

REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

SUBJECT Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement

ISSUE SUMMARY

To review the Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement (Bylaw 183).

BACKGROUND

The Islands Trust is in the process of updating their policy statement Bylaw No. 17. The current policy statement (Appendix A) was adopted in 1994 and was last amended in 2002. A new Policy Statement has been drafted (Appendix B) and is currently going through public and indigenous consultations. The Islands Trust Policy Statement is a document required by provincial legislation that sets out the Islands Trust Council's principles and its policy framework for planning and land use management within the lands and waters of the Island Trust Area. It guides the development of the Trust Council's Strategic Plan, Official Community Plans (OCP) and Land Use Bylaws (LUB) of Local Trust Committees and Bowen Island Municipality.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is not a set of regulations. It does not change how land in the Islands Trust Area may be used under existing regulations today. The Policy Statement contains policies that Local Trust Committees and island municipalities will use to guide decisions about future policy and regulatory change at the local level, and that Island Trust Council will use to guide decisions at a regional level. The Policy Statement *may* affect how land in the Islands Trust Area can be used in the future when a Local Trust Committee or island municipality amends its bylaws to bring OCP and LUB into alignment with the goals of the Policy Statement.

CRD staff have reviewed the Island Trust Policy Statement referral against existing strategic and master plans as well as any implications for existing CRD services and determined that the CRD's interest are unaffected. The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC) has requested an opportunity to review the draft policy statement during a public meeting and provide comments if desired. Moving forward, referrals regarding inter-governmental policy affecting SSI will be brought to the LCC for consideration.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

As the Islands Trust policy statement may be used to inform the SSI OCP and LUB there is a desire to ensure alignment at the early stages of planning by reviewing the Policy Statement. Upon review it would be required to highlight any areas of the policy statement that could hinder the ability of the CRD to perform its work in the future.

CONCLUSION

The Islands Trust is updating their policy statement, originally adopted in 1994 and is currently seeking public feedback. In assessing the draft, staff considered its relationship to the Capital Regional District's (CRD) strategic plans, potential implications for existing services and the need for alignment with future updates to the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw. Staff are advising the Local Community Commission that based on this information contained in the current draft, there are no identified impacts to CRD interest at this time. The Local Community Commission may have additional comments it wishes to provide the Islands Trust as part of the consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, MBA, P.G.Dip.Eng, BSc, General Manager, Electoral Area Services

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Island Trust Policy Statement (Bylaw No. 17)

Appendix B: Island Trust Draft Policy Statement (Bylaw No. 183)