

Islands Trust
Executive Committee Report

To: Islands Trust Council

Date: November 22, 2011

WORK PROGRAM (*Top Three Priorities*)

1. COMMUNICATIONS and ADVOCACY

Current

- Monitor redesign of website (LG/LS)
- Implementation of Communications Plan for 2011/12 (LG/LS)
- On-going monitoring of seniors' video project (LG/LS)

Planned

- Development of proactive advocacy strategy and policy (LG/CF)
- Development of communications strategy (LG/LS)

2. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Current

- On-going monitoring of Strategic Plan status (LA)

Planned

- Design Strategic Planning process for new term (LA)

3. ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Current

- Trust Council orientation (LA)
- Policy re exempt staff compensation (LA/CE)

Planned

- CAO – Emergency Succession Plan (LA)
- Review of Islands Trust policies and inventory of potential amendments (LA/CT)
- Develop and implement regular maintenance schedule for Policy Manual and Procedures Manual (LA/CT)
- First Nations liaison strategy (LA/LG)

TRUST COUNCIL MEETING – REQUEST FOR DECISION/INFORMATION ITEM(S)

- December Update of Strategic Plan
- Executive Committee Report
- Trust Council Continuous Learning Plan (Draft for discussion and suggestions)
- Priorities Chart
- CAO Quarterly Report
- Proposed Trust Council 2012- 2014 quarterly meeting schedule
- UBCM Report

PROVINCIAL LIAISON UPDATE

Current

- Nil

Planned

- Introductory meeting with Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Linda Adams
 Chief Administrative Officer

Sheila Malcolmson
 Chair

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
2011-2012 THIRD QUARTER REPORT**

Date: November 16, 2011

Note: **BOLD UPPER CASE** - Reflects Trust Council Priorities

Bold Lower Case - Highlights Key Activities

Underline – Policy Statement items

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CURRENT	PLANNED
<p>1. <u>TRUST COUNCIL ADVICE & ASSISTANCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUARTERLY MEETING PREPARATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervise all RFDs and Briefings to Council • COORDINATE MEETING FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council Continuous Learning Plan ○ Trust Council Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research and preparation of presentation to BC Ferry Commissioner • STRATEGIC PLAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Oversee implementation through staff work programs</u> ○ Briefing re Strategic Plan progress ○ Final report for 2008-2011 term ○ Initial discussions re 2012/13 budget • Liaison with legal council/insurers re litigation against Trust Council or trustees. • On-going advice to trustees re legislative and conduct issues • Advice to trustee candidates as requested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUARTERLY MEETING PREPARATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise all RFDs and Briefings to Council • COORDINATE MEETING FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS • Coordinate Trustee Orientation Program • Council Continuous Learning Plan • Coordinate/deliver sessions as necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Picture, Rules of the Road, Human Resources and Fairness sessions • STRATEGIC PLAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Oversee implementation as budgeted through staff work programs</u> • On-going advice to trustees re legislative and conduct issues • Liaison with legal counsel/insurers re litigation against Trust Council or trustees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUARTERLY MEETING PREPARATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervise all RFDs and Briefings to Council • COORDINATE MEETING FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS • Council Continuous Learning Plan • Coordinate sessions as necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March legal session • STRATEGIC PLAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendations re improvements to strategic planning process ○ Initial planning for Trust Council strategic session and planning process • RFP or terms of reference re First Nations strategy (delayed) • On-going advice to trustees re legislative and conduct issues • Liaison to legal counsel/insurers re litigation against Trust Council or trustees. • Review of indemnification bylaw
<p>2. <u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADVICE & ASSISTANCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REGULAR MEETING PREPARATION • COORDINATE MEETING FOLLOW UP • Briefings to EC as requested • Chair correspondence and communications • News releases, related communications and island enquiries • Participate in meetings re website review and redesign • Develop recommendations regarding Administrative Fairness Complaints (none in past quarter) • One response completed to Ombudsperson inquiries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REGULAR MEETING PREPARATION • COORDINATE MEETING FOLLOW UP • Chair correspondence and communications • News releases and related communications • Participate in meetings re website review and redesign • Assist with communications re elections, queries from prospective candidates, etc. • Planning for EC orientation program (2011-2014 term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REGULAR MEETING PREPARATION • COORDINATE MEETING FOLLOW UP • EC orientation program • - Overview of bylaw approval process • Review of bylaws, policies and procedures to prioritize update requirements. • Participate in meetings re website review and redesign • Plan for enhanced strategic planning process • Develop first nations relationship strategy and policy • Develop CAO succession strategies (emergency and long term) • Exempt staff compensation policy
<p>3. <u>EXECUTIVE SERVICES UNIT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work program alignment with Strategic Plan • Budget implementation and tracking for ES Unit • Completion of staff performance plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work program alignment with Strategic Plan • Budget tracking for ES Unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work program alignment with Strategic Plan • Budget tracking for ES Unit

5.2

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CURRENT	PLANNED
<p>4. <u>AGENCY LIAISON</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>On-going liaison with Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development staff re Islands Trust issues</u> • Attendance at UBCM conference • Preparations, attendance and follow-up -- UBCM breakfast for MLAs and EADs • On-going liaison with RD CAOs re Islands Trust issues • On-going liaison with provincial ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>On-going liaison with Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development staff re Islands Trust issues</u> • On-going liaison with RD CAOs re Islands Trust issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>On-going liaison with Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development staff re Islands Trust issues</u> • Liaison with Crown lands staff re first nations issues • On-going liaison with RD CAOs re Islands Trust issues
<p>5. <u>MANAGEMENT TEAM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi weekly coordination meetings with Directors • Directors – Regular one-on-one meetings and on-going assistance as required • Management team strategic session • DLPS probation period completed • Delivered training session to staff (planning for non-planners) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-weekly coordination meetings with Directors • Directors – Regular one-on-one meetings and on-going assistance as required • Director of Admin. Services – recruitment process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-weekly coordination meetings with Directors • Directors – Regular one-on-one meetings and on-going assistance as required • Director of Admin. Services – orientation and probationary period • Attendance at regional team meetings

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Islands Trust

Islands Trust Council Plan for Continuous Learning 2011-2014

Draft for Discussion and Suggestion (What other topics would trustees like to propose?)

2011-11-24

Year		Trust Wide and Administrative Topics	Legal and Governance Topics	Planning How-To	Working With Others
	Dec (Victoria)	Orientation to Trust Area Services Orientation to Administrative and Financial Services Orientation to budget and budget process	'Staying out of Trouble' Session	Orientation to Local Planning Services	Making Fair Decisions Islands Trust Human Resources
2012	Mar (Gabriola)	Annual Budget Session Initial Strategic Planning Session	Standards of Conduct and Indemnification Meeting Minutes Part 1	Community Planning (for new trustees) Introduction to the Islands Trust Policy Statement	Effective Meetings
	June (Penders)	Strategic Planning	Effective Meetings Meeting Minutes Part 2	Planning Tools (for new trustees)	Trust Fund Board San Juan County
	Sept (Bowen)	Strategic Planning	Refresher on Standards of Conduct and Administrative Fairness	Good Planning Practice	Bowen Island Municipality
	Dec (Victoria)			Good Planning Practice	
2013				Good Planning Practice	

Year		Trust Wide and Administrative Topics	Legal and Governance Topics	Planning How-To	Working With Others
	Mar	Annual Budget Session			
	June			Good Planning Practice	San Juan County
	Sept		Refresher on Standards of Conduct and Administrative Fairness	Good Planning Practice	
	Dec (Victoria)			Good Planning Practice	
2014	Mar	Annual Budget Session		Good Planning Practice	
	June				San Juan County
	Sept	Election period best practices			
	Nov (Victoria)	Orientation	Orientation	Orientation	Orientation

Potential topics/agency liaison for consideration in 2011-14 term:

- Introduction to the Climate Action Charter
- Effective Conservation Covenants
- Succession Planning and Staff Retention
- Soil Removal
- Advocacy and Media Relations
- Tools for Community Engagement
- Agricultural Land Commission
- Private Managed Forests Council
- BC Assessment Authority
- Ministry of Transportation
- Working with First Nations
- Local GHG Emissions Inventory (e.g. Lasqueti Island)

SESSIONS/ITEMS COMPLETED in 2008 – 2011 TERM					
Year		Trust Wide and Administrative Topics	Legal and Governance Topics	Planning How-To	Working With Others
2008	December (Victoria)	Intro to Budget Session Initial Strategic Discussion	General Orientation Governance (G. Cuff)	General Orientation	General Orientation
2009	Mar (Gabriola)	Annual Budget Session	Strategic Planning Legal Session	Intro to land use planning	
	June (North Pender)		Procedural Fairness	Introduction to land use planning – part 2	Farm Industry Review Bd San Juan County
	September (Mayne)	Climate Change – GHG Emission Reduction Targets		GHG Emission Reduction – planning policies actions	
	December (Salt Spring)	Intro Budget Session History of the Trust Strategic Plan Update	Litigation 101	Community Housing Task Force Update Bill 27 Update	Trust Fund Board
2010	March (Hornby)	Strategic Plan Review Annual Budget Session	Update regarding court case	Community Housing Task Force Report Bill 27 Update	San Juan County Parks Canada
	June (Saturna)	Marine Shipping Safety	Refresher on Orientation Topics	Refresher on Temporary Use Permits	
	Sept (Bowen)	Strategic Plan Update and Review		Food Security through Land Use Planning Riparian Area Regs - the Perspective of a QEP	Bowen Island Council
	Dec (Victoria)	Intro Budget Session Strategic Plan Update		Good Planning Practice (Randall Arendt)	Regional Conservation Plan (TFB) GINPR (southern trustees)
2011	March (Galiano)	Annual Budget Session		MAP IT demo Implementing the Regional Conservation Plan with LTCs	
	June (Denman)	Conservation Offsets	Operational Carbon Neutrality and Offsets	Rural By Design Practical examples	Liaison with Electoral Area Director – Cortes Strathcona RD
	Sept (Salt Spring)	Term & Strategic Plan Review Advice to Incoming Council	Elections Period Best Practice		San Juan County



UBCM Report 2011

The following report provides an overview of activities of the Islands Trust Executive Committee and senior staff while attending the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention in Vancouver, September 26 – 30, 2011.

All members of the Islands Trust Executive Committee, Chair Sheila Malcolmson and Vice-Chairs Louise Bell, Peter Luckham, and Gary Steeves attended the convention on behalf of the Islands Trust Council. Municipal Trustees Alison Morse and Nerys Poole attended the convention on behalf of Bowen Island Municipal Council. Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Linda Adams was the only Islands Trust staff member attending the conference.

Information about the 2011 UBCM Convention program is available at <http://ubcm.ca/assets/Library/Convention/Convention~2011/UBCM%20Program%202011.pdf>

A. Convention Resolutions

The Islands Trust did not sponsor any resolutions this year, but members of the Executive Committee voted at the UBCM Convention in support of specific resolutions as agreed by the Executive Committee in a September 13, 2011 resolution. Further information about the disposition of all resolutions is available on the UBCM website: <http://ubcm.ca/EN/main/resolutions/resolutions/resolutions-responses.html>.

Highlights:

- Executive Committee members supported late resolution LR6 on “Oil Pipelines and Tanker Traffic in BC” co-sponsored by City of Victoria and City of Burnaby. The resolution was endorsed by the UBCM membership. It supported the Islands Trust’s June 2011 [submission to the National Energy Board](#) highlighting concerns about Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain Pipeline’s application for “firm service” contracts. The resolution calls on regulators to ensure that any applications to expand the amount of oil transported by pipeline or tanker in British Columbia undergo the highest degree of environmental assessment and include meaningful public consultation, including direct engagement with affected municipalities, regional authorities and British Columbia First Nations.
- Resolution B174 on BC Hydro wireless smart meters was endorsed. In September, 2011, Trust Council requested that the Executive Committee actively support this resolution which called for a moratorium on the mandatory installation of wireless smart meters by BC Hydro until the major issues and problems identified regarding wireless smart meters are independently assessed and acceptable alternatives can be made available at no added cost to the consumer.
- Resolution A3 on BC Ferries rate increases was endorsed with amendments that reflected suggestions from the Islands Trust. The resolution called on UBCM to lobby the provincial government to: recognize our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and provide the independent BC Ferry Commission with a mandate to provide comprehensive recommendations aimed at creating equity between our terrestrial and marine highways and keeping jobs in coastal BC; and, to ensure that BC ferry fares are reduced and service levels are maintained at current levels until such time as the provincial government implements legislation that recognizes our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and creates equity between BC’s terrestrial and marine highway systems.
- Delegates endorsed resolution B147 to change UBCM’s name to Union of British Columbia Local Governments and to request corresponding legislative amendments.
- Resolution B128 requested that the proposed Riparian Area Regulation Variance Protocol be nullified and cease to be implemented prior to ministerial endorsement and amendment of the Riparian Area Regulation. The resolution was referred to UBCM Executive so that the UBCM Environment Committee can monitor the matter while awaiting a related Court decision.

B. Coastal Community Network Meeting

Chair Sheila Malcolmson attended this meeting and considered it to be very worthwhile. The Coastal Community Network represents municipalities, regional districts and tribal councils comprising BC's coastal communities and promotes sustainable economic and social development on the West Coast. The Coastal Community Network focuses on areas of agreement, but is not an advocacy group.

Chair Malcolmson spoke about Islands Trust's First Nations protocol project. Certain meeting participants recommended the Islands Trust review the Federation of Canadian Municipalities toolkit on First Nations but acknowledged it doesn't address the Islands Trust's capacity problem.

Chair Malcolmson observed that the Coastal Community Network seems to fill a niche for others that Trust Council offers to our elected officials (e.g. sharing of models and early recognition of problems to come) in a less formal process than that offered by area associations (e.g. Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)).

The group discussed the need to allocate time to collaborate, and that they shouldn't wait for a once-a-year meeting to get help solving problems.

There were many acknowledgements during the meeting that the Islands Trust is a model for other governments. There was some focus on the Regional District Chairs' BC Ferries project.

Issues raised by members attending:

- Oil spill preparedness;
 - Risks and benefits of the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project;
 - Reassessment of tourism business taxes in one regional district to ensure the sector is paying taxes relative to their economic activity;
 - Opposition to draft Scott Island (Port Hardy) Marine National Wildlife Area: concerns about shipping lanes and impacts on hake and sardine fishery;
 - Developing regional plans;
 - Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District reported that they have a First Nation seat (that doesn't vote on financial matters) but
- First Nations are challenged by capacity to attend meetings;
- BC Ferries' impact on economic growth in coastal communities;
 - A protocol signed between a local government and a previous First Nation council no longer supported by the First Nation;
 - Derelict vessels: **Patrick Marshall**, Administrator of the Coastal Community Network, suggested members ask what happened to the Pacific Collaborative Commission (Moura Quayle, UBC), which would have helped and was reporting to the Ministry of Environment.

C. Meeting with Premier and Minister regarding BC Ferries

Hon. Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia

Hon. Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Regional District Chairs

In the pre-meeting with the Regional District Chairs, Chair Malcolmson conveyed the recommendation of trustees delegated by Trust Council to advise on this topic (they either sit on Ferry Advisory Committee or have a special interest in BC Ferries operations) that the *Improving the BC Coastal Ferry Service: A Position Paper from Twelve Coastal Regional District Chairs* document be rewritten to be more focussed on problems and outcomes versus a specific solution, and be directed at the BC Ferry Commissioner instead of the Province. It became clear that this advice may be too late as all but three local governments (Islands Trust, Metro Vancouver, Central Coast Regional District) have already endorsed the paper. The Powell River Regional District wants to meet with Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs for direct input. Chair Malcolmson's general impression was that most Regional District Chairs considered the paper to be a work in progress instead of "final" as it was labelled.

During the meeting with Premier Clark and Minister Lekstrom:

- Powell River Regional District Chair **Colin Palmer** presented on behalf of the Regional District Chairs. The status of the position paper was not discussed.

- Capital Regional District Chair **Geoff Young** presented on behalf of the communities served by the major routes and advocated for no cross subsidies, in opposition to the position of the Regional District Chairs.
- Chair Malcolmson presented on behalf of the communities served by the minor routes and believes her presentation was well received. In her presentation she credited the Province for expanding the Commissioner's mandate and providing an opening for review of the *Coastal Ferries Act*.

Following up on a suggestion by Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs, Regional District Chairs requested a follow-up meeting with the Province after the Commissioner's report is out. Premier Clark agreed to a meeting.

Premier Clark and **Minister Lekstrom** said they are waiting for the BC Ferry Commissioner's report before making decisions. **Premier Clark** said she would like the report in October 2011 instead of January 2012 as scheduled.

Premier Clark also stated the province cannot move \$1.6B in BC Ferries debt back onto the provincial books. She stated that fares affect ridership but are not the only driver. **Minister Lekstrom** mentioned that the inland ferries, which are free of cost, have also had a ridership drop of 6%.

Minister Lekstrom also repeated Minister's Bond's figures on the provincial contribution increasing since 2003. As the meeting ran out of time, **Premier Clark** suggested that BC Ferries might be over-servicing some areas.

After the meeting, Chair Malcolmson talked with **Minister Lekstrom** to convey the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs' opinion that islanders will resist service reductions unless they are convinced that these will result in reduced fares. Her impression was that he understood this position.

After the meeting, Regional District Chairs agreed to:

- Issue a press release (picked by BC Local News: <http://www.bclocalnews.com/news/130857038.html>),
- Send a follow-up letter to the Premier
- Issue an invitation to the northern Regional District Chairs who said at the Coastal Community Network meeting that they would like to be involved.

The Regional District Chairs collectively represent 70% of the province's population.

D. Small Talk Forum

The Small Talk Forum is an opportunity for discussion amongst the elected representatives of small communities. As in 2010, the session did not provide information directly relevant to Islands Trust. The forum included presentations on three local government success stories: enhancing fire protection in the District of Kent; production of community newsletters in Clearwater; and, engaging students in local government in Burns Lake.

Executive members did get some new perspectives about how other communities approached problems, sought funding and involved local groups to achieve a desired outcome.

Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (MCSCD), addressed the group noting that the provincial government partners with local governments to create a strong investment climate and encourage investment in communities. She advised participants to work with key sectors including technology innovators and the producers of products because the provincial government can help broaden trade.

E. MLAs and Electoral Area Directors Breakfast: Attended by Vice-Chairs Peter Luckham, Louise Bell, Gary Steeves, Chair Sheila Malcolmson, Bowen Island Municipal Trustees Alison Morse and Nerys Poole, and CAO Linda Adams.

MLAs:

- Nicholas Simons** (NDP) – Powell River Sunshine Coast (Gambier)
- Murray Coell** (Lib) – Saanich North and the Islands (Salt Spring/S. Gulf Islands)
- Don McRae** (Lib) – Comox Valley (Denman and Hornby)
- Doug Routley** (NDP) – Nanaimo North Cowichan (Gabriola and Thetis)
- Ron Cantelon** (Lib) – Parksville Qualicum (Lasqueti and Exec. Islands)

Electoral Area Directors:

Maria Harris – Metro Vancouver RD (Gambier)
Ken Hancock – Capital Regional District (S. Gulf Islands)
Mel Dorey – Cowichan Valley RD (Thetis)
Bruce Jolliffe – Comox Valley RD (Denman and Hornby)
Garry Nohr – Sunshine Coast RD (Gambier)
Peter Frinton – Greater Vancouver RD (Bowen)
Lee Turnbull – Sunshine Coast RD (Gambier)
Merrick Anderson – Powell River RD (Lasqueti)
Garth Hendren – Capital Regional District (Salt Spring Island)

There was a good turnout to this breakfast hosted by the Islands Trust with a number of people attending for the first time. There were valuable opportunities to speak with attendees about Islands Trust and local issues.

Chair Malcolmson provided an overview of Islands Trust and the following accomplishments:

- Amendment of 19 Official Community Plans so that they complied with Bill 27 (*Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*), by including targets, policies and actions for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- The Islands Trust Fund's protection of an additional 115 new hectares;
- Expansion of the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program;
- Official Community Plans updates;
- Exploring Food Security in the Islands Trust Area guide;
- Innovative use of land use tools to achieve community goals – use of transfer of development potential and other land use decisions on Denman Island to create 790 ha of parkland and use of an amenity zoning agreement on Salt Spring Island to protect 24 ha of community farmland;
- Progress on bringing our bylaws into compliance with the Riparian Areas Regulation;
- Significant organizational changes to enhance our effectiveness;
- At the local level, our local trust committees held more than 425 public meetings and passed more than 3500 resolutions, dealing with everything from new and complex Official Community Plans to community clinics to affordable housing projects to variances for sundecks.

She also highlighted upcoming initiatives including a new and improved website, the video project and mentioned our hope of receiving Gas Tax funding so that we can proceed with a timely review of the Policy Statement.

Chair Malcolmson also reported on the Islands Trust meeting with Minister Thomson regarding derelict vessels (see item F below) and the Regional District Chairs meeting with Premier Clark and Minister Lekstrom about the *Coastal Ferry Act* (see item C above).

Topics discussed informally at the breakfast included the Island Corridor (train), solid waste management on Thetis Island, Islands Trust governance, relationships with regional districts and derelict vessels.

F. Meeting with Minister regarding derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks

Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Executive Committee requested this meeting and invited representatives from other local governments.

Guests included:

Christopher Causton, Past President, AVICC and Mayor, Corporation of the District of Oak Bay
Nerys Poole, Acting Mayor, Bowen Island Municipality
Adam Olsen, Councillor, District of Central Saanich
Gary Nason, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Central Saanich
John Rogers, Councillor, Town of View Royal
Darren Inkster, Mayor, District of Sechelt
Warren Allen, Councillor, District of Sechelt
Evan Parliament, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Sooke
Sue Lin Tarnowski, Director of Finance, District of Sooke
Murray Coell, MLA, Saanich North and the Islands

The purpose of the meeting was to seek an update on the province's commitment to collaborate with other agencies in the removal of abandoned vessels and docks and on the status of a proposed strategic plan to address marine debris.

Chair Malcolmson outlined local government questions about derelict vessels and asked Minister Thomson if the province isn't going to address the problems, will the Minister lobby the federal government on behalf of local governments.

Minister Thomson was clear that the work previously underway on this file had lost momentum with the cabinet shift. He said the funding model that had been proposed may not work and that further discussion was needed to clarify responsibilities of the province versus those of the federal government. He indicated that he needs to talk to the Ministry of Finance and committed to getting back to the Islands Trust within two weeks to report on next steps. He also committed that his reply will give an update on what happened to the marine debris alliance mentioned in a [February 15, 2011 letter to Islands Trust](#) from (former) Environment Minister Murray Coell.

MLA Murray Coell was helpful in the meeting. The local government partners requested that Islands Trust share the Minister's response. There is a desire for local governments to continue to work together on this issue and no sign that there is any diminishment of concern that a solution be found.

(NOTE: On October 31, 2011 Minister Thomson sent a letter to the Honourable Denis Lebel, federal Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities, expressing support for a federal study on the scope of the derelict vessel problem and encouraging an annual allocation of funds to manage vessels on the Pacific Coast until Transport Canada establishes a permanent solution. Chair Malcolmson was the only local government representative copied on the letter. On November 21, 2011, Sean Herbert, Associate Director, Tenure Operations, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations wrote to Chair Malcolmson to report that a provincial marine vessel recycling program is not viable but that he is willing to meet with Islands Trust, Ministry of Environment and Transport Canada to explore encouraging private sector initiatives, and to explain that BC's role in the West Coast Marine Debris Alliance is limited and the program will not be addressing derelict vessels. Island Trust staff provided copies of both letters to the local governments who attended the UBCM meeting.)

G. Ministers' Panels

Ministers' panels provide an opportunity for locally elected officials to ask questions of provincial cabinet ministers.

Resource Panel: attended by Vice-Chair Louise Bell and Chair Sheila Malcolmson

Panel participants:

Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mining

Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Hon. Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture

Ministers Thompson, Lake, McRae and Coleman each made a presentation. **Minister Coleman** spoke about housing partnerships, and **Minister McRae** complimented local governments on the number of agricultural area plans completed or underway and noted broad community interest in local food production.

Water Act: Chair Malcolmson asked **Minister Lake** about progress in the *Water Act* modernization project.

Minister Lake replied that changes to the *Water Act* need more consultation and a new white paper will be released in 2012. The Province has a goal of introducing a new *Water Sustainability Act* in 2013.

NMCA: Chair Malcolmson asked **Minister Lake** about the status of the National Marine Conservation Area for the Southern Strait of Georgia and he advised us to "stay tuned". (Note: a formal announcement regarding the NMCA feasibility study area was later made on October 13, 2011).

Derelict Vessels: In response to a question on derelict vessels from **Lori Lannidinardo**, Cowichan Valley Regional District Director for Area D, Cowichan Bay, **Minister Thomson** reported on the derelict vessels meeting with Islands Trust and partners.

ALC: **Minister McRae** said a report on the Agricultural Land Commission will be released soon.

Proposed Raven Coal Mine: **Minister Lake** answered Vice-Chair Bell's question about the proposed Raven Coal mine saying that no decision could be made until the environmental review was completed. He stated that he saw no reason to upgrade the environmental review to an independent review with public hearing.

Business and Economy Panel: attended by Vice-Chair Gary Steeves

Panel participants:

Hon. Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

Hon. Kevin Falcon, Minister of Finance

Hon. Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government.

Minister Falcon gave an economic overview. He outlined global financial challenges. He said British Columbia had the best taxation rates in the world for both business and individuals and that the province is planning a public consultation on how to deal with the 2013/14 deficit. He said there would be no salary increases for public employees. **Minister Bell** outlined the BC Jobs Plan and its reliance on a strong skilled workforce, fiscal discipline to make BC a safe harbour for investment, and Asian trade. **Minister MacDiarmid** talked about the ten-year agreement the BC government signed with Telus. She referred to the program as the "Connecting Citizens Program".

BC Ferries: **Minister Lekstrom** spoke about "developing a strong transportation network". He mentioned highways, bridges, ports, and rail, but not ferries. Vice-Chair Steeves asked about ferries and noted the Washington State conclusion on fare increases vs. ridership. **Minister Lekstrom** said he was waiting for the BC Ferries Commissioner's report. **Minister Falcon** mentioned that ridership was down 6% on the inland ferries too and they were free.

H. Workshops, Clinics and Sessions

Plenary Session on Municipal Auditor General – attended by Vice-Chairs Louise Bell and Gary Steeves

Minister Chong clearly indicated that the Province of British Columbia is committed to creating a Municipal Auditor General. She requested that UBCM delegates provide advice on the composition and role of a Municipal Auditor General advisory committee or board to discuss and evaluate the Municipal Auditor General's work annually. Delegates expressed strong opposition to the concept of a Municipal Auditor General and the lack of consultation. It appears unlikely that the role of the new Municipal Auditor General will include the Islands Trust.

Affordable Market Housing: A Home Within Reach Workshop – attended by Vice-Chair Louise Bell

Participants: Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines (Minister Responsible for Housing); Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development; Kim Flick, Planning & Building Services Manager, City of Vernon; Matthew Baldwin, City Planner, City of Langford; Don Luymes, Manager, Community Planning, City of Surrey; Bob Deeks, Canadian Home Builders Association of BC; Jeff Fisher, Urban Development Institute (Pacific Region)

This workshop showcased promising practices for increasing the supply of affordable market housing in British Columbia but did not offer much information applicable to small islands, especially those without water systems. A key message was that, after a needs assessment, communities need to develop a housing strategy, so that elected representatives have a framework with which to judge a development proposal specifically for affordable housing or that includes affordable housing. A strategy can be merely a set of six or eight principles regarding location, users, access to services, etc., or it can be more involved. If developed with community consultation, a housing strategy provides an important guide for future decision making.

Social Media: Tips for Elected Officials and Employers Workshop – attended by Vice-Chair Peter Luckham.

Participants: Bryan Baynham, QC - Partner, Harper Grey LLP, Daniel Reid - Associate, Harper Grey LLP

This workshop explored best and worst practices of social media use for local government election campaigns, and examined legal risks such as defamation and breach of privacy. The two lawyers leading the workshop, who are actively involved in defending elected officials from anonymous or otherwise blogs, forum and email messages, indicated they have the resources to find the source of any offensive messages. They offered warnings about being careful what you post online, as you do not know where it goes and that posted material is most likely not completely erasable, even if no longer visible on the posted site.

Centre for Civic Governance Dialogue Session – attended by Vice Chairs Peter Luckham and Louise Bell, and Chair Sheila Malcolmson

This workshop offered delegates the chance to discuss upcoming UBCM resolutions. Executive Committee members made some excellent contacts. The next Columbia Institute Centre for Civic Governance's BC Governance Forum is March 30-31, 2012 in Harrison Hot Springs. Chair Malcolmson strongly recommends saving the date for staff and Executive Committee members.

I. Address by Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Minister Chong reiterated the Premier's message that the province's current focus was on families and jobs. She touched on climate change and carbon neutrality, and ended by saying that her door is open and encouraging local governments to let her know how the ministry can assist local governments with their work. **Minister Chong** named the Islands Trust specifically in relation to the Climate Action Charter.

J. Keynote Address by Dr. David K. Foot

Dr. David K. Foot reviewed and updated concepts presented in his book "Boom, Bust and Echo" and the implications that demographic surges have for local governments in the coming one or two decades. He explained that the children of boomers are having fewer children, which explains why the large schools built to accommodate boomers' children are experiencing declining enrolment. He further explained the number of middle aged and younger adults living in rural areas is declining, due to the decline in agriculture and similar employment opportunities, while seniors, especially retirees, are moving to these areas. One message of interest for Islands Trust is that bicycling and bussing are not the way of the future for rural communities, given their demographics. Instead, the answer according to Dr. Foot is "clean gas". Further, given the demographics, our tax revenues will likely decrease as boomers age.

K. Agricultural Study Tour

This tour of Fraser Valley farms was hosted by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and was attended by the **Hon. Don McRae**, Minister of Agriculture, **Wes Shoemaker**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and **Richard Bullock**, Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission. Participants visited the Champ's Mushroom Farm and Processing Facility, JD Farms Specialty Turkey and Krause Berry Farms, all in the Fraser Valley. Champ's Mushroom Farm is a model organic mushroom facility that demonstrates a number of best practices that result low energy and waste, with minimal environmental impacts. JD Farms Specialty Turkey is a family-run producer of specialty turkeys, with a farm that includes a country style deli and bistro. Krause Berry Farm is a 165-acre berry and vegetable farm that includes a U-pick operation, on-farm market, bakery and other value-added farm products.

L. Informal Meetings

The UBCM Convention provides an opportunity for members of the Executive Committee and senior staff to have informal conversations with other attendees:

a. MLAs

Vice-Chair Bell spoke with Comox Valley MLA **Don McRae** about the proposed Raven Mine. He said that the proposed Raven Mine is not one of the eight or so unidentified mines that the Premier had recently announced would be going ahead very soon. Minister McRae said that, given the current stage of the environmental assessment process for Raven, it was too early for it to be given the green light in this way.

b. Provincial Government Staff:

CAO Linda Adams had conversations with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Deputy Minister **Don Fast** and Executive Director **Gary Paget** regarding a Municipal Auditor General, with **Jessica Brooks** of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development regarding climate neutral planning policy, with **Ted Sheldon** of the Ministry of Environment regarding greenhouse gas emissions monitoring, and with **Jim LeMaistre** of the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the potential to showcase island agriculture during the 2012 UBCM meeting. She also spoke with **Tina Neale**, Climate Change Adaptation Advisory, Ministry of Environment, about new tools in development that will assist local governments in adapting to climate change.

c. Regional District Elected Officials and Staff:

Chair Malcolmson had several conversations with Regional Directors **Ken Hancock** (Capital RD), **Jim Abrams** (Strathcona RD), **Gisele Rudischer**, **Dave Bartram** and **Joe Stanhope** (RD of Nanaimo), and also spoke **Garth Hendron** (Capital RD) and **Mel Dorey** (Cowichan Valley RD). CAO Linda Adams spoke to her counterparts with the Comox Valley RD and the Powell River RD.

d. Other Local Government Elected Officials and Staff:

Chair Malcolmson spoke with Vancouver Mayor **Gregor Robertson** at a reception about shared values and how his constituents are heavy recreational users of Islands Trust Area. There may be interest in sharing resources to advocate on common causes.

Chair Malcolmson spoke with Vancouver City Councillor **Andrea Reimer** about a presentation Councillor Reimer planned to give to the Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia.

Chair Malcolmson coordinated with Victoria Councillor **John Luton** and Victoria Mayor **Dean Fortin** about the late resolution on oil spill issues.

CAO Linda Adams spoke with several CAOs from other local governments in BC and attended the CAO breakfast, where there were updates on a number of local government management issues. Throughout the convention, there were numerous compliments from other local governments about Islands Trust's advocacy approach.

e. Bowen Island Municipal Council:

CAO Linda Adams spoke with Bowen Island Councillor **Peter Frinton** regarding the Islands Trust Policy Statement and Bowen Island Official Community Plan process. She also spoke at length with CAO **Brent Mahood** regarding a number of issues in common, including Islands Trust resources available to Bowen Island Municipality.

f. Other Agencies and Individuals:

Chair Malcolmson spoke with **Cheeying Ho**, Executive Director, Whistler Centre for Sustainability and **Mark Allison**, Senior Sustainability Planner and Manager, Advisory Services, Whistler Centre for Sustainability about the proposed Islands Trust Policy Statement review.

Chair Malcolmson spoke with **Danna Locke**, Regional Development Director, BC Housing, who mentioned that BC Housing staff will come anytime to give examples of housing projects that might work in our communities, including housing as small as six units.

Chair Malcolmson spoke with **Christianne Wilhelmson**, Executive Director, Georgia Strait Alliance and **Josh Paterson**, Staff Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law about their lobbying for a late resolution on shipping safety and consultation.

UBCM CONVENTION 2011 - Islands Trust Schedule

Mon., Sept. 26	Tues., Sept. 27	Wed., Sept. 28	Thurs. Sept. 29	Fri. Sept. 30
<p>8:30 – 12:00 Community Coastal Network (SM)</p> <p>8:30 – 4:30 Agricultural Tour (LA)</p>	<p>7:30 – 8:30 Clinic Sessions</p> <p>9:00 – 12:00 Small Talk Forum</p>	<p>7:00 – 8:15 MLA/Electoral Area Directors Breakfast Meeting</p> <p>8:30 UBCM President Address</p> <p>9:25 – 10:25 Keynote Speaker</p> <p>10:30 – 11:55 Resolutions & Policy Papers</p> <p>11:45 Pre-Mtg re: Thomson</p> <p>12:00 AVICC Lunch</p>	<p>7:30 – 8:15 Clinic Sessions</p> <p>8:00 – 10:00 CAO Breakfast (LA)</p> <p>8:35 – 8:55 Address by Leader of the Opposition</p> <p>8:55 – 11:25 Resolutions</p>	<p>7:30 – 8:15 Clinic Sessions</p> <p>8:00-8:30 Federal Address</p> <p>8:30 – 8:35 Address by Leader of the Green Party</p> <p>8:35 – 10:45 Resolutions</p> <p>11:00 Premier's Address</p>
<p>2:00 Teleconference re: Ferries Position Paper (SM)</p>	<p>1:45 – Pre Mtg re Premier, Lekstrom and RD Chairs</p> <p>2:40 -2:55 Premier & Minister Lekstrom w/RD Chairs</p> <p>3:00 Post Mtg</p> <p>3:00 – 5:00 Centre for Civic Governance Dialogue Session</p> <p>3:15-4:45 Provincial Policy Sessions</p>	<p>1:00 – 1:15 Mtg w/Minister Thomson re Derelict Vessels</p> <p>1:45 – 2:15 Address by Hon. Ida Chong,</p> <p>3:00 – 4:15 Provincial Cabinet Panels</p>	<p>2:00 – 4:00 Concurrent Workshops</p>	
	<p>Welcome Reception Columbia Institute Reception</p>	<p>BC Gov't Reception</p>	<p>UBCM Reception</p>	