Lironi:

What is the Islands Trust, and what does a special purpose local government do?

The Islands Trust is a governmental organization created in 1974. It's comprised of 13 main islands and 450 smaller ones and is home to over 30,000 people and Indigenous communities. The Islands Trust works with First Nations, Regional Districts and community groups to tackle issues such as climate change, affordable housing shortages, limited freshwater resources, and species at risk, all while managing pressures from tourism and development.

Despite these challenges, the Trust envisions a future where small, rural communities can thrive in harmony with nature. They're also committed to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, acknowledging the rich cultural heritage and stewardship of the land.

Local Trust Committees (LTCs) on each main island decide how land and marine areas should be used in each community, always focusing on preserving the islands' natural features. The Islands Trust also works on land conservation. It has protected over 1,300 hectares through partnerships with landowners.

Throughout my term, I have spoken with many community members who are unclear about governmental jurisdiction on the island.

Here is a summary of who is responsible for what:

Islands Trust

- Official Community Plans (OCP).
- Land Use
- Bylaws
- Zoning
- Land Use Planning
- Land Conservation
- Reconciliation and Relationship-building with First Nations

Qathet Regional District

- Fire protection
- Waste management
- Emergency services
- Sewer
- Community Infrastructure
- Collects taxes & oversees budgets for local services and infrastructure projects
- Public transit, parks, cemeteries and community centers

- Reconciliation and Relationship-building with First Nations
 - Grants-in-aid
 - Water (not on Lasqueti)
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From Tim Peterson: September was a busy month for Executive Committee members, as we not only ran our usual LTC meetings, but also attended the Union of BC Municipalities event in Vancouver, prepared for Trust Council in Nanaimo, and participated in meetings and interviews to select a new CAO for Islands Trust.

The UBCM convention kicked off with a province wide community-to-community event, co-hosted by UBCM and First Nations Leadership Council. It included an address from keynote speaker, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould.

Islands Trust met with Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff regarding engagement with First Nations. It made a request for the province to review the Islands Trust Act; with Ministry of Housing staff to request a rural and island communities housing stream to support housing projects in smaller coastal communities; and with Ministry of Forests staff with regard to Wildfire Planning in the context of island communities living in the forest interface.

Trust Council in Nanaimo considered the request for a provincial review. It passed, but without a strong majority. It remains to be seen whether this strategy and timing will achieve any traction with the province. Work on the draft Policy Statement continued in Committee of the Whole, and will continue online on October 3, when I will be chairing the Committee. Several items were deferred until the December meeting, including further consideration of the Section 3 Object; Strategic Planning Update; Meeting Procedures; and a Code of Conduct review.

Our next Lasqueti meeting on October 21st will likely include an application for rezoning to permit the landing of the proposed fibre optic cable for the Connected Coast project, as well as an update of the OCP project. Please consider attending if you can, and, as always, please contact your trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns.

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