

Islands Trust Governance Task Force

Update
for Trust Council
September 2006

Background

- At the request of Trust Council, the Executive Committee created a Governance Task Force in April 2006.
- Terms of Reference, minutes and other information about the Task Force are regularly posted on the Islands Trust website.
- Trust Council approved the Governance Task Force's Initial Strategy in June 2006.

Initial Strategy

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

Initial Focus Area

-- Political Representation --

- Trust Council approved an initial focus on:
 - Legislative change that would increase the number of local trustees in the most populous Local Trust Area(s), while retaining at least two trustees from each Local Trust Area and Island Municipality.
 - New political structures for integration/coordination of Local Trust Committees and Regional District decision-making.
 - Legislative change that would enable Trust Council to increase the number of Executive Committee members.

Political Representation

-- Progress to Date --

- Further conversations with staff of Ministry of Community Services have confirmed that:
 - legislative changes will not happen before 2008.
 - legislative changes could happen as late as 2008 and still apply to the 2008 Local Government Elections, if necessary.
 - Changing the number of trustees in a local trust committee or in Trust Council is considered a significant change.
 - the Ministry requires a more complete analysis of existing governance issues and options and a comprehensive public consultation program before proceeding with any significant legislative changes.

Political Representation

-- Next Steps --

- Further staff and consultant discussions with Ministry staff to clearly identify expectations for governance analysis and public consultation.
- Develop Terms of Reference for governance analysis, coordination with the CRD, and public consultation work.
- Request Ministry endorsement of Terms of Reference and cost-sharing for proposed work.
- Seek qualified third party to undertake required work.
- Executive Committee to meet with Minister Chong to outline progress to date and planned approach.

Political Representation & Structure

Next steps (Cont'd.)

- Staff to explore new political structures or strategies to more formally integrate decision-making and coordinate activities with Regional Districts with an initial focus on the Capital Regional District.
- CRD Senior staff have confirmed a willingness to participate in governance review work.

Initial Strategy

-- Areas for Later Focus --

The Task Force's Initial Strategy also identified the following topic areas for later focus:

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

Next Focus Area

- Financial Arrangements -

- The Governance Task Force has identified the 'Financial Arrangements' Topic as its next focus area.
- To proceed with work in this Focus Area, the Task Force would like to work closely with the Financial Planning Committee to identify options and solutions regarding financial arrangement issues.

Financial Arrangements

-- Next Steps --

- The Governance Task Force recommends that Trust Council endorse a more formal liaison between the Financial Planning Committee and the Task Force.
- An RFD on the September agenda seeks this endorsement.

GTF and FPC Liaison

Initial Strategy - Objectives

- Fairness in the use of tax resources and local planning allocation.
- Reduce overall expense.
- Access alternative revenue sources.
- Increase funding to Trust Fund Board.
- Ensure fair compensation for trustees.

GTF and FPC Liaison

- Options for Further Discussion -

- Explore different delivery options for planning services.
- Provide a greater proportion of planning service through LTA tax levies, while maintaining basic services.
- Develop strategic funding plan, including expanded capacity to identify and access revenue sources.
- Develop TFB revenue strategy.
- Request real estate tax revenues.
- Review trustee remuneration principles and formula.

Financial Arrangements

Current Complementary Initiatives

- Budget allocation model.
- Management consideration of planning staff realignment (occurs on an ad hoc basis to respond to local needs. Further work pending time-tracking data).
- Organizational review (1st phase underway).
- LPS Process review (1st phase underway).