



# Salt Spring Island Referendum

Vote November 15

## Yes or No?

When you vote in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area elections on **Saturday, November 15**, you will see the following referendum question:

---

**“Are you in favour of increasing the number of locally-elected trustees that sit on the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee from two trustees to four trustees?”**

---

### If the majority of voters say YES

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee would become a five-member body, made up of four locally-elected trustees and one member of Trust Council’s Executive Committee, who chairs the committee. All five members of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee would have the same powers and authority on the committee. Two of the four trustees would be members of Trust Council. The two additional trustees would be able to sit as members of Council committees and to participate in discussions at Trust Council, providing Salt Spring Island with more input into Trust Council decisions.

### If the majority of voters say NO

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will remain a three-member body as it is now, made up of two locally-elected trustees and one member of Trust Council’s Executive Committee, who chairs the committee.

### Where and When You Can Vote

#### Advance Polls: Wednesday, November 5 and 12, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC  
Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC

#### Election Day: Saturday, November 15, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fernwood Elementary School, 150 Fernwood Road, Salt Spring Island, BC  
Fulford Community Elementary School, 203 South Ridge Road,  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
Salt Spring Elementary School, 122 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, BC  
Anderson Elementary School, 9460 Alberta Road, Richmond, BC

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why hold a referendum?

In 2007, following considerable public consultation and input, the Islands Trust Council asked the Ministry of Community Development to amend the Islands Trust Act to increase representation on Salt Spring Island. The ministry did not agree to add members to Trust Council, but suggested that electors in the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area should be the ones to decide, by referendum, the size of their Local Trust Committee. In June 2008, Trust Council unanimously agreed with that suggestion.

### Why did the Islands Trust Council recommend that the Minister of Community Development increase the size of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee?

Salt Spring Island has a population of approximately 10,000 people. Enlarging the size of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee would provide greater diversity of viewpoints and better representation of the electorate. Trust Council’s assessment is that enlarging the size of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee would be a positive change for Salt Spring Island and for the Islands Trust.

### **What is the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee?**

In BC, every community has an elected local government body that is responsible for making decisions about land use (such as adopting a zoning bylaw and considering applications to change it). If you live in a municipality, the municipal council makes these decisions. In most rural areas, a regional district board such as the CRD would make decisions about land use. In the Islands Trust Area, there are 12 local trust areas and one island municipality. Decisions about land use are made by a unique form of local government called a 'local trust committee'. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has all the power and authority that a regional district board would have to make most land use decisions for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area.

### **What are some examples of land use decisions that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee makes?**

A local trust committee is responsible for developing and adopting the Official Community Plan, and for developing a variety of land use regulations. For example, these regulations control which lots would allow commercial businesses or how close to the next lot a building can be located. Local trust committees work with their island communities to develop policies and regulations to suit local needs, which must be consistent with the Islands Trust Policy Statement. When people make applications to change the community's land use regulations, the local trust committee makes decisions about their proposals. The local trust committee also decides whether to enforce its bylaws. It can also influence other local issues, such as affordable housing, environmental protection and support for local agriculture.

### **If voters agree to have four locally elected trustees instead of two, when would the two new positions be filled?**

If there is a 'YES' vote, then the Islands Trust would ask the Minister of Community Development to make the necessary legislative arrangements to create the two additional trustee positions for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. Once those arrangements are made, the Islands Trust would hold a by-election (likely in early 2009) so electors could vote for candidates wishing to fill the two new trustee positions.

### **Would the new trustees be members of Trust Council?**

No. When the ministry responded to Trust Council's request to increase representation from Salt Spring Island, it indicated that only two of the four trustees from Salt Spring would be able to vote at Trust Council meetings. In September the Islands Trust Council amended its policies and bylaws to maximize the participation of any additional trustees from Salt Spring Island. The amended policies would allow for the additional trustees to sit as members of Council committees and to participate in discussions at Trust Council although they would not be able to vote.

### **How much would any additional Salt Spring Island local trustees be paid?**

As of October 2008, Salt Spring Island trustees will receive an annual honorarium of \$12,752 each. In September, Trust Council amended its trustee remuneration bylaw to pay all Salt Spring Island trustees the same amount, provided they attend Trust Council meetings.

### **What would be the costs to the taxpayer of additional trustees on Salt Spring Island?**

Taxpayers throughout the Trust Area would contribute to the costs of the two additional trustees, which amount to about \$33,000 annually to cover honoraria, travel, and supplies for both trustees. This amount is already in the Islands Trust's approved 2008-2009 budget. The amount represents about 35 cents per \$100,000 assessment or about \$1.65 a year (or 25 cents on Bowen Island) for an individual property owner with a house assessed at \$450,000.

### **Should there be a question about an incorporation study at the same time?**

No. The provincial government has the authority regarding placing referendum questions on the ballot. The Ministry of Community Development itself proposed and agreed to have a specific question only about increasing the size of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee in response to the request from the Islands Trust to increase the number of trustees from Salt Spring. The two current trustees and CRD director were all elected in 2005 on a mandate of strengthening the Islands Trust, and not to support incorporation. The elected officials have honoured that mandate, which was supported by the majority of voters.



**Islands Trust**

**For more information, and for answers to additional questions, follow the links from the Islands Trust web site: [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)**

 Printed on 100% recycled paper.