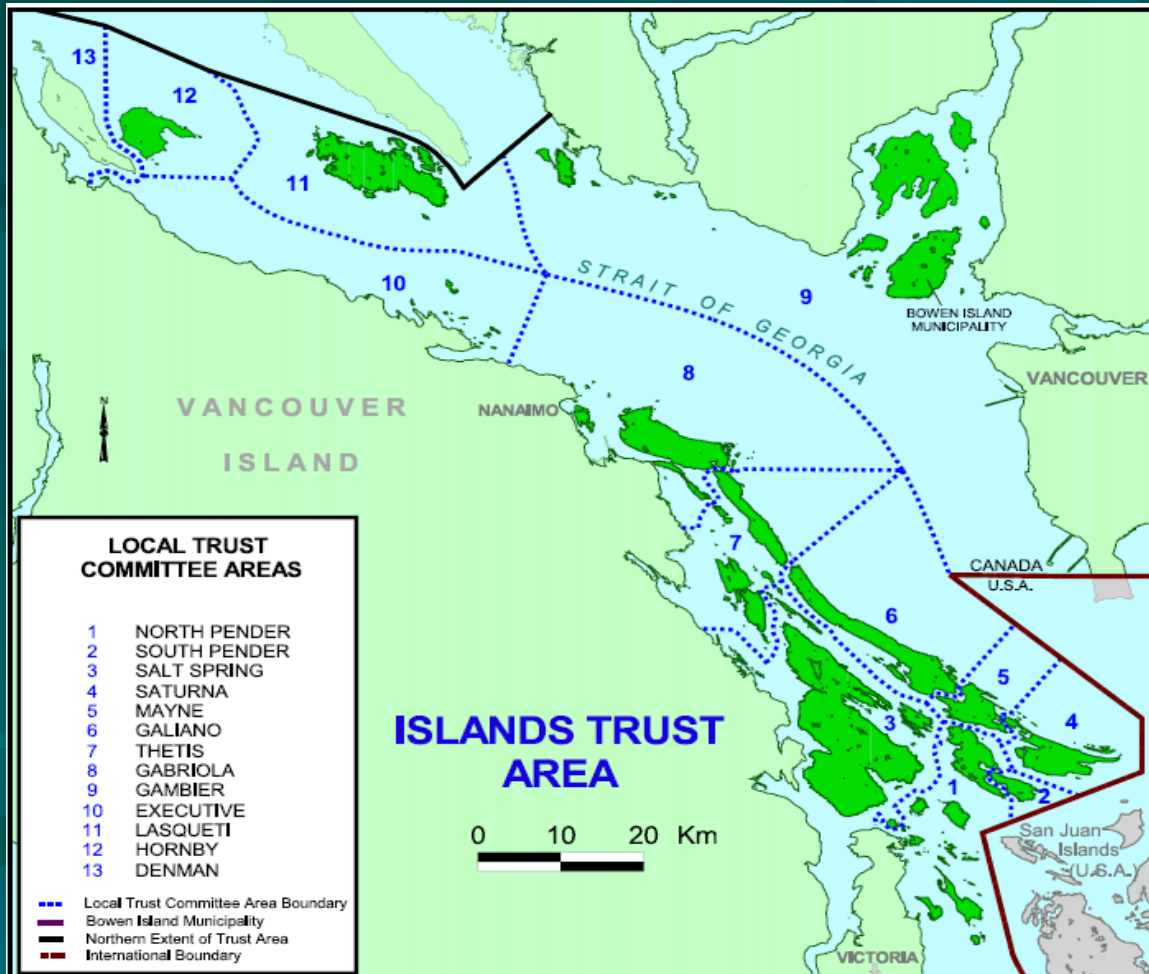


# Islands Trust Governance Task Force

## Background and Initial Recommendations

# Islands Trust Act – Historical Perspective



■ The “Islands Trust Area” encompasses, generally, the islands and waters between the Mainland of British Columbia and Southern Vancouver Island.

■ The “Trust Area” is a unique and special place – a scenic archipelago of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands and islets

# Establishment of the *Islands Trust Act*

- In 1969, when it became apparent the Trust Area could be irreversibly damaged by uncontrolled development, the provincial government imposed a temporary freeze on subdivision.
- In 1972, an all-party special committee of the legislature concluded that pressures arising from the Area's proximity to major urban centres were damaging the special values and features of the Trust Area.
- In 1973, an international Joint Commission proposed that the islands and waters adjacent to the British Columbia-Washington State border be protected.
- In 1974, the provincial government enacted the *Islands Trust Act*.

# The Islands Trust is a unique form of Local Government

## ■ Local Governments in British Columbia:

- 48 Cities
- 47 District Municipalities
- 42 Villages
- 27 Regional Districts
- 18 Towns
- 2 Municipalities (Bowen Island, and Whistler)
- 1 Islands Trust

# The Islands Trust is a unique form of Local Government

- Whereas other Local governments in BC are a single corporate entity, the Islands Trust includes 15 corporate entities:
  - Trust Council
  - 13 Local Trust Committees
  - Trust Fund Board
- Whereas other local government officials in B.C. are elected as “councilors” or “directors”, officials of the Islands Trust are elected as “trustees”.
- Trustee: *“One to whom property or funds have been legally entrusted to be administered for the benefit of another .”*

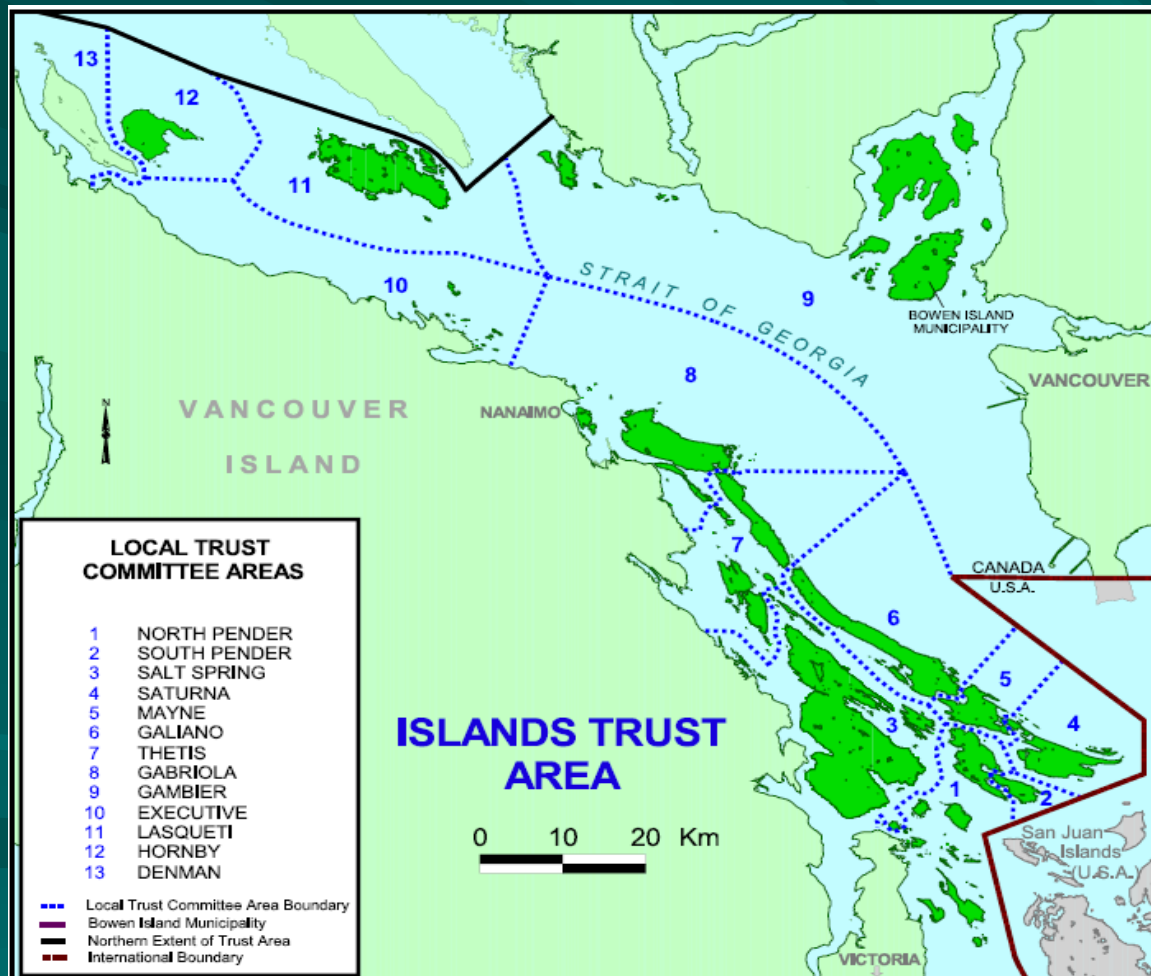
(Webster’s Dictionary)

# The Object of the Islands Trust

- The *Islands Trust Act* establishes the Islands Trust as a unique land-use planning agency, which is responsible to the present and future residents of both the Trust Area and the Province of British Columbia.
- Under the *Islands Trust Act*, trustees, staff and all corporate entities of the Islands Trust have a special conservation-oriented responsibility:
- **“The object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.”**

# Our unique responsibility:

## To “*Preserve and Protect*” the Islands Trust Area



- Islands Trustees are elected to “*preserve and protect*” the Islands Trust Area as a whole, as well as their respective “Local Trust Area”, in accordance with the *Islands Trust Act*.
- Each “Local Trust Area” includes islands (both inhabited & uninhabited), waters, and species (both human and non-human).

# Background

- In March 2006, Trust Council asked the Executive Committee to establish a Governance Task Force.
- The Executive Committee established the Governance Task Force in April 2006 and the GTF has met three times.
- The GTF Subcommittee on Political Representation has met once.

# Goals and Objectives

- The overall goal is to improve governance in the Trust Area during the 2005-8 term
- The Governance Task Force has identified a number of objectives in the following topic areas:
  - Political Representation
  - Financial Arrangements
  - Mandate and Policy Statement
  - Regulatory Authority and Coordination

# Focus Area – Initial Phase Political Representation

- The Task Force recommends an initial focus on issues related to political representation, particularly in regards to the most populous local trust areas, such as Salt Spring Island.

# Focus Areas – Future Phases

Future Phases of the Task Force's work will focus on the following topic areas:

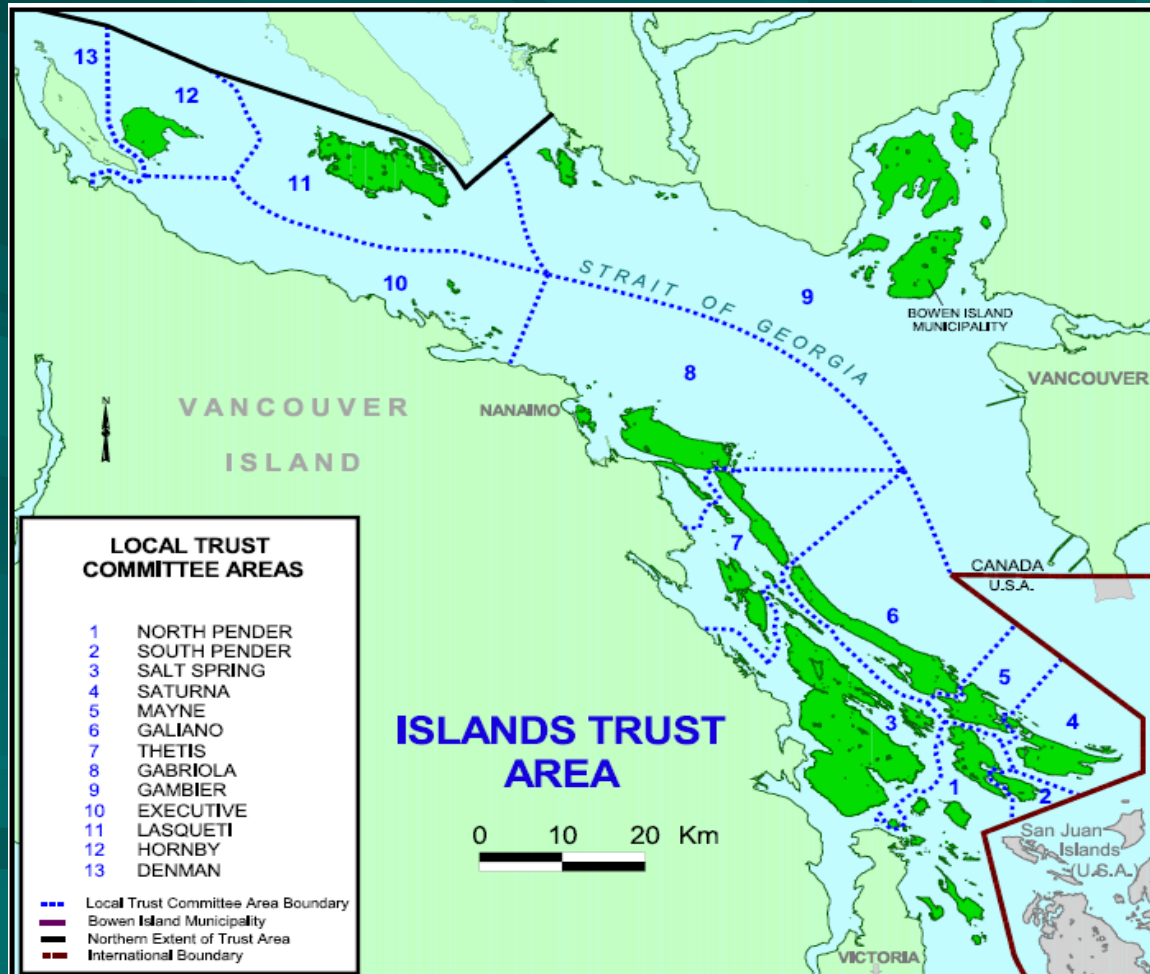
- Financial Arrangements/Resource Allocation
- Mandate/Policy Statement
- Regulatory Authority and Coordination

# Why an Initial Focus on Political Representation?

# Why an Initial focus on Political Representation

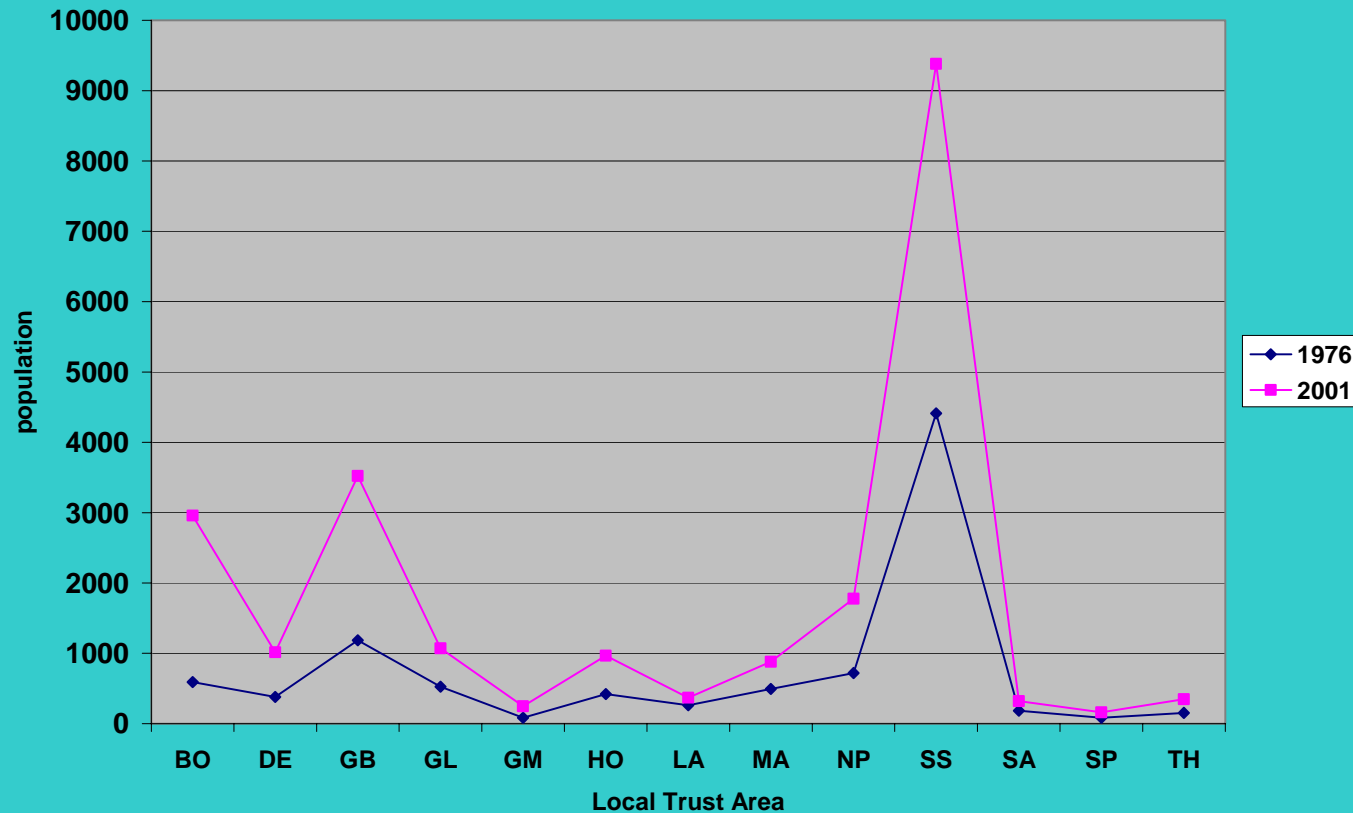
- Changes to political representation can only be undertaken by the province through legislative change.
- To achieve legislative change before 2008, it must be initiated this fall.
- Political representation issues are of significance due to current status of islands:

# Islands Trust Area --



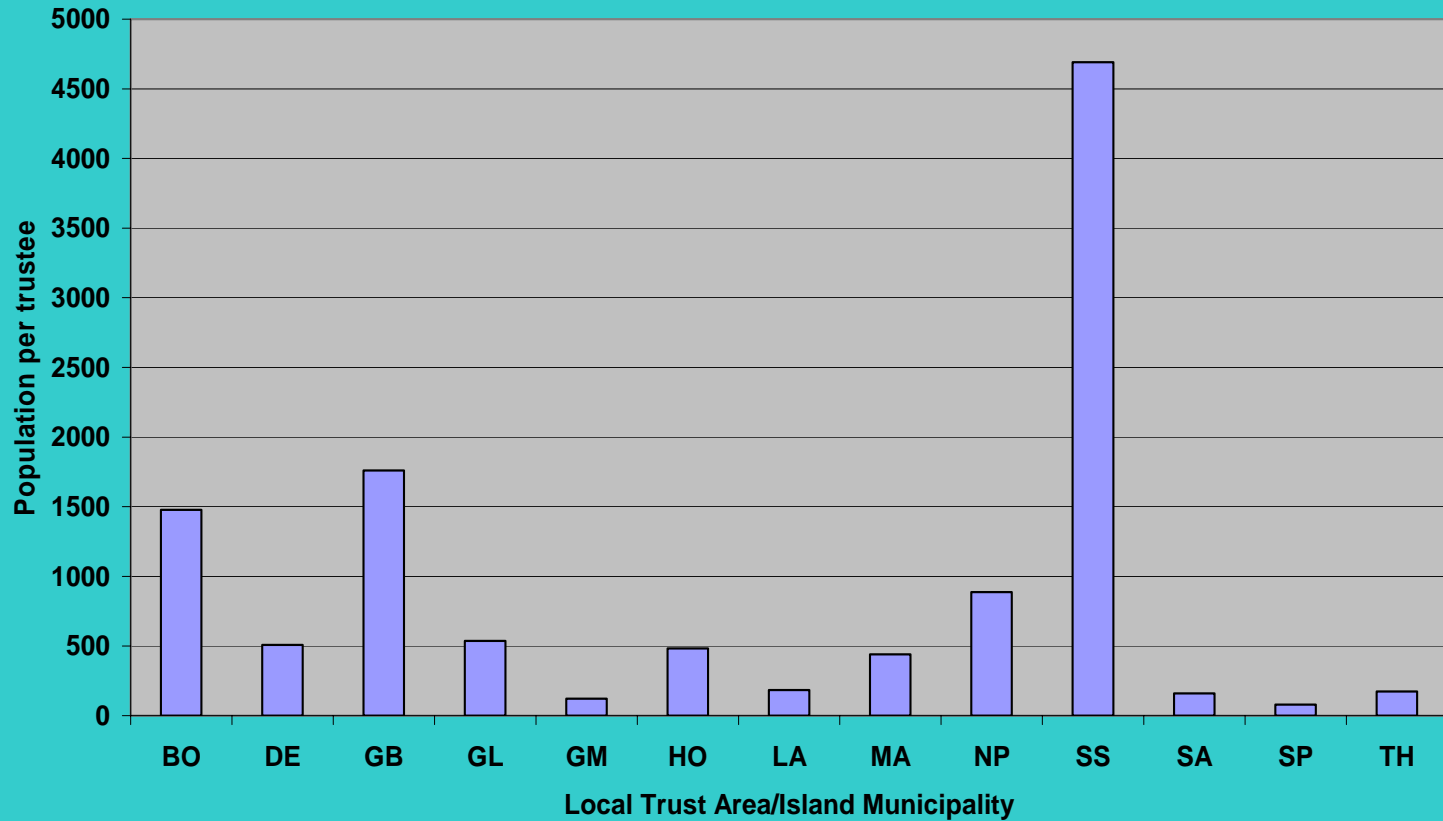
# Changing population levels --

Islands Trust Area Population by Local Trust Area  
1976 and 2001



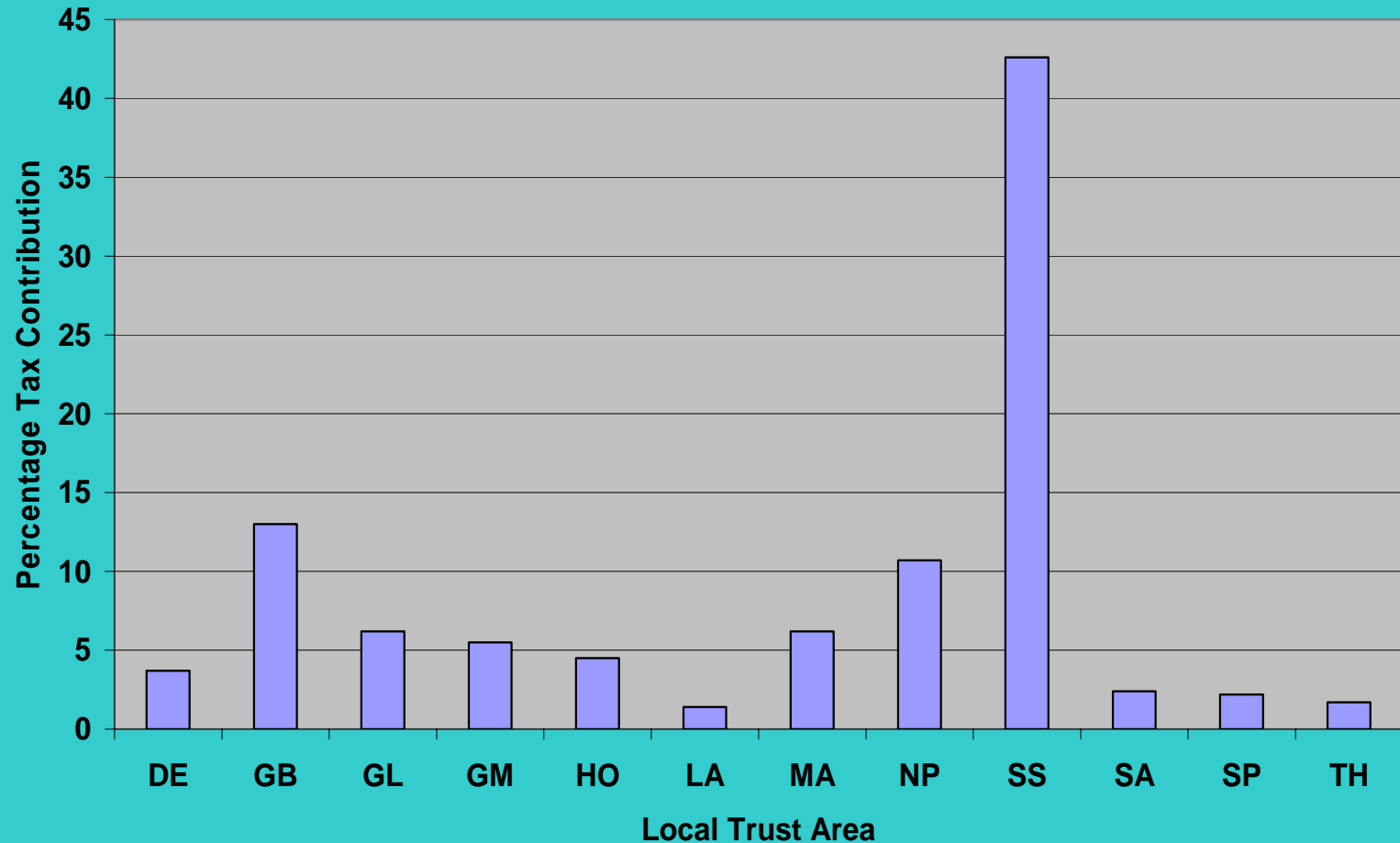
# Population per Trustee

Islands Trust Area  
Population per Trustee  
by Local Trust Area or Island Municipality -- 2001



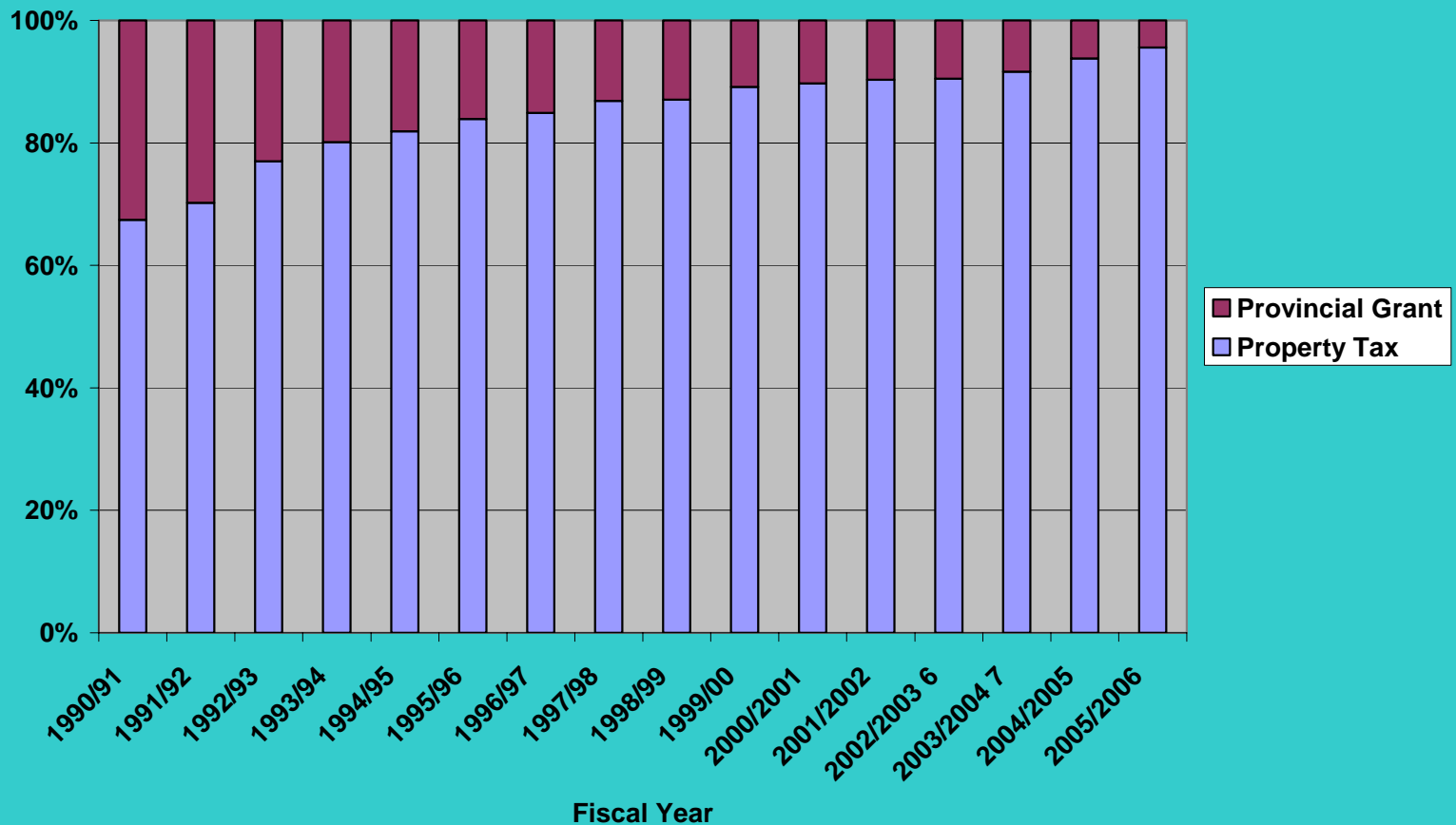
# Relative LTA Tax Contributions

Islands Trust  
Percentage Tax Contribution by Local Trust Area -- 2006-7 Budget



# Increasing Importance of Property Tax in Islands Trust budget

Islands Trust Property Tax vs Provincial Grant  
1990-2006



# Political Representation

## -- Sample Issues --

(examples identified in Salt Spring Island LTA)

- Very heavy workload for 2 trustees
  - High turnover of trustees
  - Reduced public accessibility to trustees
  - Less available to participate at Trust Council level
- Growing public dissatisfaction with level of representation in relation to population and tax contribution
- Limited representation of a broad range of community opinion

# Political Representation -- Options

- Issue analysis completed
- Eight options for political representation were identified and examined
  - Status Quo
  - Representation by Population
  - Weighted voting
  - 2 trustees per LTA/IM + 2 for Salt Spring LTA
  - 2 trustees per LTA/IM + additional for LTAs based on population
  - 2 trustees per LTA/IM + additional for LTAs based on combined factors
  - 2 trustees per LTA/IM + additional for LTAs based on population, but **not on Trust Council**
  - 2 trustees per LTA/IM + additional for LTA/IMs based on population

# Recommendation

Initial phase of work to focus on:

- Legislative change to the Islands Trust Act that would retain a minimum of two trustees from each local trust area and island municipality, with the potential for additional trustees for the most populous LTA(s)
- Integration of LTC and RD decision-making
- Increased number of Executive Committee members

# Next steps – Initial Phase

- Work with staff at Ministry of Community Services to develop recommended options for Political Representation
  - Increased number of trustees for most populous LTA(s)
  - Integrated LTC and RD decision-making
  - Increased number of EC members
- Assess short-term and long-term implications (costs/benefits) of options
- Executive Committee to meet with Minister Ida Chong to provide update
- GTF to develop public consultation strategy regarding alternative ways of achieving preferred options

# Next Steps – Future Focus

- Review of options in other Topic Areas
  - Financial Arrangements
  - Mandate/Policy Statement
  - Regulatory Authority/Coordination
- Prioritization and assessment of options in other Topic Areas
- Further recommendations to Trust Council