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July 10, 2008

File Number: PG/10-1

Honourable Blair Lekstrom  
Minister of Community Development  
PO Box 9056 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Lekstrom:

**Re: Introducing the Islands Trust**

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council Executive Committee to offer our congratulations on your recent appointment as the Minister of Community Development. We would also like to provide you with a brief introduction to the Islands Trust and hope to meet you in person in the near future.

The Islands Trust is a unique federation of local governments with a provincial mandate from the *Islands Trust Act* to make land use decisions that will “preserve and protect” British Columbia's southern coastal islands. The Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the mainland and southern Vancouver Island, including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox. The Trust Area is a unique and special place composed of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands, with an exceptional variety of species of birds, fish, wildlife and vegetation. The map below illustrates the main islands in the Islands Trust Area. Additional information is available in our attached brochure.



In 1974, the provincial government formally recognized the Islands Trust Area as an area of provincial significance, which required special protection from development pressures. The *Islands Trust Act* established the Islands Trust as a unique land use planning agency, acting for both the residents of the Trust Area and the province generally, and having a special conservation-oriented responsibility. The *Act* was further strengthened in 1989 in response to dramatically increasing growth rates. Recent surveys indicate strong public support across British Columbia for the mandate of the Islands Trust.

Like other communities in British Columbia, island communities elect their local representatives every three years. In total, the Islands Trust Council consists of 24 Local Trustees responsible for land use decisions in twelve local trust areas, plus two Municipal Trustees who represent Bowen Island Municipality. The Islands Trust Executive Committee consists of four trustees elected by and from the Islands Trust Council.

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When it is convenient, the Islands Trust Executive Committee would like to meet with you to provide local perspective and knowledge about the island issues that you will hear about in your new role. We would appreciate it if your staff would contact our Executive Coordinator, Marie Smith, to make the necessary arrangements. She can be reached at 405-5161 or by email at [msmith@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:msmith@islandstrust.bc.ca)

We look forward to an opportunity to meet you and to discuss the opportunities and challenges that face our island communities.

Yours sincerely,



Kim Benson  
Chair, Islands Trust Council

Attachment: Islands Trust General Brochure

pc: Trust Area MLAs  
Dale Wall, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Development  
Islands Trust Executive Committee  
Linda Adams, Islands Trust CAO  
Marie Smith, Islands Trust Executive Coordinator