



Islands Trust

Towards Excellence in Governance



The Islands Trust Council has adopted a Strategic Plan to address the challenges of the 21st century as effectively as possible. **“Excellence in Governance”** is one of our top strategic priorities and we established a Governance Task Force to focus on this important task in the current term. At this point, the Task Force is seeking ways to improve **political representation** in the Islands Trust Area. Any changes to the political structure of the Islands Trust would require amendments to the provincial *Islands Trust Act* and only the provincial government can make such changes. The Ministry of Community Services has agreed to consider our recommendations about improvements. It has shared in the costs of a Governance Review to analyze the existing situation, identify concerns and suggest options. Before making any recommendations to the Ministry, we want to hear the ideas of those who live and/or own property in the Islands Trust Area.

Please come and find out more and then let us know what you think about:

- ◆ the size of Local Trust Committees;
- ◆ the structure of the Islands Trust Council; and,
- ◆ the coordination between the Islands Trust and regional districts (currently we are focusing just on coordination with the Capital Regional District, but would like to know what you think about this topic throughout the Trust Area).

We’d like to hear from you

- ▶ Come to a meeting
- ▶ Check our web site
- ▶ Fill out a survey
- ▶ Write us a letter
- ▶ Send us a fax or an email
- ▶ Or simply talk to us

Your trustees will host public meetings where Trust Council Chair, Kim Benson and Chief Administrative Officer, Linda Adams will present information on the Governance Review and some of the options for change. This will be followed by a question and answer period and an opportunity to provide your comments.

<u>Island</u>	<u>Open House</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Salt Spring	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Sunday, April 29	Gulf Islands Secondary School Multi Purpose Room
Denman	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday, May 1	Denman Community Hall
Hornby	3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday, May 2	Hornby Community Hall
Lasqueti	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Friday, May 4	Lasqueti Community Hall
Gabriola	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Saturday, May 5	Gabriola Community Hall
Thetis	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Saturday, May 5	Forbes Hall
Mayne	3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Monday, May 7	Mayne Agricultural Hall
Galiano	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday, May 9	North Community Hall
Gambier/ Bowen	5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Thursday, May 10	Gleneagles Community Centre 6262 Marine Dr., West Vancouver
North/South Pender	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Saturday, May 12	Anglican Parish Hall
Saturna	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Monday, May 14	Saturna Community Hall

For a copy of the Governance Study, to complete a survey on some of the options, or to suggest your own options, please go to our web site **after April 25** at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca and click on Governance Consultation in the Highlights Box. Send us an e-mail at: information@islandstrust.bc.ca Write us or visit our offices at:

700 North Road
Gabriola Island BC
Phone: 250.247.2063

#1 500 Lower Ganges
Salt Spring Island BC
Phone: 250.537.9144

#200 1627 Fort Street
Victoria BC
Phone: 250.405.5151 Fax: 250.405.5155

Deadline for input: May 21, 2007



Islands Trust

Important Notice To Islands Trust Area Property Owners

We are writing to you as a non-resident owner of property in the Islands Trust Area to make sure you are aware of some important consultation we are doing regarding the Islands Trust. First, here is some background:

The Islands Trust

In 1974 the Province of British Columbia enacted the *Islands Trust Act* to protect the islands and waters in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound. The significance and sensitivity of this special area is internationally recognized. Today, more than ever, increasing pressures from development and tourism are creating significant impacts on the environment, economies and communities within the Islands Trust Area.

The Islands Trust was established “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 the province generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other person and organizations and the Government of British Columbia.” This mandate underlies the work of the Islands Trust, including the development of official community plans, zoning and other land use bylaws in each of the local trust areas or island municipalities.

The Islands Trust is a unique federation of independent local governments, including Bowen Island Municipality, which plans land use and regulates development in the trust area. Like other communities in British Columbia, island communities elect their local representatives every three years.

Towards Excellence in Governance

Islanders have been telling us that there is a need for change so that the Islands Trust can meet new challenges and can better represent the issues and concerns of island communities. A number of governance issues are of particular concern to Salt Spring Island and some of the larger island communities.

In response to what we've been hearing from island communities, Trust Council formed a Governance Task Force to review the political structure necessary to sustain the Islands Trust Area well into the future. The task force includes 13 of the 26 trustees elected from across the Islands Trust Area.

The first priority identified by the task force is political representation. Since any changes that would alter the number of trustees comprising either a local trust committee or Trust Council would require significant legislative amendments (by the province) to the *Islands Trust Act*, the Minister of Community Services has indicated that the ministry would require a thorough analysis of key governance issues and options for addressing these issues, as well as public consultation regarding these options before considering such legislative changes.

A Governance Review

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Community Services shared in the costs of a third party study of concerns and options regarding governance in the Islands Trust Area, undertaken by a professional governance consultant. The analysis has now been completed and is available on our website (go to www.islandstrust.bc.ca and click on “Governance Consultation” in our Highlights Box).

We want to hear from you

In June, the Islands Trust Council will decide if it wishes to recommend amendments to the *Islands Trust Act* that would change political representation in the Islands Trust Area.

Before Trust Council decides whether it will make any recommendations to the Ministry of Community Services, ***we want to hear the ideas of those who live and/or own property in the Islands Trust Area.***

Eleven meetings have been scheduled in late April and early May throughout the islands and in the Lower Mainland so that we can hear the views of islanders and non-resident property owners. If you are unable to attend one of the public meetings we are hosting, you can also provide your input by completing a survey on the options or suggest your own options on our website (go to www.islandstrust.bc.ca and click on Governance Consultation in the Highlights Box to find more information and a survey). The Governance report is available now and the survey will be available by the end of April. You can also send us an e-mail at: information@islandstrust.bc.ca or you can write to us at one of our offices, listed on the other side of this paper.

Thank you for your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Benson
Chair, Islands Trust Council