

Islands Trust Policy Statement Amendment Project

Phase 4 of Public Engagement

What We Heard

May 2026



Islands Trust

islands 2050

THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST AREA

Contents

3 Territorial Acknowledgment

4 About the Project

- The Islands Trust Policy Statement
- Islands 2050 Project Overview
- Phase 4 Public Engagement Purpose
- Phase 4 Public Engagement Overview
- Phase 4 Public Engagement Process

10 Next Steps

11 What We Heard

- Overall Summary of Public Engagement
- Summary of Survey Results
- Summary of Correspondence
- Summary of Virtual Town Hall
- Summary of Islands Trust Council Correspondence, Delegations and Public Comment

15 Attachments

- Survey & Public Correspondence Data Analysis Summary
- Phase 4 Communications and Engagement Materials Summary



Territorial Acknowledgment

Islands Trust trustees and staff are humbly thankful to live and work in the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Mamalilikulla, Qualicum, scəwáθən, səlilwətał, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Sḵw̓xwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ƛaʔəmen, Tlowitsis, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəy'əm First Nations.

Islands Trust is committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea. Amending the Islands Trust Policy Statement is one action among many that Islands Trust is taking towards reconciliation.

About the Project

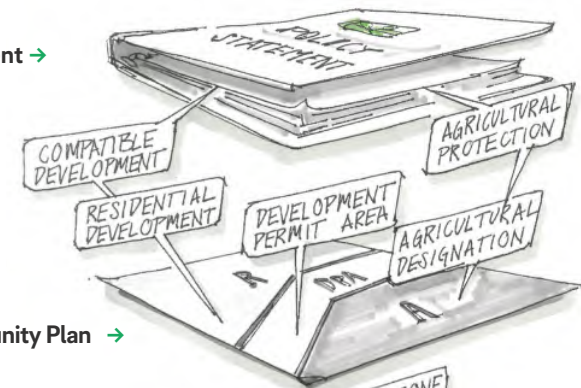
The Islands Trust Policy Statement

Section 15 of the *Islands Trust Act* states that Islands Trust Council must adopt, by bylaw, a Trust Policy Statement that applies to the Islands Trust Area as a whole. The *Islands Trust Act* specifies that the Policy Statement must be a general statement of the policies of Islands Trust Council to carry out the Islands Trust object, that it may establish different policies for different parts of the Islands Trust Area, and that it must be approved by the provincial Minister responsible for Islands Trust prior to adoption.

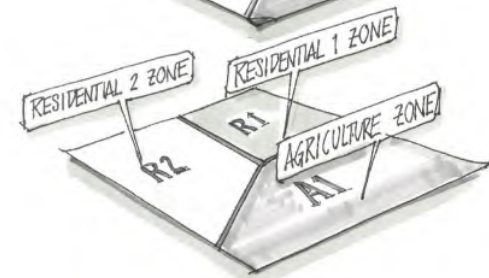
The Policy Statement represents Islands Trust Council's vision for the preservation and protection of the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment. It aspires to reflect the values and interests of island communities, Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Peoples, partner agencies, and all British Columbians, as well as the silent voices of island ecosystems, species at risk, and future generations.

Islands Trust Council is responsible for establishing and amending the Policy Statement, which in turn guides the development of official community plans and regulatory bylaws by local trust committees and island municipalities across the Islands Trust Area. The *Act* stipulates that official community plans and bylaws must be submitted to Executive Committee or Islands Trust Council and must not be approved if they are contrary to or at variance with the Policy Statement. This ensures that the Islands Trust Object is at the core of all planning and land use management decision-making in the Islands Trust Area. The Policy Statement also guides the development of Islands Trust Council's Strategic Plan.

Policy Statement →



Official Community Plan →



Land Use Bylaw →



Island landscape →

Islands 2050 Project Overview

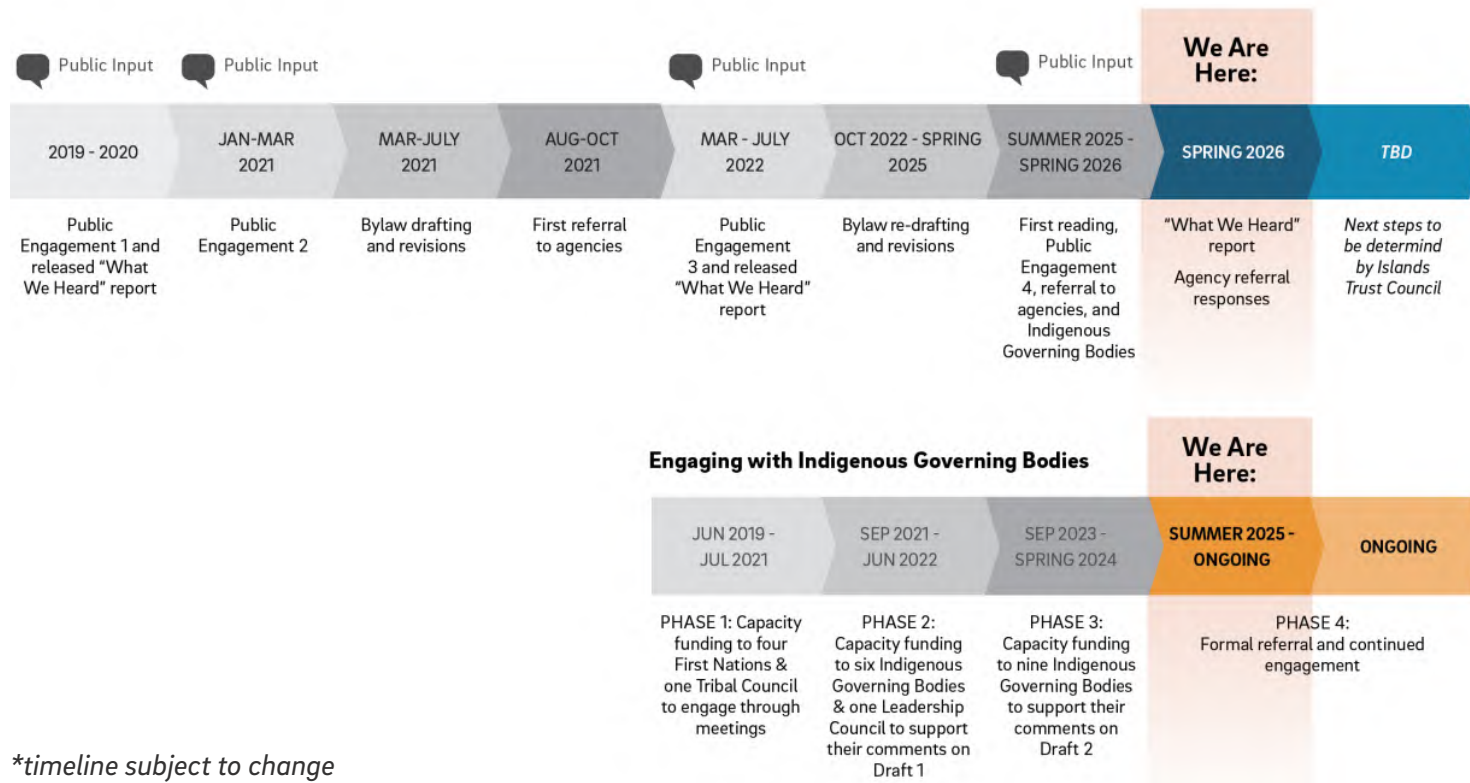
The Islands 2050 Policy Statement Amendment Project is a major, multi-phase project that has been underway since 2019 to update the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is being updated for the first time in more than three decades so that Islands Trust can better manage today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities. The draft Policy Statement puts a needed focus on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, the housing needs of current and future residents, and responding to climate change. The draft Policy Statement also reaffirms the Islands Trust's enduring mandate to preserve and protect this unique region.

The Islands 2050 Policy Statement Amendment Project is going through several iterative phases, meaning that each phase of the project will build on, and be informed by, the phase that came before it. The outcomes of Phase 3 of public engagement informed the current draft Policy Statement, which was the basis of Phase 4 of public engagement.

The Policy Statement bylaw must pass three readings before it goes to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs for approval. This process ensures that every bylaw is carefully considered before it is passed.

More information about the previous phases of engagement is available on the Islands 2050 project webpage. What We Heard reports generated in those phases are available here: [2019](#), [2021](#), and [2022](#).



Purpose of this Report

This What We Heard report summarizes public feedback from Phase 4 of public engagement on this project. Feedback will be considered by Islands Trust Council, which will direct the next steps of the project.

Phase 4 Public Engagement Purpose

The draft Policy Statement, given first reading in [July 2025](#), was developed to reflect the feedback received from the three phases of public engagement undertaken since the Islands 2050 project was launched in 2019. The draft Policy Statement also incorporates earlier feedback from Indigenous Governing Bodies and other agencies, and deliberations and decisions made by Islands Trust Council.

Phase 4 of public engagement on the draft Policy Statement was undertaken to build awareness, share information, and support public participation, while testing public perception of whether the draft Policy Statement was seen to support Islands Trust in achieving its goals and fulfilling the Islands Trust object. During this phase, Islands Trust provided information about the Policy Statement, promoted the project and opportunities for feedback, and offered multiple ways for individuals to get involved and share input.

Phase 4 Public Engagement Overview

Phase 4 of public engagement on the draft Policy Statement was launched in August 2025 following first reading, and ran for six months until February 2, 2026. Referral of the draft Policy Statement bylaw to Indigenous Governing Bodies and government agencies, as well as individual local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality, coincided with public engagement. The results of those referrals will be available in a separate report.

Phase 4 Public Engagement Process

Input on the draft Policy Statement was received through several engagement channels to support broad participation. The public was invited to provide feedback through an online survey, with a paper version of the survey with pre-paid postage available at select on-island locations. The public could also email Islands Trust Council or their local trustees, attend an Islands Trust Area-wide virtual town hall, participate in local community information meetings, or appear as a delegation at an Islands Trust Council meeting.

Each local trust committee (LTC), and Bowen Island Municipality, was invited to select their preferred method of local engagement in order to inform their own referral response to Islands Trust Council about the draft Policy Statement. These local engagement initiatives were not considered part of Phase 4 public engagement since the results were for individual LTC/Bowen Island Municipality consideration, not Islands Trust Council. Minutes from these local engagement events will be available in the project library of the Islands 2050 project webpage under Public Engagement Phase 4 2025–2026.

Referral responses received from individual LTCs/Bowen Island Municipality will appear in a separate report, alongside responses from other referral agencies including Indigenous Governing Bodies.

Visit the project webpage at
islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/

Phase 4 Communications and Engagement Activities

AWARENESS

Resident Mailout

Project educational brochure sent to 16,491 addresses in the Islands Trust Area

Media Technical Briefing

21 journalists were invited to a media technical briefing on July 24, 2025. The virtual session provided background on the Policy Statement Amendment Project, highlighted updates in the new draft, and offered an opportunity to ask questions.

AWARENESS

Social Media

69 social media posts between August 11, 2025 and January 30, 2026

Print Media

23 print and online newspaper ads in 13 publications in the Islands Trust Area:

- Active Page
- Bowen island Undercurrent
- Coast Reporter
- Gabriola Sounder
- Gulf Islands Driftwood
- Hornby Tribune
- Mayneliner
- Pender Post
- Salt Spring Exchange
- Saturna Scribbler
- The Flagstone
- Thetis Island Quarterly
- Xwe'etay News

AWARENESS

Subscriber Notices


August 14, 2025–February 9, 2026

5,850 subscribers and 90 media contacts received two news releases and nine subscriber notices.

AWARENESS

Educational video answering the following questions:

1. What is Islands Trust?
2. What is a Policy Statement?
3. Why does it need to be updated?
4. How does it affect residents in the Islands Trust Area?


 43 views as of April 7, 2026

 [Video on YouTube](#)


Phase 4 Communications and Engagement Activities cont'd

i AWARENESS

[Islands 2050 Project Webpage](#)


 July 29, 2025–
February 2, 2026

 6,201 webpage views


 3,598 active webpage users

i AWARENESS

[Islands 2050 Frequently Asked Questions Webpage](#)


 July 29, 2025–
February 2, 2026

 374 webpage views


 254 active webpage users

i AWARENESS

[Islands Trust Policy Statement Webpage](#)

 July 29, 2025–
February 2, 2026

 730 webpage views

 434 active webpage users

i AWARENESS

On-island posters


Posters were put up in public areas on 12 islands within the Islands Trust Area.



Phase 4 Communications and Engagement Activities cont'd

INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION


Virtual Townhall hosted by Be the Change Group on September 10, 2025

 165 registrants


 [Video recording](#)

 154 views to date

[Town Hall webpage](#)

 July 29, 2025–
February 2, 2026


 538 webpage views


 338 active webpage users


PARTICIPATION

Online and print survey

The survey was distributed through the Islands Trust website, social media, email subscriber notices, QR codes on posters and in a household mailer.

 1,889 completed surveys

 17 responses were received via mail

 300 postage-paid paper surveys were available at libraries on 13 islands within the Islands Trust Area, and at Islands Trust offices in Victoria, on Gabriola Island, and on Salt Spring Island.

PARTICIPATION

Phone feedback to Islands Trust

The public could provide feedback by calling Islands Trust, with staff available to support survey completion or take comments.


Islands Trust Council

Islands Trust Council received one item of correspondence, heard from one delegation, and five individuals during the public comment periods at the September and December 2025 Quarterly Meetings, combined.

PARTICIPATION

Islands Trust Correspondence

The islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca email address was dedicated to receiving feedback from residents.

 186 pieces of correspondence were received. Of those, 17 were received by mail.





Next Steps

Next steps in the Policy Statement Amendment Project will depend on decisions by Islands Trust Council. In addition to this What We Heard Report, Islands Trust Council will also receive referral responses about the draft Policy Statement bylaw from other levels of government that provide services in the Islands Trust Area, and Indigenous Governing Bodies with treaty and territorial interests in the Islands Trust Area. Engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies will continue, throughout the project. Islands Trust Council can use this input to inform further amendments to the draft Policy Statement bylaw before giving it further readings. Once the Policy Statement bylaw has received third reading, it can be sent to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs for approval.

The Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs holds the duty to consult with First Nations where established or asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights protected under section 35 of the *Constitution* may be adversely affected. The record of engagement with First Nations that Islands Trust provides to the Minister with the draft Policy Statement submitted for approval helps with the assessment of the fulfillment of that duty. Prior to consideration of approval, the Minister will also assess if there are any conflicts with significant provincial interests.

Once the draft Policy Statement is approved by the Minister it can be adopted by Islands Trust Council and used to guide planning and land use management decisions in the Islands Trust Area.

What We Heard

Overall Summary of Public Engagement

Phase 4 of public engagement generated a high volume of input through an online or paper-based anonymous survey, and direct written submissions via email. Overall, this phase provided a wide range of perspectives, reflecting a strong level of community care, interest, and investment in the future of the Islands Trust Area. Many participants engaged deeply with the content and offered valuable feedback on key topics.

Overall, the results of Phase 4 of public engagement on the draft Policy Statement suggest that more work may be needed to address public concerns.

Across all engagement channels there was broad support for the overall goal of protecting the Islands Trust Area, particularly in relation to fostering sustainable stewardship of lands and waters. At the same time, there was less consensus about the draft Policy Statement's reconciliation focus, which tended to generate a more polarized reaction, and mirrors broader public discourse currently taking place across the province.

Some public feedback submitted through the open comment section of the survey contained anti-Indigenous racism, misinformation, and harmful narratives. The nature of some of the survey feedback reinforces the importance of Islands Trust's commitment to fostering respectful relationships with First Nations and advancing engagement that is safe, inclusive, and constructive for all.

Islands Trust acknowledges that more could have been done to support more respectful and informed participation. Opportunities for improvement include:

- Strengthening cultural safety protocols during engagement
- Providing clearer expectations for participant conduct
- Stronger guidelines about written submissions
- Offering more accessible information in advance of engagement, particularly about:
 - › Indigenous rights and title, protected under Section 35 of the *Canadian Constitution Act*, and
 - › the Islands Trust's reconciliation commitments.

Islands Trust acknowledges that terms like "Indigenous Governing Body" and "Indigenous food sovereignty" were new to many people who responded to the survey, and not providing more pre-engagement education was a missed opportunity.

Content Warning: This report includes material that may be distressing, particularly for Indigenous readers, as it summarizes public feedback that contains anti-Indigenous racism.

Summary of Survey Results

1,889 completed surveys were received by February 2, 2026.

Detailed analysis of the **survey responses** was completed by a third-party firm called Be the Change Group. This report is included in Attachment 1.

Key findings of the survey analysis were as follows:

- A mixed, but generally critical, view that the draft policies would help Islands Trust better meet the Islands Trust Object and the Policy Statement's goals
- Respondents frequently called for clearer, more specific, and more actionable policies, with concerns about policy clarity and structure appearing across a wide range of responses
- Concerns about implementation capacity and enforcement were also common, alongside questions about jurisdiction, mandate, and governance roles
- Many respondents also highlighted tensions between environmental protection and housing, affordability, and economic considerations
- In questions about Goals 1, 2, and 3, a substantial proportion of respondents expressed concern about the level of emphasis placed on the involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies in Islands Trust decisions

Summary of Correspondence

186 pieces of correspondence were received by email to islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca between July 29, 2025 and February 2, 2026. All public correspondence can be found in the Public Correspondence 2024–2026 folder on the [Islands 2050 project webpage](#).

Detailed analysis of the **correspondence** received was completed by a third-party firm called Be the Change Group. This report is included in Attachment 1.

Key findings of the correspondence analysis were as follows:

- The most prominent issues raised in correspondence included lack of clarity and specificity in policies, followed by concerns about implementation and enforcement capacity
- Correspondence more frequently discussed concerns related to environmental protection and development management, and less often discussed concerns related to reconciliation and the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in the draft policies
- Correspondence often cited very specific, actionable recommendations

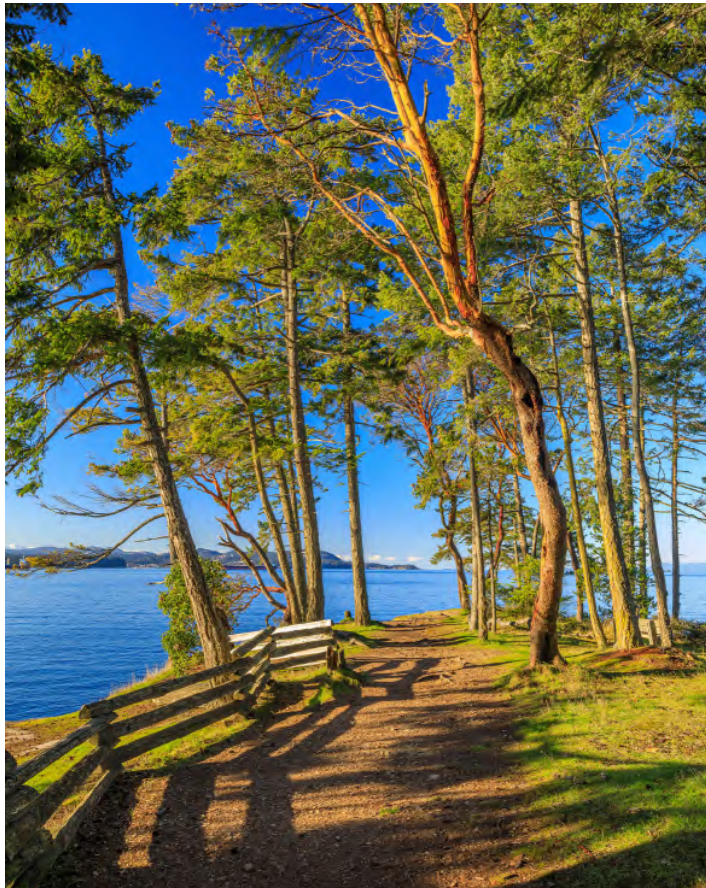
Summary of Virtual Town Hall

A virtual town hall was held on September 10, 2025, with 165 registrants signing up to attend the evening event. Following a staff presentation on the draft Policy Statement, members of the public were invited to ask questions. Questions submitted ahead of the event were also answered. Common themes that emerged through those questions are captured in the table below.

Key Themes	Issues/Questions
Density	<p>Concerns were raised by seven participants that the draft Policy Statement encourages using urban approaches to measuring and increasing residential density and that the word “population” does not appear in the document.</p> <p>A concern was raised that the draft policy statement encourages increased residential density on islands with water shortages and saltwater intrusion.</p> <p>A desire to include clear measures for protection of the environment was raised.</p>
Must vs. should	<p>Four people raised a concern that the document contains directive policies that “should” rather than “must” be followed meaning local trust committees will not be bound to follow them.</p>
Indigenous Land Rights	<p>Questions were raised as to whether Islands Trust has any jurisdiction when it comes to Indigenous land rights three times.</p> <p>One participant asked why protection of Indigenous cultural heritage is included as an advisory rather than a directive policy.</p>
Climate change mitigation	<p>Two participants asked why climate change mitigation isn’t included as a goal.</p>
Rural character	<p>Two participants asked why the document doesn’t include a directive policy about preserving and protecting the rural character of the islands.</p>
“Affordable housing” vs. “attainable housing”	<p>A concern was raised about the shift from “affordable housing” to “attainable housing.”</p>
Flexible housing options	<p>One person asked whether the policy statement could allow more flexible housing options, such as clusters of tiny homes.</p>
Jurisdiction over marine environments	<p>A question was asked about whether Islands Trust has any jurisdiction over the marine environment.</p>

Summary of Islands Trust Council Correspondence, Delegations and Public Comments

Providing feedback to Islands Trust Council as a delegation, or during the Public Comment period, was an available feedback option at the September and December 2025 quarterly Islands Trust Council meetings. Islands Trust Council received one item of correspondence, hosted one delegation, and heard from five individuals during the public comment periods at the September and December 2025 quarterly meetings, combined.



Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting – September, 2025

Correspondence #1 represented a petition with 1,806 signatories requesting that the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement not be approved unless it clarifies that “environment” refers to the natural environment, prioritizes protection of ecosystems and rural character, and includes stronger requirements for limiting development based on island-specific constraints such as water availability, build-out capacity, and evidence-based decision-making informed by science, local, and Indigenous knowledge.

Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting – December, 2025

Public Comment #1 & 2 discussed floor area ratios in the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Public Comment #3 discussed the *Islands Trust Act*, requested a clear interpretation on the word “environment”, and urged inclusion of previously submitted policy language to better reflect the *Islands Trust Act's* intent regarding residents' rights, federated governance, and oversight of local planning.

Public Comment #4 spoke to the public engagement process for the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement and requested an extension to the public engagement period.

Public Comment #5 spoke to the public engagement process for the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement and requested an extension to the public engagement period, and asked if the draft Policy Statement would be put to a referendum.

Attachments

**Survey & Public Correspondence Data Analysis
Summary**

**Phase 4 Communications and Engagement
Materials Summary**

Survey and Public Correspondence Data Analysis Summary

Islands Trust 2050 Phase 4 Public Engagement Program

Date: April 29, 2026
Version: FINAL
Prepared by: Be the Change Group



Acknowledgements

Be the Change Group acknowledges our office is on the unsundered land of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, which have been here since time immemorial.

In our journey to reconciliation, our team is working towards understanding of and allyship with these nations, and decolonizing the systems of which we are a part.

We would acknowledge that the Islands Trust 2050 Phase 4 Public Engagements took place in the Islands Trust Area, which includes the treaty lands and territories of the BOKEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scəwáθən, səliłwətaʔ, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', STÁUTW , Stz'uminus, ʔaʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, W JOŁEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwx, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm First Nations.

Content Warning

This report includes perspectives that may be harmful or distressing to read. In particular, some of the feedback included in this analysis contains anti-Indigenous racism and sentiments that are not consistent with Be the Change Group's commitments to reconciliation.

While we do not endorse or support these perspectives, they are included to ensure our report conveys what was shared through the discussed engagements.

© 2026 Be the Change Group

All rights reserved.

Citation: Be the Change Group. (2026). Survey and Public Correspondence Data Analysis Summary: Islands Trust 2050 Phase 4 Public Engagement Program. Prepared for Islands Trust.

Correspondence regarding this report can be sent to connect@bethechange.org

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
Executive Summary	4
Methodology	7
Data Cleaning Methodology	7
Data Analysis Methodology	8
Data Considerations	9
Survey Findings	10
Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents	10
Survey Questions	13
Guiding Principles	13
Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation	18
Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Significant Areas, Sites, and Species	22
Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems	27
Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities	32
Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters	37
Overall Effectiveness of the Draft Policy Statement	42
Public Correspondence Findings	46
Appendix A: Islands Trust Policy Statement Phase 4 Public Engagement Survey	49
Appendix B: Additional descriptive statistics for survey's closed-ended Likert scale questions	73

Introduction

In 2019, Islands Trust launched the Policy Statement Amendment Project (Islands 2050) to update the [Islands Trust Policy Statement](#). This update was undertaken to adapt to current and future challenges and opportunities, and to reflect Islands Trust’s commitments related to reconciliation, climate change, and affordable housing.

In Phases 1–3 of this project, Islands Trust engaged with islands residents, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and partner agencies/organizations to better understand what an updated Policy Statement might entail. This feedback was used to draft the Policy Statement, which Islands Trust Council gave first reading to at its meeting on [July 29, 2025](#). In the most current phase of public engagement, Phase 4, public feedback on the draft Policy Statement was received from July 29, 2025 to February 2, 2026 inclusive.

The following data summary presents findings from a survey collected during the Phase 4 public engagement period, as well as a summary of public correspondence submitted to Islands Trust during this same period.

Feedback received from Indigenous Governing Bodies and government agencies through referral of the draft Policy Statement bylaw will be addressed in a separate report.

Executive Summary

This report summarizes findings from two components of Phase 4 public engagement on the Islands Trust’s draft Policy Statement, namely the results from a public survey with 1889 responses and 186 pieces of public correspondence. Together, these inputs provide insight into how residents and members of the public perceive the Policy Statement’s Guiding Principles and Goals 1–5, and suggested opportunities for refinement.

Survey Findings

Survey responses indicate a mixed but generally critical view that the draft policies would help Islands Trust better meet the Islands Trust Object and the Policy Statement’s Goals.

The policies for *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters* received the highest levels of agreement. Majorities (approximately 65–68%) agreed that the policies for freshwater, forest, and agricultural land policies would help Islands Trust meet this goal, while agreement was lower on policies related to both soil and fill as well as marine shorelands (42–51%). Agreement was also greater for the policies in *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities*. In particular, higher levels of agreement were observed on policies related to transportation and waste, emissions and pollutants, and recreation (58–64%), and lower on policies on managing growth and development, as well as housing, were more divided (42–48%).

Respondents were also less in agreement that the policies in *Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy Biodiverse Ecosystems* would help Islands Trust achieve this goal (49%).

In contrast, the policies for *Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation* and *Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Species* received the lowest levels of agreement (29–32%). These results were similar for the Guiding Principles. Cooperation Principles received the most agreement (48% agreed these principles would help Islands Trust meet the Islands Trust Object), while the General and Reconciliation Principles leaned further away from agreement (35–39% agreed).

Across all sections, several consistent themes emerged. Respondents called for clearer, more specific, and more actionable policies, with concerns about policy clarity and structure appearing across a wide range of responses. Concerns about implementation capacity and enforcement were also common, alongside questions about jurisdiction, mandate, and governance roles. Many respondents also highlighted tensions between environmental protection and housing, affordability, and economic considerations.

Feedback related to reconciliation—including the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use planning—was a central and often polarizing theme, especially in Goals 1–3, where a substantial proportion of respondents expressed concern about the level of emphasis placed on Indigenous Governing Bodies’ involvement in Islands Trust decisions. Notably, many of the concerns expressed included anti-Indigenous racism (e.g., sentiments including derogatory language and worries about preferential treatment for Indigenous Peoples). Among those who showed positive sentiment towards these policies, a need for improved public education and communication about reconciliation, Indigenous rights, Indigenous governance, and the intent of the policies was discussed. Together, these findings highlight both opportunities for policy

refinement and broader governance tensions shaping how the principles are understood and received in the context of the Section 35 constitutional rights of Indigenous Peoples and Islands Trust's obligations to engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies.

Public Correspondence Findings

Public correspondence provided more detailed feedback, with a stronger focus on specific policy amendments and implementation considerations.

Correspondence most frequently focused on policies related to *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities*, followed by *Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy Biodiverse Ecosystems* and *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters*. The Guiding Principles were discussed less often, as were *Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation* and *Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Species*. [AC HERE](#)

The most prominent issues raised in correspondence included lack of clarity and specificity in policies (approximately 72%), concerns about implementation and enforcement capacity (58%), and views that the draft policies do not go far enough in protecting the environment (57%). Many correspondents also emphasized the need for stronger limits on development (57%) and raised questions about whether the Islands Trust is acting within its mandate (55%).

Compared to survey responses, correspondence more frequently discussed concerns related to environmental protection and development management, and less often on concerns related to reconciliation and the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in the draft policies. Where feedback on Indigenous Governing Bodies' involvement was still present, it was also more balanced between support and concern than observed in the survey responses, which leaned towards disagreement.

Correspondence often cited very specific, actionable recommendations, particularly related to improving wording and clarity, strengthening policy language to be more action-oriented, and outlining clearer implementation approaches.

Combined Insights

Across both the survey response and public correspondence, there is broad support for the overall goal of preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area, including in relation to ecosystems, water, and land protection. At the same time, there is less consensus on reconciliation-related policies, which tend to generate more polarized responses.

The two engagement streams differ in emphasis. Survey responses highlight areas of polarization—particularly around reconciliation and Islands Trust governance and jurisdiction. Meanwhile, the public correspondence places greater focus on technical issues and policy clarity related to environmental protection, development pressures, and whether/how to balance these two issues with community needs.

Importantly, findings also reveal a fundamental tension in public expectations. While some respondents express concern about regulatory burden and Islands Trust's scope, others call for stronger environmental protections and stricter limits on development.

Overall, the findings indicate that while many respondents are aligned with the intent of the draft Policy Statement, there is a clear expectation for greater clarity, specificity, and transparency, particularly regarding how these policies will be applied in practice and how they will be implemented within existing legislative and institutional frameworks

Methodology

As part of the Islands 2050 Phase 4 public engagement program (as described in the Introduction section above), a survey consisting of Policy Statement-related questions was co-designed by Islands Trust, in consultation with Be the Change Group. All questions were optional to answer; a copy of the survey is provided in Appendix A. The target population for this survey was individuals with connections to any of the Islands Trust Area's 13 local trust areas and/or Bowen Island Municipality. Islands Trust was responsible for communications and respondent recruitment, while Be the Change Group hosted the survey on the software *Qualtrics*. Data collection occurred from August 6, 2025 to February 2, 2026 inclusive. Paper copies of the survey with postage-paid envelopes were also available at public libraries throughout the Islands Trust Area.

In addition to the survey, individuals were welcome to email their feedback on the draft Policy Statement to islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca. Public correspondence sent to this email address during the Phase 4 public engagement period (i.e. from the first reading of the draft Policy Statement on July 29, 2025 to the close of the online survey on February 2, 2026 inclusive) were posted to ['Public Correspondence 2024–2026' in the project library on the project webpage and used in this analysis.](#)

Note: Anonymized versions of the survey and public correspondence data files will be shared with Islands Trust as part of Be the Change Group's scoped services for this project. To protect confidentiality, all personal identifiers (e.g., names and addresses) shared will be removed prior to sharing (the survey never asked respondents to provide identifying information, but they may have done so in their responses).

Data Cleaning Methodology

Survey Responses

The survey's inclusion and exclusion criteria are described in the table below:

Criterion	n
Responses received	3849
Online and paper surveys collected during data collection window	3841
Paper surveys received at Islands Trust offices after online survey closed	8 ¹
Responses excluded	1960
Empty surveys (0 answers given)	1706 ²
Incomplete responses, demographic questions answered only	3
Incomplete responses, provided 1+ answer but did not reach the final submission page	251 ³
Responses included in analysis	1889

¹A total of 17 paper surveys were collected: 9 during the data collection window and 8 after. All were included in the analysis. / ²In Qualtrics, a response is logged as soon as someone opens the survey link; these 1706 cases represent instances where the survey link was clicked but no answers were provided before exiting. / ³These 251 responses were automatically captured when data collection closed (i.e., the respondent did not click the survey's 'Submit' button).

Survey responses were reviewed for potential duplication using IP address, timestamp, and response similarity. Of the 459 responses received from 182 repeated IP addresses, 19 (1% of the 1889 responses included in the analysis) were identified as potential repeat respondents. As the results of this review were not definitive, however, the decision was made to retain all 19 cases in the analysis. The impact of potential repeat respondents on the reported findings is expected to be minimal.

For responses coded to 'Other, please specify' in Question 18 (*"How are you connected to the Islands Trust Area"*), the specified responses were reviewed to create new codes and/or re-assign responses to existing response options. For example, a response of "Boater and frequent visitor" was re-coded to both "Visitor" and a new category: "Other - Boater". From the 1889 responses included in the analysis, a total of 4848 answers were provided across the survey's open-ended questions. Nearly all were suitable for analysis; six responses were coded as missing (0.1%), resulting in an analytic sample of 4842 open-ended answers.

Public Correspondence Responses

All 186 pieces of public correspondence, submitted by 159 authors (individuals or organization representatives), were included in the analysis.

Data Analysis Methodology

For quantitative (closed-ended) survey items, descriptive statistics (i.e. frequencies) were prepared using Qualtrics. Additional descriptive statistics for the survey's Likert scale questions are provided in Appendix B.

The draft Policy Statement's Guiding Principles contains multiple sets of policies, as do *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities* and *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Water*. For the closed-ended questions in these sections, responses were aggregated across each set by assigning respondents to their response category (agreement, disagreement, or neutral) with the highest number of responses. Ties or mixed patterns were classified as neutral, and respondents with no valid responses were categorized as 'did not answer.'

For qualitative (open-ended) survey items and the public correspondence emails, responses were exported to Excel and analyzed using an inductive thematic approach. Two members of Be the Change Group's research team reviewed the submissions and grouped similar comments into themes to identify common perspectives and areas of note. These themes were refined as analysis progressed to ensure they captured essential, overarching insights while each providing meaningful and distinct details. Responses containing similar or repeated messages were coded together to reflect the overall distribution of views while maintaining transparency in reporting. Where applicable, respondents' answers were coded to more than one response category. Counts across the coded themes and response categories were then reported here as descriptive statistics (i.e. frequencies). To protect the anonymity of respondents, findings have been either collapsed or suppressed where the number of respondents in a category was so low as to risk deductive disclosure.

Comments that were defamatory, profane, or inappropriate for a general audience (including discriminatory or otherwise offensive responses) were coded to their relevant response categories while paraphrasing and redacting the inappropriate content. Responses that were solely discriminatory or harassing were excluded.

Throughout the presented findings, percentages are summed to one decimal place. The percentages listed in each chart, then, do not always sum to exactly 100.0%, either because participants could select more than one response, their response could be coded to more than one theme, or due to rounding. The percentages in each chart are accompanied by their corresponding counts (presented in brackets after each percentage). In-text, percentages are typically reported, while counts are included where findings are not presented in a chart.

Data Considerations

As this was a self-selected survey that asked for individuals' opinions, the results are not statistically representative of all individuals with a connection to the Islands Trust. Area.

In addition, fewer than half of respondents who answered the closed-ended ratings per section provided feedback in the corresponding open-ended items (33.6–44.7% across the survey), indicating that open-ended responses reflect only a subset of participant perspectives.

Separately, please note that it was beyond the scope of the current analysis to assess the impact of missing data on the representativeness of the survey findings, as well as the prevalence and impact of potential survey fatigue.

Finally, it is worth acknowledging that concerns about the survey's design were raised in a subset of the 4842 analyzed open-ended responses (4.2%, n = 202). In particular, these respondents would have preferred to rate the individual policies within each section, rather than grouped Directive and Advisory policies as was asked. While open-ended comment fields at the end of each section allowed for policy-specific feedback, these respondents indicated a desire to also rate their level of agreement or disagreement for each policy in the closed-ended items, and expressed concern that grouped ratings did not fully capture their perspectives.

Similar concerns were identified in 32 of the 186 pieces of public correspondence included in the analysis (17.2%). Several noted this as a reason for their submission (e.g., to follow up on their survey response).

Survey Findings

Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents

Question 18: The Islands Trust Area occupies almost 5,200 square kilometers within the Salish Sea. How are you connected to the area? (Check all that apply) (n=1627)

I am a full-time resident (i.e., more than 6 months per year)



I live adjacent to the region (i.e., on Vancouver Island or mainland BC)



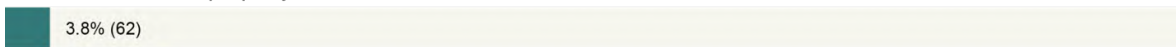
I am a part-time resident (i.e., less than 6 months per year)



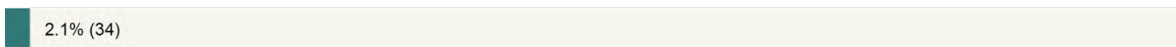
I am a visitor



I am a non-resident property owner



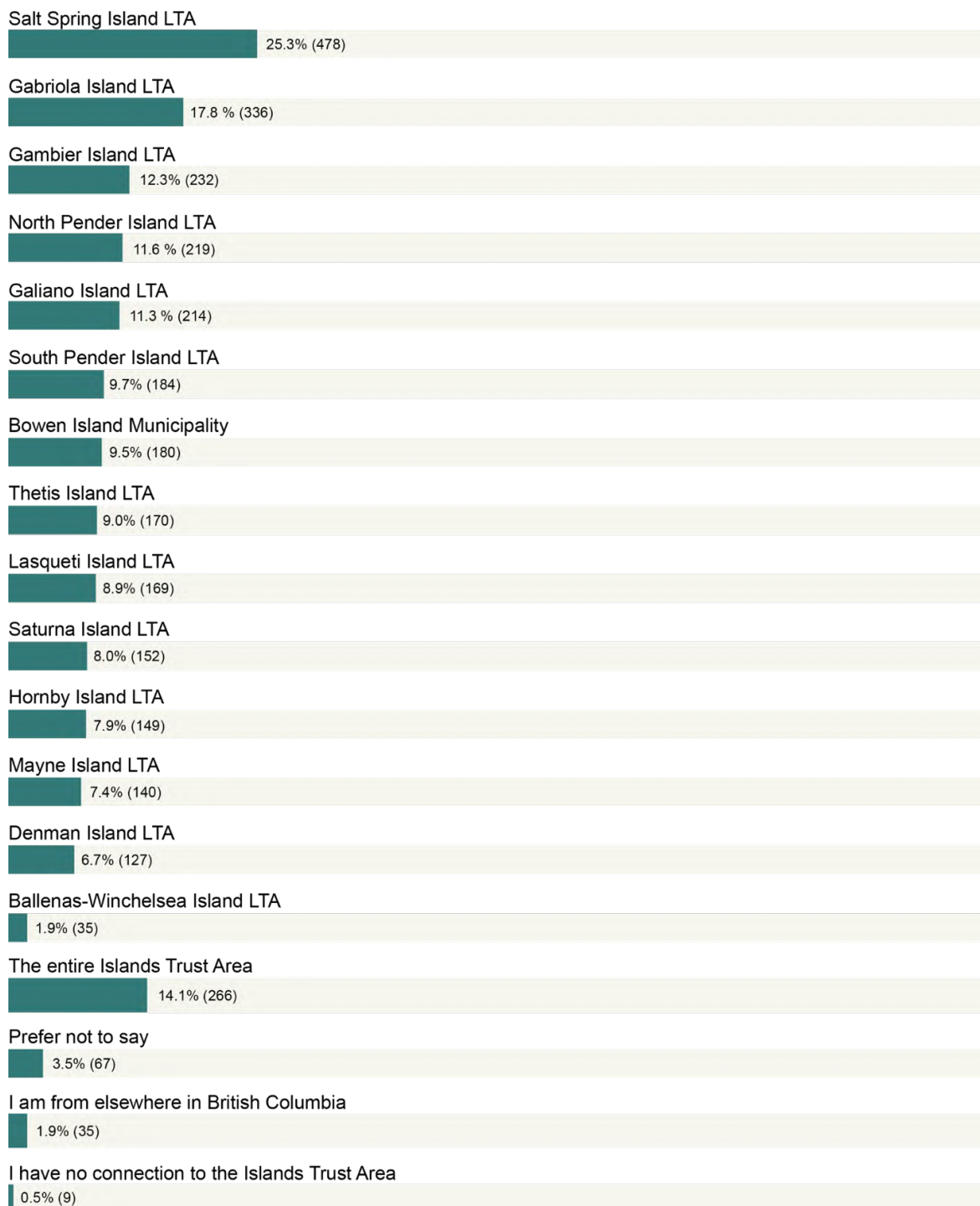
I am an Indigenous person with relationships to the Islands Trust Area



Other (please specify)



Question 17: The Islands Trust Area is made up of 13 local trust areas (LTA) and Bowen Island Municipality. Which one do you feel most connected with? (Check all that apply) (n=1643)



General Observations

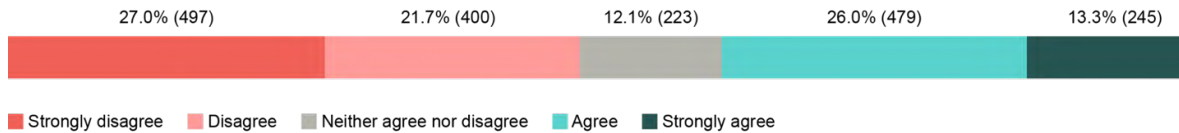
Survey respondents were primarily full-time residents of the Islands Trust Area, with 62.0% indicating they live in the region for more than six months per year. A further 19.9% reported living adjacent to the region (e.g., on Vancouver Island or mainland BC), and 17.7% identified as part-time residents. Smaller proportions of respondents identified as visitors (6.7%), non-resident property owners (3.8%), or Indigenous persons with relationships to the area (2.1%), while 6.9% selected “other” connections. Among the 106 respondents who selected ‘Other’ and provided a specified response, the most common responses included being a boater (58.5%, n=62) or property owner with residency unspecified (21.7%, n=23); other responses included having familial ties to the Islands Trust Area, being either a BC or Islands Trust resident without specifying a location, or preferred not to say.

In terms of geographic connection, respondents most commonly identified Salt Spring Island (25.3%) as the Local Trust Area (LTA) they felt most connected with, following by Gabriola Island (17.8%), Gambier Island (12.3%), North Pender Island (11.6%), and Galiano Island (11.3%). Other LTAs were each selected by smaller proportions of respondents. Overall, responses reflect a broad distribution of connections across the Islands Trust Area, with higher representation from several of the larger or more populated islands.

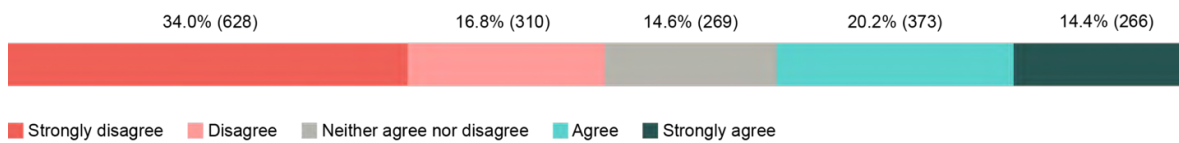
Survey Questions

Guiding Principles

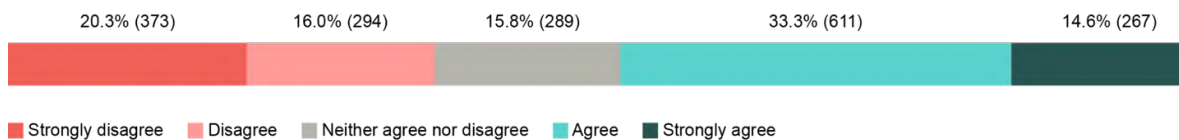
Question 1: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The General Guiding Principles will be effective in helping Islands Trust Council make decisions that support the Islands Trust Object. (n=1844)



Question 2: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Reconciliation Principles will be effective in helping Islands Trust Council make decisions that support the commitments in its [Reconciliation Declaration](#). (n=1846)

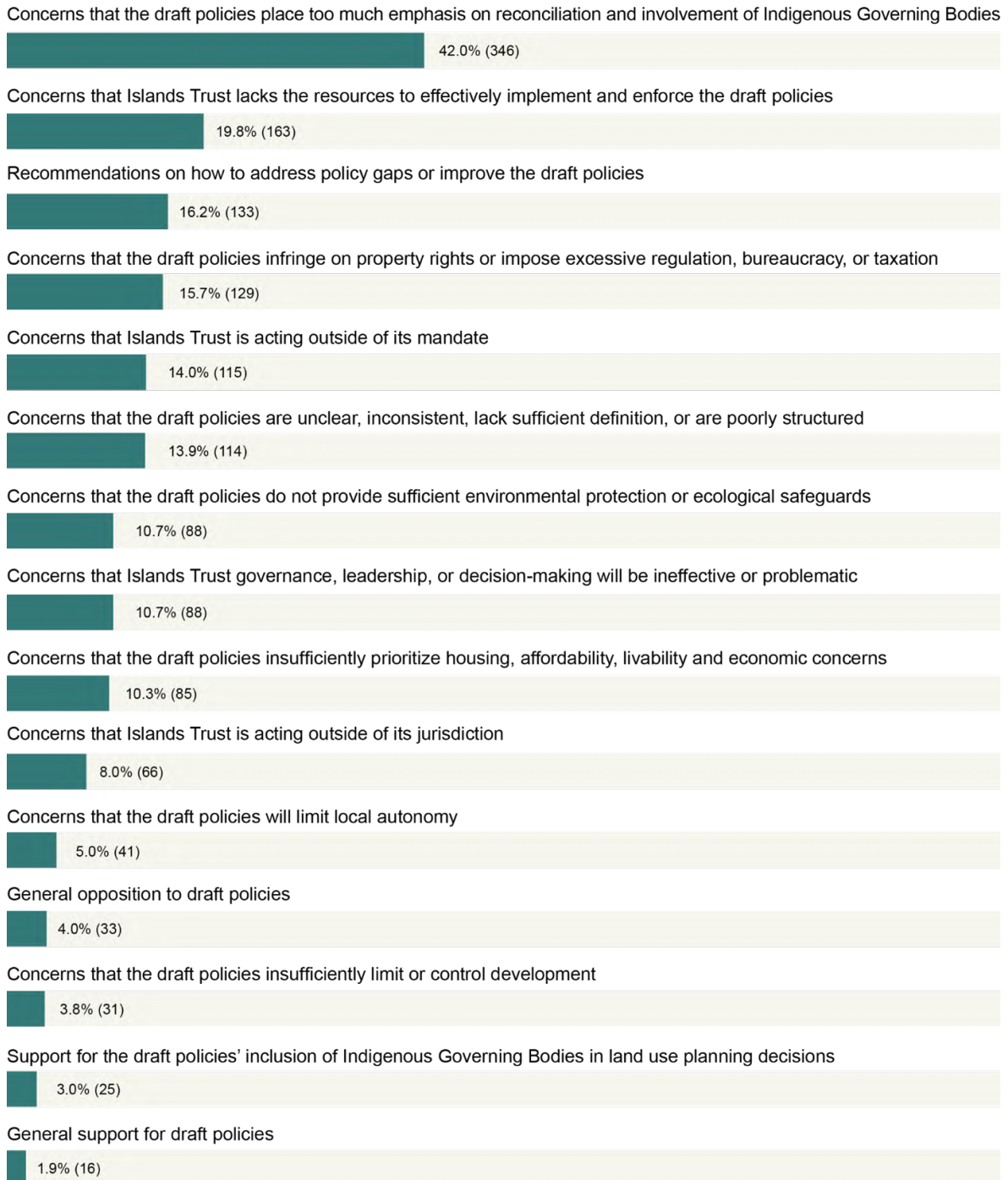


Question 3: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Cooperation Principles will be effective in helping Islands Trust Council make decisions that support the Islands Trust Object. (n=1834)



Question 4: Is anything missing from the series of Guiding Principles above that you think would help Islands Trust better meet the Islands Trust Object, or is there anything else you would like to share about the Guiding Principles? (n=823)

The following chart highlights key themes identified in respondents' comments:



General Observations

Responses to the draft Guiding Principles indicate a range of views on whether or not they will be effective in helping Islands Trust Council make decisions that support the Islands Trust Object. The Cooperation Principles received the strongest level of agreement, with nearly half of respondents agreeing that these policies would help Islands Trust make decisions that support the Islands Trust Object (47.9%). Meanwhile, 36.4% reported disagreement and 15.8% selected a neutral response.

In contrast, both the General Guiding Principles and Reconciliation Principles leaned further toward disagreement. For the General Guiding Principles, 48.7% of respondents reported disagreement compared to 39.3% who reported agreement. Responses to the Reconciliation Principles were further negative, with a majority expressing disagreement (50.8%) and a smaller share reporting agreement (34.6%).

Among respondents who provided an open-ended response to Question 4, a majority expressed disagreement across Questions 1–3 regarding whether the Guiding Principles would support effective decision-making (55.6%, n=457). Fewer respondents expressed agreement in Questions 1 to 3 (28.7%, n=236), while 14.9% (n=123) were neutral, and 0.9% (n=7) did not answer any of these questions.

Feedback from some respondents was general or non-specific, rather than detailed or actionable. These responses included broad expressions of support or opposition (1.9% support and 4.0% opposition).

Open-Ended Response Themes

Feedback about the draft Guiding Principles most often focused on the Reconciliation Principles, followed by Cooperation Principles, with comparatively less direct discussion of the General Guiding Principles. Across these areas, feedback reflected broader perspectives on governance, decision-making, and the role of Islands Trust in relation to Indigenous Peoples and other partners.

Primarily, respondents expressed concern that the draft principles place too much emphasis on reconciliation and involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies (42.0%). These responses often reflected skepticism toward the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in planning and decision-making, as well as concerns about fairness, representation, and authority. Where more specific feedback was provided, responses were often reflective of broader anti-Indigenous racism, and included derogatory language, dismissal of Indigenous rights, or sentiments asserting that the involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use planning is inappropriate or harmful.

A smaller share of respondents expressed support for the draft policies' inclusion of Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use planning decisions (3.0%).

Respondents raised other, often related concerns about these principles:

- Respondents expressed concern about Islands Trust's capacity to implement and operationalize the Guiding Principles in practice (19.8%). Feedback here suggested that the principles are high-level and aspirational, with limited clarity on how they would translate into consistent decision-making across policy areas.

- Respondents expressed concerns about property rights and regulatory burden (15.7%). Feedback reflected apprehension that the principles could lead to increased regulation, bureaucracy, or taxation, as well as impacts on how private land can be used or managed.
- Others questioned whether Islands Trust is acting outside of its mandate (i.e. was attempting to work on issues beyond those outlined in the Islands Trust Object) or jurisdiction (i.e. was attempting to take on matters that fall under the purview of other levels of government) (14.0% and 8.0%, respectively). Feedback emphasized concerns about overlap with provincial, municipal, or federal responsibilities, particularly in relation to governance and decision-making roles.
- Some respondents felt that the principles are unclear, inconsistent, lack sufficient definition, or are poorly constructed (13.9%). For example, feedback on the General Guiding Principles questioned how concepts such as cumulative effects and the precautionary principle would be applied, while responses to the Cooperation Principles highlighted uncertainty about how collaboration with external partners would occur in practice.
- Respondents raised concerns about governance, leadership, and decision-making effectiveness (also 10.7%). Feedback reflected uncertainty about how input from Indigenous Governing Bodies, local communities, and other partners would be balanced, and how decisions would ultimately be made.
- Some respondents expressed concern that the principles do not provide sufficient environmental protection or ecological safeguards (10.7%). Feedback called for stronger prioritization of environmental limits and clearer direction to ensure protection outcomes are achieved.
- Respondents raised concerns about balancing environmental protection with housing, affordability, livability, and economic considerations (10.3%). These responses emphasized the need for clearer direction on how competing priorities would be addressed within decision-making processes.
- Some respondents raised concerns about potential impacts on local autonomy (5.0%). Feedback suggested that increased emphasis on regional coordination and collaboration could limit the ability of local communities or governments to make decisions based on local context.
- Some respondents expressed concern that current levels of development are excessive and require stronger limits or controls (3.8%). These responses emphasized the need for clearer direction on managing growth and development pressures.

Open-Ended Response Recommendations

A subset of respondents identified gaps in the draft Guiding Principles or suggested ways to strengthen them (16.2%). These responses primarily focused on improving clarity, applicability, and alignment with the Islands Trust Object. Key recommendations included:

- Providing clearer definitions and language for key concepts such as reconciliation, cooperation, the precautionary principle, and cumulative effects.
- Clarifying how the Principles will be applied in practice, including how they will inform decision-making across goals, policies, and bylaws.
- Strengthening alignment between the Guiding Principles and the Islands Trust Object, particularly with respect to preservation and protection of the environment.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and relationships with Indigenous Governing Bodies, local governments, and other partners.

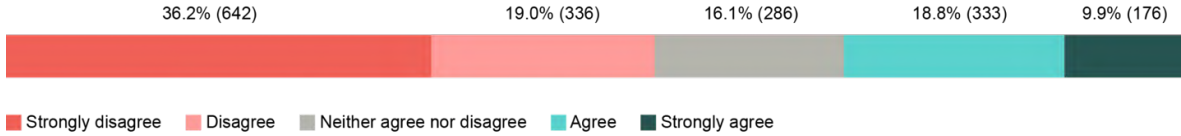
- Establishing clearer mechanisms for accountability and transparency in how the Guiding Principles would be applied in decision-making. For example, there were requests for further engagement with Islands Trust residents about these Principles, and how they would apply to the Policy Statement's various Goals.
- Ensuring that the Guiding Principles are supported by concrete implementation tools, policies, and measurable outcomes.

Overall Reflections

Overall, responses to the draft Guiding Principles reflect a range of perspectives on the values and direction underpinning the Policy Statement. While some respondents expressed support for the Principles' emphasis on reconciliation, cooperation, and informed decision-making, a larger share raised concerns related to governance, clarity, jurisdiction, and the practical application of these principles. Across perspectives, there was a consistent call for clearer definitions, stronger alignment with the Islands Trust Object, and greater transparency in how these principles will guide decision-making in practice.

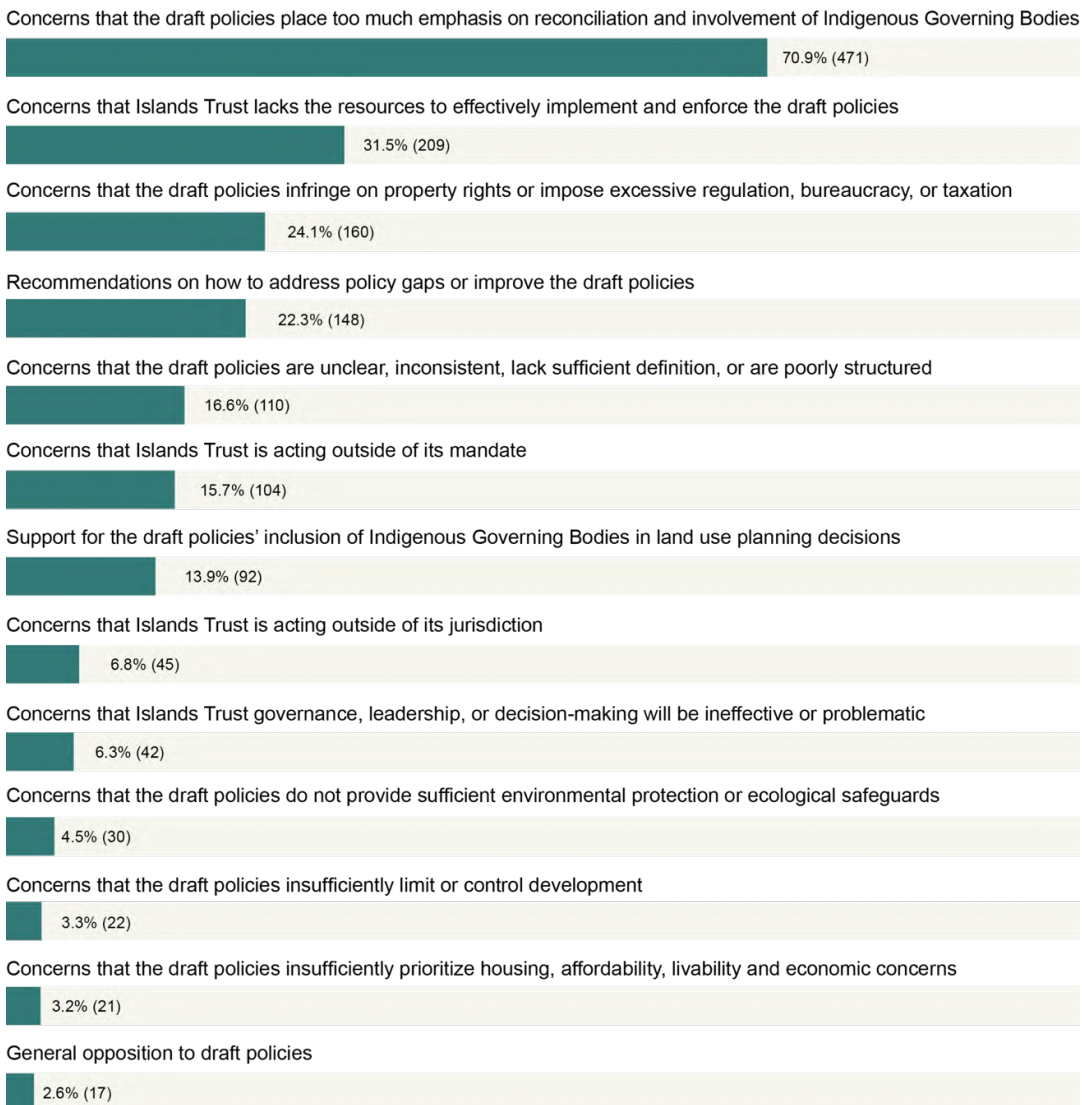
Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation

Question 5: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation. (n=1773)



Question 6: Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies? (n=664)

The following chart highlights key themes identified in respondents' comments:



General Observations

Responses to Question 5 indicate an overall tendency toward disagreement that the policies in this section will help Islands Trust achieve *Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation*. A majority of respondents reported either disagreement or strong disagreement (55.2%), while 28.7% reported agreement or strong agreement, and 16.1% selected a neutral response. These results demonstrate a negative distribution of views overall.

Among respondents who provided an open-ended response to Question 6, a majority disagreed or strongly disagreed in Question 5 that the draft policies would be effective in achieving Goal 1 (66.1%, n=439), while 17.2% (n=114) expressed agreement, 15.1% (n=100) were neutral, and 1.7% (n=11) did not answer the question.

A portion of respondents provided general or non-specific feedback to Goal 1's draft policies, rather than detailed or actionable input. These responses included broad expressions of opposition (2.6%).

Open-Ended Response Themes

The most prominent theme expressed in respondents' feedback to Goal 1 was concern about the draft policies' emphasis on reconciliation and involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use planning (70.9%). As seen in other sections, responses were skeptical of reconciliation efforts and were often reflective of anti-Indigenous sentiment. A portion of these responses questioned Indigenous rights or title, including challenges to the legal or historical basis for Indigenous governance when applied to fee-simple land. Concerns also included a perceived lack of accountability among Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders, with respondents suggesting that the proposed level of involvement in decision-making may create inequity relative to other residents or property owners. These responses also included opposition to co-governance models, and resistance to incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into policy.

At the same time, other respondents expressed support for the draft policies' approach to reconciliation and working collaboratively with Indigenous Governing Bodies (13.9%). These responses emphasized the importance of recognizing Indigenous rights and title, incorporating Indigenous Knowledge, and strengthening commitments to reconciliation within the Policy Statement. Some also highlighted the need for improved public education and communication about reconciliation and the intent of the policies.

Respondents raised other, often related, concerns about these policies:

- Nearly one-third of respondents expressed concern that Islands Trust lacks the resources to effectively implement and enforce the proposed policies, including limitations related to staffing, funding, monitoring, and enforcement capacity (31.5%).
- Approximately one-quarter of respondents raised concerns that the policies infringe on property rights or impose excessive regulation, bureaucracy, or taxation, reflecting apprehension about overreach and impacts on landowners (24.1%).
- Some respondents felt that the policies are unclear, inconsistent, or lack sufficient definition, with calls for clearer language, stronger structure, and more precise articulation of policy intent (16.6%).

- Similarly, responses questioned whether Islands Trust is acting outside of its mandate, with some indicating that the proposed policies extend beyond the Islands Trust Object (15.7%).
- Respondents also raised concerns about jurisdiction and whether certain actions related to reconciliation fall under the authority of other levels of government or organizations (6.8%). Several of these responses called on Islands Trust to wait on provincial decisions regarding Land Back initiatives before implementing these policies in the Islands Trust Area.
- Others expressed concern that governance, leadership, or decision-making processes may be ineffective or problematic, reflecting broader skepticism about implementing reconciliation efforts in the Islands Trust Area (6.3%).
- A smaller share of respondents felt that the policies do not go far enough in protecting the environment (4.5%)
- Some respondents noted concerns about current levels of development (3.3%), suggesting the need for stronger limits or controls.
- Others raised concerns about balancing reconciliation efforts with housing, affordability, livability, and economic considerations (3.2%).

Open-Ended Response Recommendations

A portion of respondents identified gaps in Goal 1's draft policies or suggested ways to strengthen them (22.3%). These included:

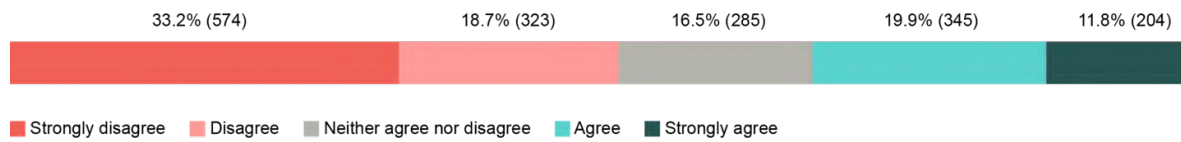
- Providing clearer definitions and language, particularly around terms and concepts including reconciliation, co-governance, Indigenous Governing Bodies, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, and Indigenous rights, to improve shared understanding and reduce ambiguity.
- Outlining concrete actions and implementation steps, including how reconciliation will be operationalized in land use planning, decision-making processes, and day-to-day governance.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and decision-making authority, especially in relation to collaboration between Islands Trust and Indigenous Governing Bodies.
- Strengthening accountability mechanisms, such as setting measurable objectives, timelines, or reporting requirements to track progress on reconciliation commitments.
- Enhancing public education and communication, including providing accessible information about the purpose of reconciliation policies, legal context, and expected outcomes.
- Improving transparency in governance processes, particularly around how decisions involving Indigenous Governing Bodies' collaboration will be made and communicated to the public.
- Ensuring alignment with jurisdiction and mandate, including clearer articulation of how reconciliation-related actions fit within Islands Trust's authority and responsibilities.
- Allocating sufficient resources for implementation, including staffing, funding, and capacity to support relationship-building and ongoing collaboration.
- Balancing reconciliation objectives with broader community considerations, including ensuring policies are understood in the context of impacts on residents, landowners, and local governance structures.

Overall Reflections

Overall, responses to Goal 1's draft policies reflect a highly polarized set of views, particularly regarding reconciliation and the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in Islands Trust decision-making. While some respondents expressed support for advancing reconciliation and strengthening collaboration, a notable share raised concerns related to governance, fairness, and the scope of Islands Trust's mandate. Across perspectives, there was a strong and consistent call for greater clarity, specificity, and transparency, particularly regarding how reconciliation will be implemented in practice. Respondents also emphasized the importance of clear roles, accountability mechanisms, and sufficient resourcing to support effective implementation.

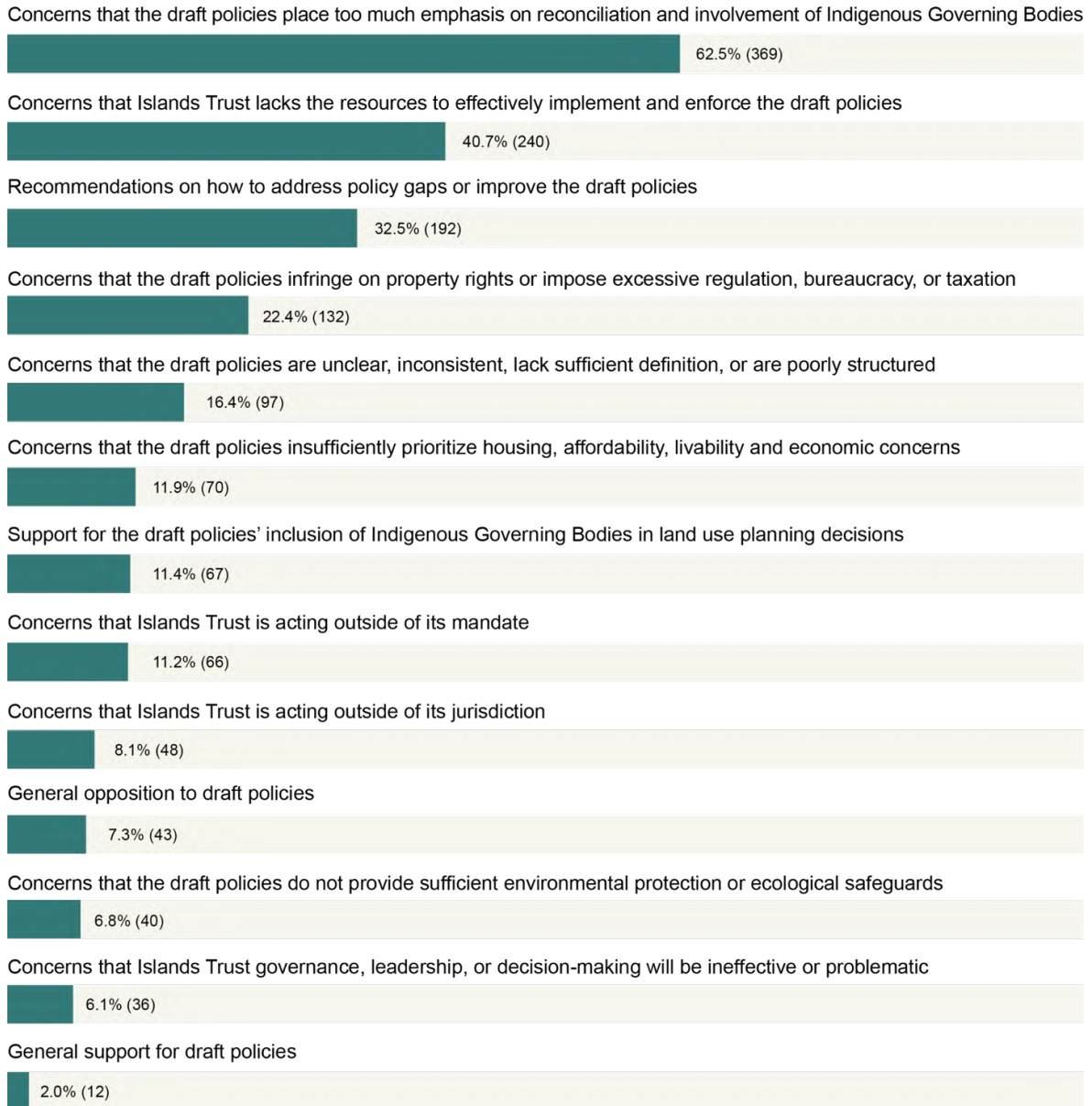
Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Significant Areas, Sites, and Species

Question 7: *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Species. (n=1731)*



Question 8: Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Significant Areas, Sites, and Species*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies? (n=590)

The following chart highlights key themes identified in respondents' comments:



General Observations

Responses to Question 7 suggest overall disagreement that the draft policies in this section will help Islands Trust achieve *Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Species*. Just over half of respondents (51.9%) reported disagreement or strong disagreement, compared to 31.7% who reported agreement or strong agreement, while 16.5% selected a neutral response. While negative sentiment was more prevalent, a meaningful share of respondents expressed agreement, pointing to a distribution of views that is mixed rather than uniformly negative.

Among respondents who provided an open-ended response to Question 8, most disagreed in Question 7 that the draft policies would be effective in achieving Goal 2 (61.9%, n=365). Fewer respondents expressed agreement (20.2%, n=119) or were neutral (16.4%, n=97), and 1.5% (n=9) did not answer the question.

A portion of respondents provided general or non-specific feedback to Goal 2's draft policies, rather than detailed or actionable input. These responses included broad expressions of support or opposition (2.0% and 7.3%, respectively).

Open-Ended Response Themes

The most prominent theme expressed in respondents' feedback to Goal 2 was concern about the draft policies' emphasis on reconciliation with respect to Indigenous cultural heritage and the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies (62.5%). These responses often reflected skepticism or opposition to the prioritization of Indigenous cultural heritage protection, including concerns about perceived preferential treatment, fairness, and potential impacts on private landowners. A subset of these responses included broader anti-Indigenous sentiment, including derogatory language or challenges to Indigenous rights, title, or involvement in land use planning.

At the same time, other respondents expressed support for the draft approaches to protecting Indigenous cultural heritage and for working collaboratively with Indigenous Governing Bodies. These responses emphasized the importance of recognizing Indigenous Knowledge, protecting culturally significant sites and species, and strengthening commitments to reconciliation through land use planning (11.4%).

Respondents raised other, often related, concerns about these policies:

- A significant share of respondents expressed concern that Islands Trust lacks the resources to effectively implement and enforce the proposed policies, including limitations related to staffing, funding, monitoring, and enforcement capacity. Responses referenced challenges associated with identifying culturally significant areas, enforcing protections, and resourcing additional responsibilities within existing organizational capacity (40.7%).
- Concerns that the policies infringe on property rights or impose excessive regulation were raised by over one-fifth of respondents. Responses described potential restrictions on private land use, including perceived limitations on development and reduced autonomy in land use decision-making (22.4%).
- Some respondents felt that the policies are unclear, inconsistent, lack sufficient definition, or are poorly constructed. Feedback highlighted vague or undefined terminology, uncertainty regarding how "culturally significant areas" would be determined

and applied, and broader concerns about the structure and coherence of the policy framework (16.4%).

- A share of respondents raised concerns about balancing cultural heritage protection with housing, affordability, and economic considerations. Responses referenced potential trade-offs between protecting culturally significant areas and supporting housing supply, land availability, and local economic activity (11.9%).
- Others questioned whether Islands Trust is acting outside of its mandate or raised jurisdictional concerns regarding the appropriate authority for these policies. Responses indicated uncertainty regarding the respective roles of local, provincial, and federal governments, as well as the alignment of these policies with the Islands Trust Object (11.2% and 8.1%, respectively).
- Some respondents expressed concern that the policies do not provide sufficient environmental protection or ecological safeguards. These responses called for stronger environmental protections, including more explicit measures to prevent ecological impacts and protect sensitive ecosystems (6.8%).
- Additional concerns included governance and decision-making effectiveness, as well as broader skepticism toward Islands Trust. Responses referenced uncertainty regarding how decisions involving Indigenous Governing Bodies would be operationalized, as well as concerns regarding institutional capacity and effectiveness (6.1%).

Open-Ended Response Recommendations

A portion of respondents identified gaps in Goal 2's draft policies or suggested ways to strengthen them. These responses primarily focused on areas where the draft policies were perceived as lacking clarity, specificity, or sufficient detail (32.5%). Key recommendations included:

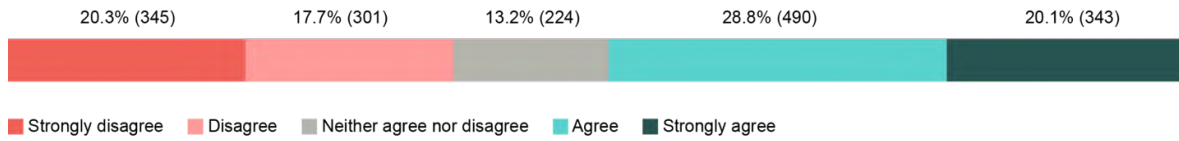
- Providing clearer definitions and language, particularly around Indigenous cultural heritage, culturally significant areas, and related concepts, to improve shared understanding and reduce ambiguity.
- Outlining more concrete actions and implementation steps, including how the identification and protection of culturally significant areas, sites, and species will be carried out in practice.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes, particularly in relation to engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies and how these groups' input will inform land use decisions.
- Strengthening policy specificity for individual communities, including clearer direction on how culturally significant areas will be identified, prioritized, and protected across different local planning contexts.
- Establishing clearer mechanisms for implementation and follow-through, including how policies will be applied, monitored, and enforced over time.
- Ensuring the policies provide sufficient guidance to support consistent application across the Islands Trust Area, including alignment with existing planning tools and regulatory frameworks.
- Identifying the need for adequate resourcing and capacity to support implementation, including staffing, technical expertise, and coordination with relevant partners.

Overall Reflections

Overall, responses to Goal 2's draft policies reflect a polarized set of views, particularly regarding the prioritization of Indigenous cultural heritage and the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use planning in the Islands Trust Area. While some respondents expressed support for the drafted policies' approach to advancing reconciliation, a larger share raised concerns related to governance, fairness, property rights, jurisdiction, environmental protection, and implementation capacity. Across perspectives, there was a consistent call for greater clarity, specificity, and transparency, particularly regarding how these policies will be applied in practice and how they will be implemented within existing legislative and institutional frameworks.

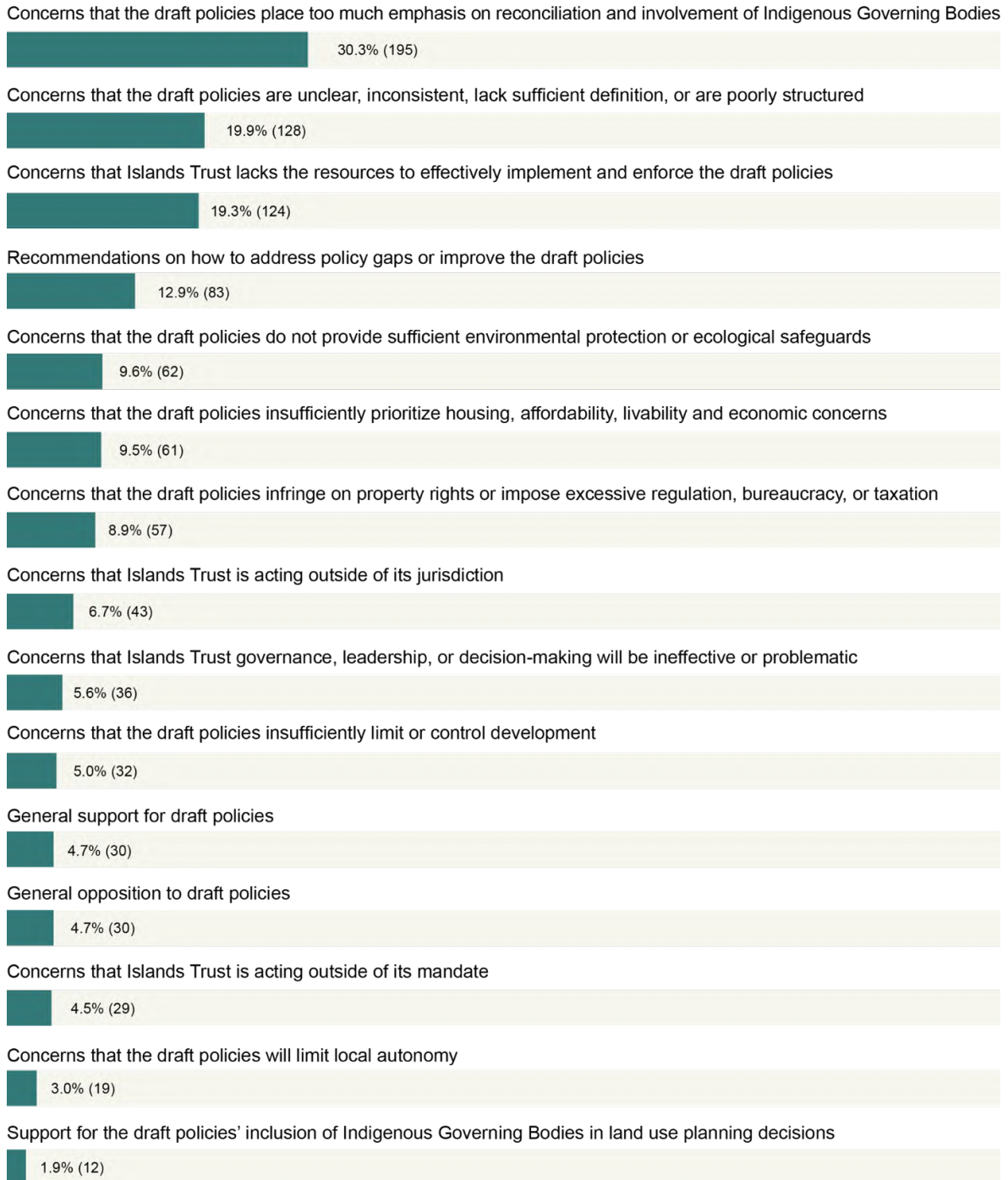
Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems

Question 9: *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems. (n=1703)*



Question 10: Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies? (n=644)

The following chart highlights key themes identified in respondents' comments:



General Observations

Responses to Question 9 indicate a tendency toward agreement that the draft policies in this section will help Islands Trust achieve *Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems*. Nearly half of respondents reported agreement or strong agreement (48.9%), while 38.0% reported disagreement or strong disagreement, and 13.2% selected a neutral response. Although positive sentiment was more prominent than in previous Goals, a considerable share of respondents expressed disagreement, suggesting the distribution of views remains mixed rather than strongly one-sided.

Among respondents who provided an open-ended response to Question 10, almost half (48.4%, n=312) disagreed or strongly disagreed in Question 9 that the draft policies would be effective in achieving Goal 3. Meanwhile, 35.7% (n=230) expressed agreement, 13.0% (n=84) were neutral, and 2.8% (n=18) did not answer the question.

A portion of respondents provided general or non-specific feedback to Goal 3's draft policies. These responses included broad expressions of support (4.7%) or opposition (also 4.7%), rather than detailed or actionable input.

Open-Ended Response Themes

The most prominent theme expressed in respondents' feedback to Goal 3 was opposition to Advisory policies 3.3.10 and 3.3.11 (30.3%). Such feedback was often reflective of anti-Indigenous sentiment and included a perceived lack of accountability of Indigenous Governing Bodies and worries about preferential treatment. Included in these responses were concerns that the proposed approaches to Indigenous Governing Bodies' inclusion would create inequity relative to other residents or property owners. Some questioned Indigenous rights or title, including challenges to the legal or historical basis for the inclusion of Indigenous Governing Bodies in governance. Responses also included opposition to co-governance models, skepticism toward reconciliation efforts, and resistance to incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into policy. Other comments reflected uncertainty about what Indigenous Governing Bodies are, who they represent, and their role in land use planning.

Less than 2% of responses to Goal 3 explicitly expressed support for how Indigenous rights, leadership, or collaboration were included in the draft policies (1.9%). Several of these responses noted a need for improved education and communication efforts related to the purpose and aims of the policies, and some called for Advisory Policies 3.3.10 and 3.3.11 to instead be listed as Directive Policies.

Overall, responses reflect a contentious discourse regarding Indigenous Governing Bodies' involvement in ecosystem governance decisions in the Islands Trust Area.

Where respondents identified other concrete concerns with the policies themselves:

- Almost one-fifth of respondents described Goal 3's draft policies as overly general, difficult to interpret, lacking clear definitions, or poorly structured (19.9%). Common concerns included ambiguous language around the definition of forests, absence of measurable targets, and uncertainty about why some policies were labeled as directive vs. advisory.

- The same number of respondents also questioned whether the policies would be effectively implemented (19.3%). Concerns focused on limited staffing, funding, and enforcement capacity, as well as skepticism based on perceived past shortcomings.
- One-tenth of respondents felt the policies did not go far enough in their efforts towards environmental protections (9.6%). These responses pointed to weak wording (e.g. not specifying that the environment pertains to the natural environment), insufficient restrictions on development, and lack of firm environmental thresholds.
- Concerns were also raised about potential negative effects of the policies in Goal 3 on local economies, including affordable housing, forestry, agriculture, tourism, and small businesses, with calls to better balance environmental protection and economic sustainability (9.5%).
- Several respondents expressed concern that policies could restrict private land use and the rights of property owners (8.9%).
- Other respondents expressed concerns with Islands Trust acting on matters that they felt were under the jurisdiction of other levels of government/organizations (6.7%), as well as beyond their stated mandate (4.5%). Responses also expressed worries about how Islands Trust may govern and lead the enactment of these policies (5.6%). These were generally broad statements without feedback on specific policies.
- Over-development in the Islands Trust Area was noted in a similar number of responses; these responses called for limits or stricter guidelines to be placed on future developments, in the interest of preserving and protecting health ecosystems (5.0%). A smaller number of responses expressed concerns about how broad policies may impact local areas' autonomy (3.0%).

Open-Ended Response Recommendations

A portion of respondents recommended topics for inclusion in Goal 3's draft policies or provided concrete and actionable recommendations on how to improve the policies in this section (12.9%). These included:

- Giving more attention to issues that were identified as gaps or underrepresented in the draft policies, such as:
 - Climate change and climate adaptation
 - Forestry and land management practices, including wildfire mitigation strategies
 - Protection of specific ecosystems or species
- Strengthening policy language and enforceability, including replacing permissive wording (e.g., "encourage") with stronger regulatory terms (e.g., "prioritize", "require", or "prohibit"). This included giving higher precedence to Goal 3 in the draft Policy Statement; responses here described this goal as being most aligned with the Islands Trust's mandate
- Including the Precautionary Principle and the Cumulative Effects Principle as Directives
- Introducing measurable targets and standards, such as biodiversity thresholds, habitat protection benchmarks, or development limits
- Enhancing enforcement capacity, including increased monitoring, staffing, funding, and penalties for non-compliance
- Improving clarity and usability, through simplified language, defined terms, and more structured policy documents
- Balancing broad environmental protections with local needs

- Focusing on specific environmental actions, such as stronger protections for sensitive ecosystems, limits on development in high-risk areas, improved forest management, and climate adaptation measures
- Clarifying governance roles, including greater transparency or definition around decision-making authority and collaboration with Indigenous Governing Bodies

Overall Reflections

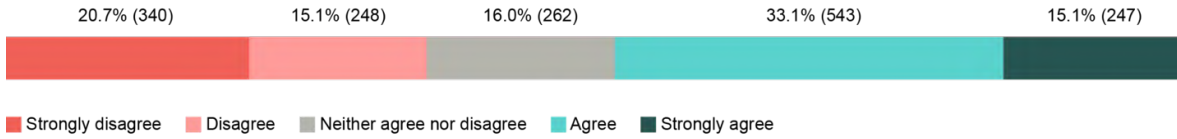
Overall, responses to Goal 3's draft policies reflect:

- High polarization around the draft Advisory Policies, particularly regarding perceptions about the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in achieving Goal 3
- Strong demand for clearer and more enforceable policies
- Divergent views on policy strength, with some respondents calling for stronger protections and others expressing concern about overreach
- Actionable recommendations focused on clarity, implementation, and balance

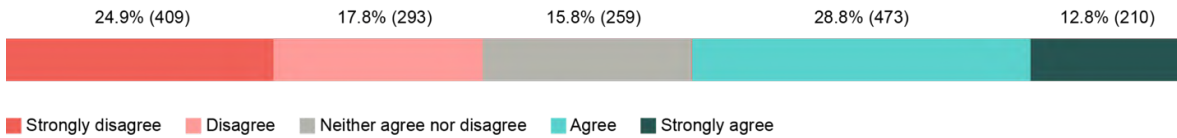
Together, these findings highlight both opportunities for policy refinement. As with Goals 1 and 2, they also reflect broader governance tensions shaping how the policies are understood and received in the context of the Section 35 constitutional rights of Indigenous Peoples and Islands Trust's obligations to engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies.

Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities

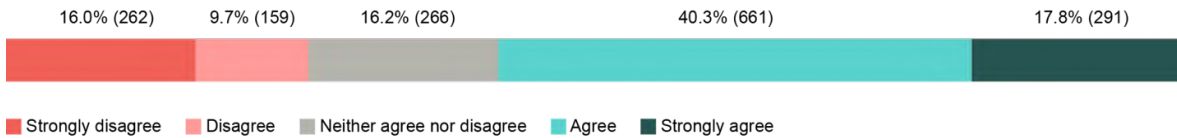
Question 11a: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Managing Growth and Development Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities. (n=1640)



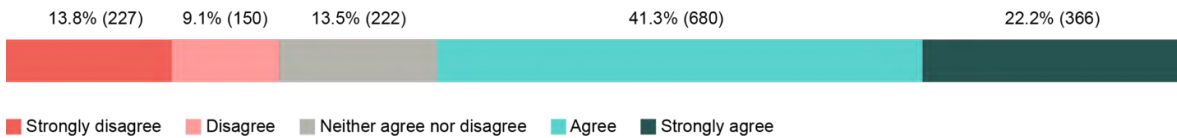
Question 11b: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Housing Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities. (n=1644)



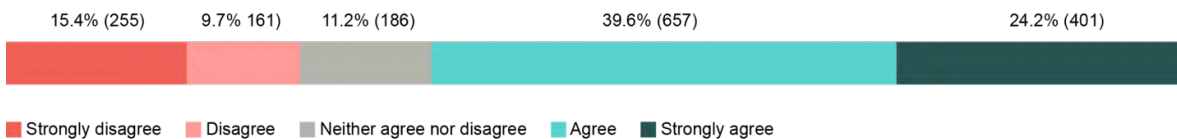
Question 11c: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Transportation Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities. (n=1639)



Question 11d: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Waste, Emissions, and Pollutants Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities. (n=1645)



Question 11e: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Recreation Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities. (n=1660)



Question 12: Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies? (n=693)

The following chart highlights key themes identified in respondents' comments:

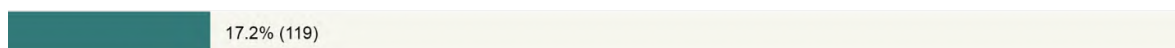
Recommendations on how to address policy gaps or improve the draft policies



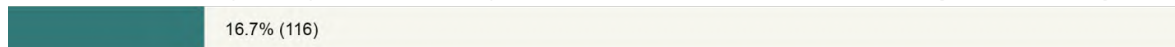
Concerns that Islands Trust lacks the resources to effectively implement and enforce the draft policies



Concerns that the draft policies insufficiently limit or control development



Concerns that the draft policies place too much emphasis on reconciliation and involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies



Concerns that the draft policies are unclear, inconsistent, lack sufficient definition, or are poorly structured



Concerns that the draft policies do not provide sufficient environmental protection or ecological safeguards



Concerns that Islands Trust is acting outside of its jurisdiction



Concerns that the draft policies insufficiently prioritize housing, affordability, livability and economic concerns



Concerns that the draft policies infringe on property rights or impose excessive regulation, bureaucracy, or taxation



Concerns that Islands Trust is acting outside of its mandate



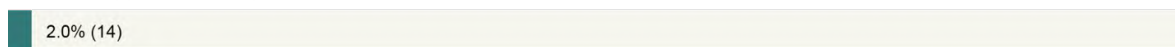
Concerns that Islands Trust governance, leadership, or decision-making will be ineffective or problematic



Concerns that the draft policies will limit local autonomy



General support for draft policies



General opposition to draft policies



General Observations

Responses in this section indicate a range of views, though overall sentiment tended to lean toward agreement that the policies in this section will help Islands Trust achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities*. The Recreation, Waste, Emission, and Pollutants, and Transportation Policies received the highest levels of agreement (63.8%, 63.5%, and 58.1%, respectively). The Managing Growth and Development Policies also saw more agreement (48.2%) than disagreement (35.8%), though views were more mixed. In contrast, responses to the Housing Policies were closely divided, with similar proportions reporting agreement (41.6%) and disagreement (42.7%), indicating no clear consensus.

Among respondents who provided an open-ended response to Question 12, a majority expressed agreement across the five parts of Question 11 that the draft policies would be effective in achieving Goal 4 (51.7%, n=358). Fewer respondents expressed disagreement (30.9%, n=214), while 16.0% (n=111) were neutral, and 1.4% (n=10) did not answer any of the Question 11 items.

Feedback from some respondents was general or non-specific, rather than detailed or actionable. These responses included broad expressions of support or opposition (2.0% support and 1.4% opposition).

Open-Ended Response Themes

Feedback on Goal 4 most frequently focused on Housing policies, followed by Managing Growth and Development policies, with comparatively less discussion of Recreation, Transportation, and Waste, Emissions and Pollutants policies. Across these areas, feedback often reflected concern about the scope and perceived impacts of policies intended to shape community growth, housing, infrastructure, and recreation in the Islands Trust Area. Compared to other sections of the Policy Statement surveyed, fewer responses in this section expressed concern that Goal 4's draft policies place too much emphasis on reconciliation and involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies (16.7%). As with the other sections, responses often reflected skepticism towards how Indigenous Governing Bodies have been included in community planning and land use decisions, including concerns about fairness and decision-making authority.

Respondents raised other, often related concerns about these policies:

- Concerns were raised about Islands Trust's capacity to implement and enforce the proposed policies (23.7%). Feedback on Housing policies questioned how priorities for affordable, special needs, or clustered housing would be operationalized, while comments on Managing Growth and Development policies pointed to a lack of measurable standards, accountability mechanisms, and follow-through. Additional responses referenced challenges in addressing Transportation and Waste, Emissions and Pollutants policies, including infrastructure limitations and service delivery constraints.
- Concerns were also expressed that current levels of development are already excessive and require stronger limits or controls (17.2%). Feedback on Managing Growth and Development policies emphasized limiting further growth, reducing sprawl, and preserving rural character, while comments on Housing policies raised concerns that increasing density or clustered housing could intensify population pressures and strain

limited island resources. Additional responses linked Transportation pressures, tourism, and ferry dependence to broader concerns about overdevelopment.

- Some respondents felt that the policies are unclear, inconsistent, lack sufficient definition, or are poorly constructed (13.7%). Feedback on Managing Growth and Development policies questioned vague terms such as “consider” and “manage,” while responses on Housing policies highlighted uncertainty around suitable locations, appropriate density, and attainable housing. Comments on Transportation and Waste, Emissions and Pollutants policies also pointed to ambiguity around terms such as zero-emission transportation, pollutants, and wastewater requirements.
- Some respondents expressed concern that the policies do not provide sufficient environmental protection or ecological safeguards (13.1%). Feedback on Managing Growth and Development policies called for stronger prioritization of environmental limits and hazard avoidance, while comments on Transportation policies raised concerns about infrastructure impacts. Additional responses on Waste, Emissions and Pollutants and Recreation policies emphasized the need for stronger safeguards for water quality, shorelines, and sensitive ecosystems.
- Others questioned whether Islands Trust is acting within its jurisdiction or mandate (13.1% and 11.1%, respectively). Feedback on Housing, Transportation, and Recreation policies noted that these topics fall within the responsibilities of provincial agencies or other local governments, while comments on Waste, Emissions and Pollutants policies raised concerns about overlap with existing regulations and are beyond the Islands Trust Object’s intended scope.
- Respondents raised concerns about balancing environmental protection with housing, affordability, livability, and economic considerations (12.7%). Feedback on Housing policies emphasized tensions between housing supply and preservation of island character, while comments on Managing Growth and Development policies highlighted concerns about limiting economic activity. Additional responses referenced trade-offs between environmental objectives and the practical needs of residents and local communities.
- Respondents expressed concerns about property rights and regulatory burden (11.8%). Feedback on Housing and Managing Growth and Development policies raised concerns about restrictions on land use and development, while comments on Waste, Emissions and Pollutants policies referenced potential costs, administrative requirements, and implications for landowners.
- Additional concerns related to Islands Trust governance and decision-making effectiveness (10.8%). Responses reflected uncertainty about how a broad set of community-focused policies would be coordinated and implemented, as well as concerns about accountability and organizational capacity.
- Some respondents raised concerns about potential impacts on local autonomy (6.5%). These responses reflected apprehension that the draft policies may reduce the ability of local communities and governments to respond to their own circumstances, particularly in relation to Housing and Managing Growth and Development policies.

Open-Ended Response Recommendations

Over one-third of respondents to this section’s open-ended question identified gaps in Goal 4’s draft policies or suggested ways to strengthen them (36.1%). These responses primarily focused on areas where the draft policies were perceived as lacking clarity, specificity, or sufficient detail. Key recommendations included:

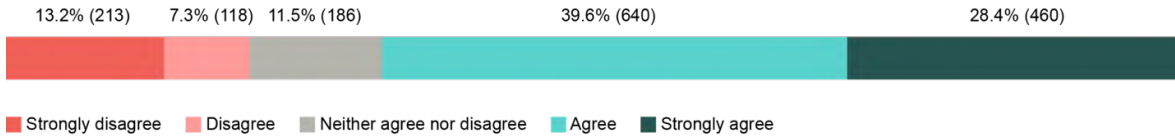
- Providing clearer definitions and language across the Managing Growth and Development, Housing, Transportation, Waste, Emissions and Pollutants, and Recreation policies to reduce ambiguity and improve shared understanding.
- Outlining more concrete implementation steps, including how growth management, housing priorities, transportation improvements, and pollution reduction measures will be applied in practice.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and jurisdictional boundaries, particularly where policies intersect with provincial regulation, local government authority, housing delivery, transportation systems, and waste management.
- Strengthening policy specificity, including clearer thresholds, criteria, or standards for directing growth and identifying suitable locations for additional housing.
- Establishing clearer mechanisms for implementation and follow-through, including accountability measures, monitoring, and more consistent enforcement.
- Ensuring the policies reflect local context across different islands and communities, including differences in infrastructure, servicing, and rural character.
- Strengthening policy direction to ensure that housing, transportation, recreation, and waste-related objectives remain compatible with environmental protection and the Islands Trust Object.
- Identifying the need for adequate resourcing and technical capacity to support implementation, including staffing, inter-agency coordination, and infrastructure planning.

Overall Reflections

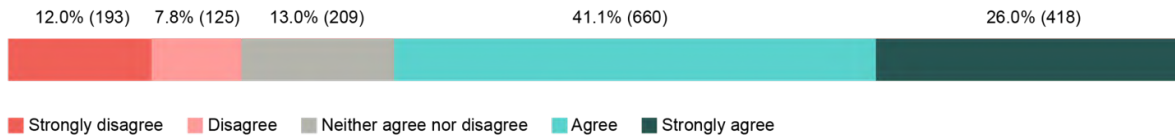
While some respondents expressed support for aspects of Goal 4's draft policies, a larger share raised concerns related to implementation capacity, development pressures, policy clarity, jurisdiction, and the balance between environmental protection and community needs. Across perspectives, there was a consistent call for greater clarity, specificity, and accountability, particularly regarding how these policies will be applied across different island contexts and how they will align with the Islands Trust Object.

Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters

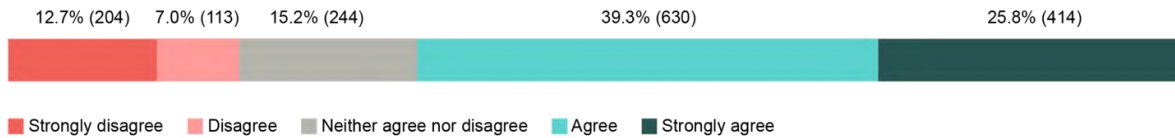
Question 13a: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Freshwater Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters. (n=1617)



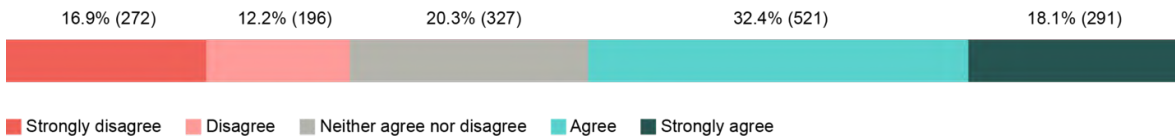
Question 13b: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Forest Lands Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters. (n=1605)



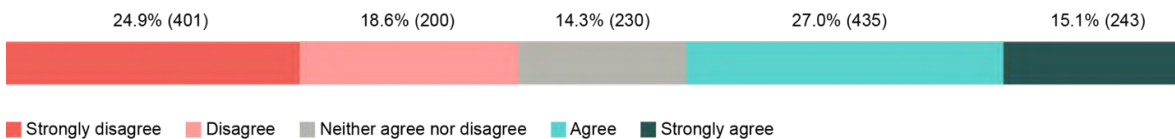
Question 13c: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Agricultural Lands Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters. (n=1605)



Question 13d: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Soil and Fill Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters. (n=1607)

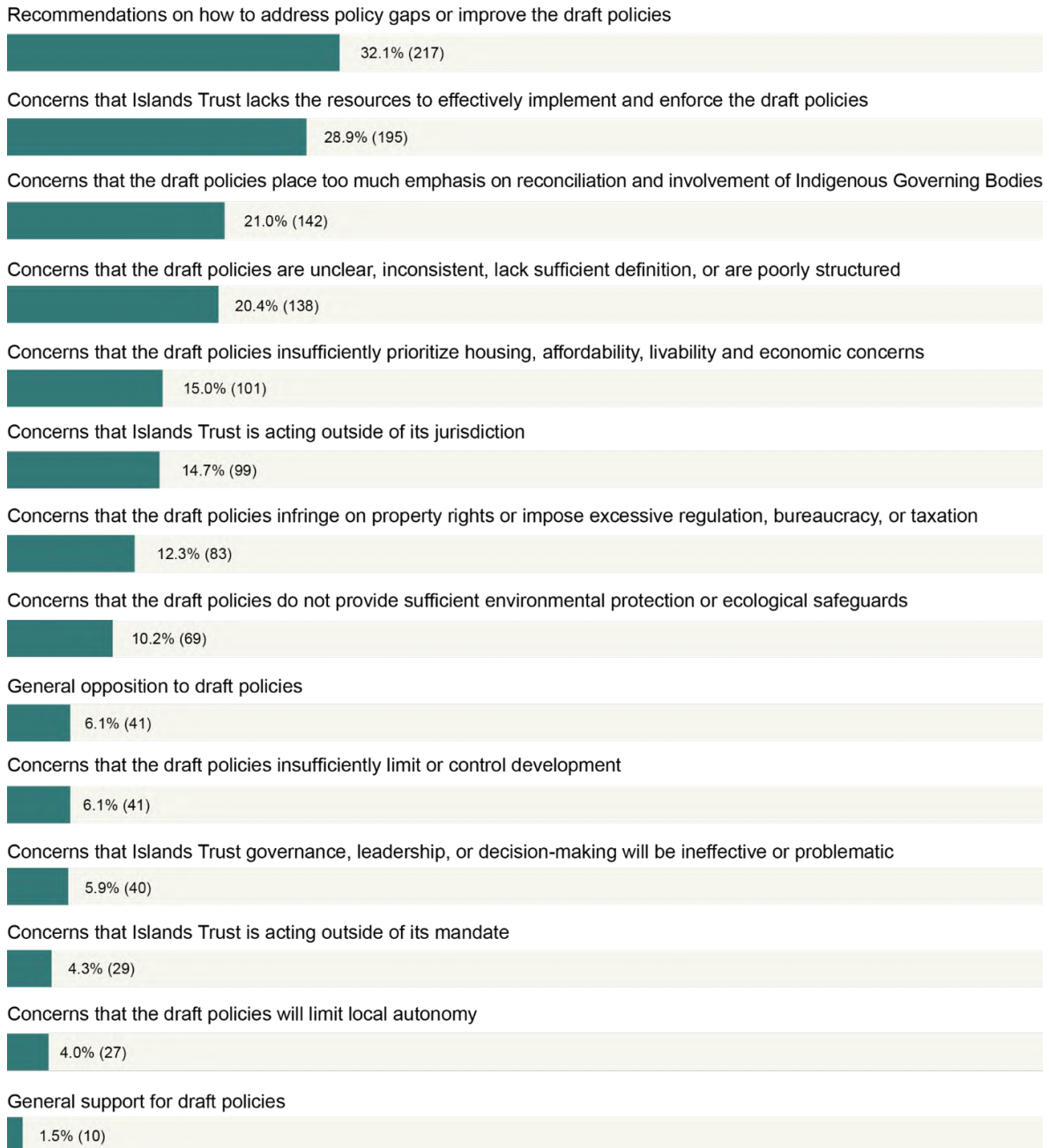


Question 13e: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Marine Shorelands Policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters. (n=1609)



Question 14: Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies? (n=675)

The following chart highlights key themes identified in respondents' comments:



General Observations

Responses to the draft policies under *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters* indicate generally positive sentiment, with stronger levels of agreement observed for several policy areas. The Freshwater, Forest Lands, and Agricultural Lands Policies received clear majorities of agreement (68.0%, 67.1%, and 65.1%, respectively). The Soil and Fill Policies were also viewed more positively than negatively, with 50.5% reporting agreement compared to 29.1% reporting disagreement, though responses were more mixed. In contrast, views on the Marine Shorelands Policies were more divided, with similar proportions of respondents reporting agreement (42.1%) and disagreement (43.5%), indicating no clear consensus. Overall, while most policy areas were viewed favourably—particularly those related to freshwater and land stewardship—responses suggest more varied perspectives regarding marine shorelands.

Among respondents who provided an open-ended response to Question 14, a majority expressed agreement across the five parts of Question 13 that the draft policies would be effective in achieving Goal 5 (59.0%, n=398). Consistent with the response pattern for Question 14, fewer respondents expressed disagreement (23.1%, n=156), while 16.9% (n=114) were neutral, and 1.0% (n=7) did not answer any of the Question 13 items.

A portion of respondents provided general or non-specific feedback to Goal 5's draft policies, rather than detailed or actionable input. These responses included broad expressions of support or opposition (1.5% support and 6.1% opposition).

Open-Ended Response Themes

Feedback most frequently focused on the draft Marine Shorelands policies, followed by the Freshwater policies, and comparatively less discussion of the Agricultural Lands, Forest Lands, and Soil and Fill policies. Across these areas, feedback most often reflected concern about the scope and perceived impacts of land and water use policies. These responses commonly expressed skepticism toward regulatory approaches to stewardship, including concerns about restrictions on land use, perceived overreach, and impacts on property owners. Similar to the preceding goals, responses included concerns that the draft policies place too much emphasis on reconciliation and involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies (21.0%). These responses, less frequent than in Goals 1–3, often reflected skepticism toward the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in Islands Trust land and water stewardship decisions and broader concerns about fairness and decision-making authority.

Respondents raised other, often related concerns about these policies:

- Over one-quarter of respondents expressed concern about Islands Trust's capacity to implement and enforce the proposed policies (28.9%). Feedback on marine shorelands policies highlighted challenges in overseeing shoreline development, docks, and moorage, while comments on freshwater policies raised concerns about monitoring groundwater use and watershed protection. Additional responses pointed to enforcement challenges for agricultural and forest lands, including oversight of farming activities, land clearing, and wildfire risk management across dispersed areas.
- Some respondents felt that the policies are unclear, inconsistent, lack sufficient definition, or are poorly constructed (20.4%). Feedback on freshwater policies highlighted uncertainty in how water sustainability and supply limits would be assessed, while responses on marine shorelands noted ambiguity around shoreline setbacks and

permitted uses. Additional comments pointed to unclear application across agricultural and forest lands, as well as soil and fill activities, particularly in relation to site alteration and enforcement.

- Respondents raised concerns about balancing environmental protection with housing, affordability, livability, and economic considerations (15.0%). Feedback on agricultural lands policies emphasized potential impacts on farm viability and food production, including concerns about restrictions within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the long-term sustainability of farming operations. Responses on marine shorelands noted implications for marine-based livelihoods and infrastructure, while broader comments referenced trade-offs between environmental protection and economic activity.
- Others questioned whether Islands Trust is acting within its jurisdiction or mandate (14.7% and 4.3%, respectively). Feedback on freshwater policies referenced provincial responsibility for water management, while responses on marine shorelands and agricultural lands raised concerns about overlap with existing provincial and federal regulations, including those governing agricultural land use.
- Respondents expressed concerns about property rights and regulatory burden (12.3%). Feedback on marine shorelands focused on perceived restrictions on docks, moorage, and shoreline use, while responses on freshwater policies raised concerns about limitations on wells and water access. Comments related to agricultural and forest lands emphasized constraints on farming practices, forest management activities, and the use of privately owned land.
- Some respondents expressed concern that the policies do not provide sufficient environmental protection or ecological safeguards (10.2%). Feedback on freshwater policies called for stronger protection of aquifers and watersheds, while responses on marine shorelands emphasized the need for enhanced safeguards for coastal ecosystems. Additional comments on forest lands highlighted concerns about habitat fragmentation and loss of mature forest, while feedback on soil and fill activities raised concerns about site disturbance, erosion, and impacts to sensitive areas.
- Some respondents expressed concern that the draft policies do not go far enough in limiting or controlling current levels of development (6.1%). Feedback across marine shorelands and agricultural and forest lands emphasized the need for stronger restrictions to protect sensitive ecosystems, prevent fragmentation of farmland and forests, and support long-term environmental sustainability.
- Additional concerns related to Islands Trust governance and decision-making effectiveness (5.9%). Responses reflected uncertainty about how policies spanning marine, freshwater, and land-based systems would be coordinated and implemented with existing staffing and resources, as well as concerns about overall organizational capacity.
- Some respondents raised concerns about potential impacts on local autonomy (4.0%). These responses reflected apprehension that the draft policies may reduce local decision-making authority or limit the ability of communities and local governments to manage land and water use according to local priorities.

Open-Ended Response Recommendations

A portion of respondents identified gaps in Goal 5's draft policies or suggested ways to strengthen them. These responses primarily focused on areas where the draft policies were perceived as lacking clarity, specificity, or sufficient detail (32.1%). Key recommendations included:

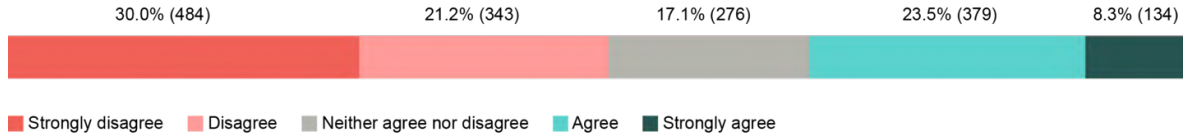
- Providing clearer definitions and language across freshwater, marine shorelands, agricultural, and forest land policies to improve shared understanding and reduce ambiguity.
- Outlining concrete implementation steps, including how water use limits, shoreline protections, and land management practices will be applied and enforced.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and jurisdictional boundaries, particularly in relation to provincial and federal oversight of freshwater, marine, and agricultural systems.
- Strengthening policy specificity, including clearer thresholds, criteria, or standards for managing freshwater use, protecting agricultural lands, and regulating shoreline development.
- Establishing clear mechanisms for implementation and follow-through, including monitoring groundwater use, tracking environmental impacts, and ensuring compliance across policy areas.
- Ensuring the policies support consistent application across land and water systems, including alignment with existing regulatory frameworks and local planning tools.
- Identifying the need for adequate resourcing and technical capacity to support implementation, including staffing, expertise, and coordination across sectors and jurisdictions.

Overall Reflections

Overall, responses to Goal 5's draft policies reflect a range of perspectives on the role of Islands Trust in managing land and water resources. While some respondents expressed support for strengthening environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability, a larger share raised concerns related to governance, property rights, jurisdiction, and implementation capacity. Across perspectives, there was a consistent call for greater clarity, specificity, and coordination, particularly regarding how policies will be applied across marine, freshwater, and land-based systems and how responsibilities will be shared across governing bodies.

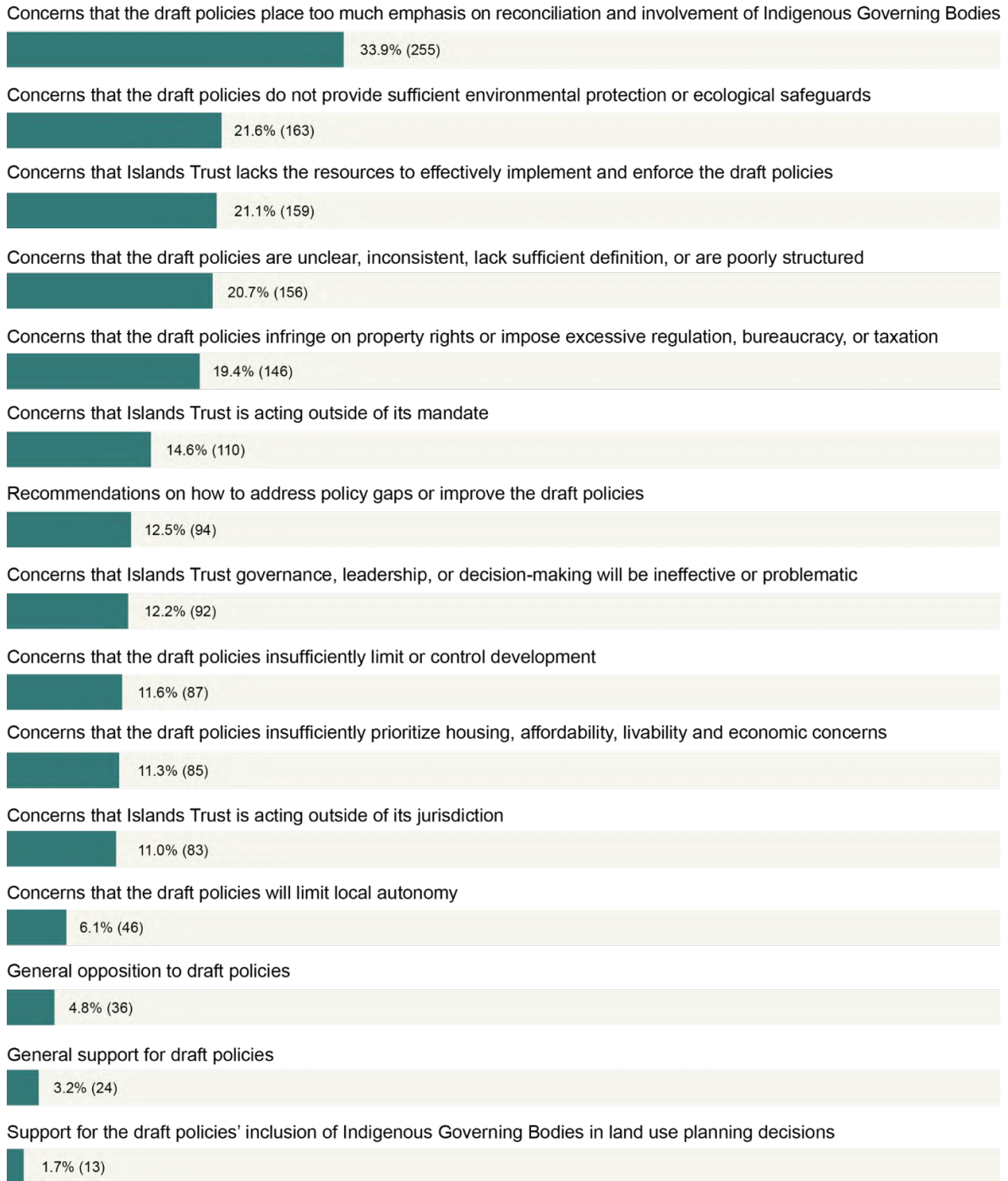
Overall Effectiveness of the Draft Policy Statement

Question 15: (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The draft Islands Trust Policy Statement will be effective in helping Islands Trust advance the Islands Trust Object 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 British Columbia in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations, and the government of British Columbia?” (n=1616)



Question 16: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the draft Policy Statement? (n=753)

The following chart highlights key themes identified in respondents' comments:



General Observations

Responses indicate an overall tendency toward disagreement that the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement will be effective in helping advance the Islands Trust Object. Just over half of respondents (51.2%) reported disagreement or strong disagreement, while 31.8% reported agreement or strong agreement, and 17.1% selected a neutral response. While a notable share of respondents expressed agreement, overall sentiment was negative. These findings also suggest more negative views compared to more mixed results observed for some earlier questions.

Among respondents who provided an open-ended response to Question 16, a majority disagreed or strongly disagreed in Question 15 that the draft Policy Statement would be effective (57.8%, n=435). Fewer respondents expressed agreement (21.8%, n=164), while 16.2% (n=122) were neutral and 4.3% (n=32) did not answer the question. Feedback from some respondents was general or non-specific, rather than detailed or actionable. These responses included broad expressions of opposition or support (4.8% opposition and 3.2% support).

Open-Ended Response Themes

Responses to this final, overall question most often reflected cross-cutting perspectives on the draft Policy Statement, rather than focusing on any one goal or section. Feedback revisited themes related to reconciliation, environmental protection, implementation, governance, and the overall direction of the draft policies.

Respondents most frequently expressed concern in this final section that the draft policies place too much emphasis on reconciliation and involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies (33.9%). These responses, as in the preceding sections, often reflected concerns about the role of Indigenous Governing Bodies in planning and decision-making by Islands Trust.

A small share of respondents expressed support for greater inclusion of Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use planning decisions (1.7%).

Respondents raised other, often related concerns:

- Respondents expressed concern that the draft policies do not provide sufficient environmental protection or ecological safeguards (21.6%). Feedback included calls for stronger protection of ecosystems such as aquifers, shorelines, and sensitive habitats, as well as concerns about the long-term impacts of development on environmental sustainability.
- Respondents expressed concern about Islands Trust's capacity to implement and enforce the proposed policies (21.1%). Feedback highlighted uncertainty about how policies would be monitored and enforced in practice, including questions about staffing, resources, and the ability to oversee development, water use, and land management activities across the region.
- Some respondents felt that the policies are unclear, inconsistent, lack sufficient definition, or are poorly constructed (20.7%). Feedback pointed to challenges in interpreting how high-level principles would be applied, including uncertainty around thresholds, definitions, and how policies would guide decision-making in practice.
- Respondents expressed concerns about property rights and regulatory burden (19.4%). These responses often referenced potential restrictions on land use, increased

regulation, and perceived impacts on private property, including concerns about limits on development, land use flexibility, and permitting requirements.

- Others questioned whether Islands Trust is acting within its mandate (14.6%) or jurisdiction (11.0%). Feedback raised concerns about overlap with provincial and federal responsibilities, including areas such as water management, environmental regulation, and land use authority.
- Additional concerns related to Islands Trust governance, leadership, and decision-making effectiveness (12.2%). Responses reflected uncertainty about how decisions would be made, how different interests would be balanced, and how accountability and transparency would be maintained.
- Some respondents expressed concern that current levels of development are excessive and require stronger limits or controls (11.6%). Feedback highlighted concerns about growth pressures and the need to better manage the scale and pace of development.
- Respondents raised concerns about balancing environmental protection with housing, affordability, livability, and economic considerations (11.3%). Feedback emphasized perceived trade-offs between environmental objectives and the needs of island communities, including housing availability and local economic activity.
- Some respondents raised concerns about potential impacts on local autonomy (6.1%). These responses reflected apprehension that the draft policies may limit the ability of local communities or governments to make decisions based on local context.

Open-Ended Response Recommendations

A subset of respondents used this final open-ended question to note gaps in the draft Policy Statement or suggested ways to strengthen it (12.5%). These responses primarily focused on improving clarity, implementation, and alignment with the Islands Trust Object. Key recommendations included:

- Providing clearer definitions and more precise language across the Policy Statement to improve consistency and reduce ambiguity.
- Outlining more concrete implementation steps, including how policies will be applied, monitored, and enforced in practice.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and jurisdictional boundaries across Islands Trust, Indigenous Governing Bodies, local governments, and other agencies.
- Strengthening alignment between the Policy Statement and the Islands Trust Object, particularly with respect to environmental protection.
- Establishing clearer mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and decision-making.
- Ensuring that policies reflect local context and variation across islands and communities.
- Identifying the need for adequate resourcing and capacity to support implementation.

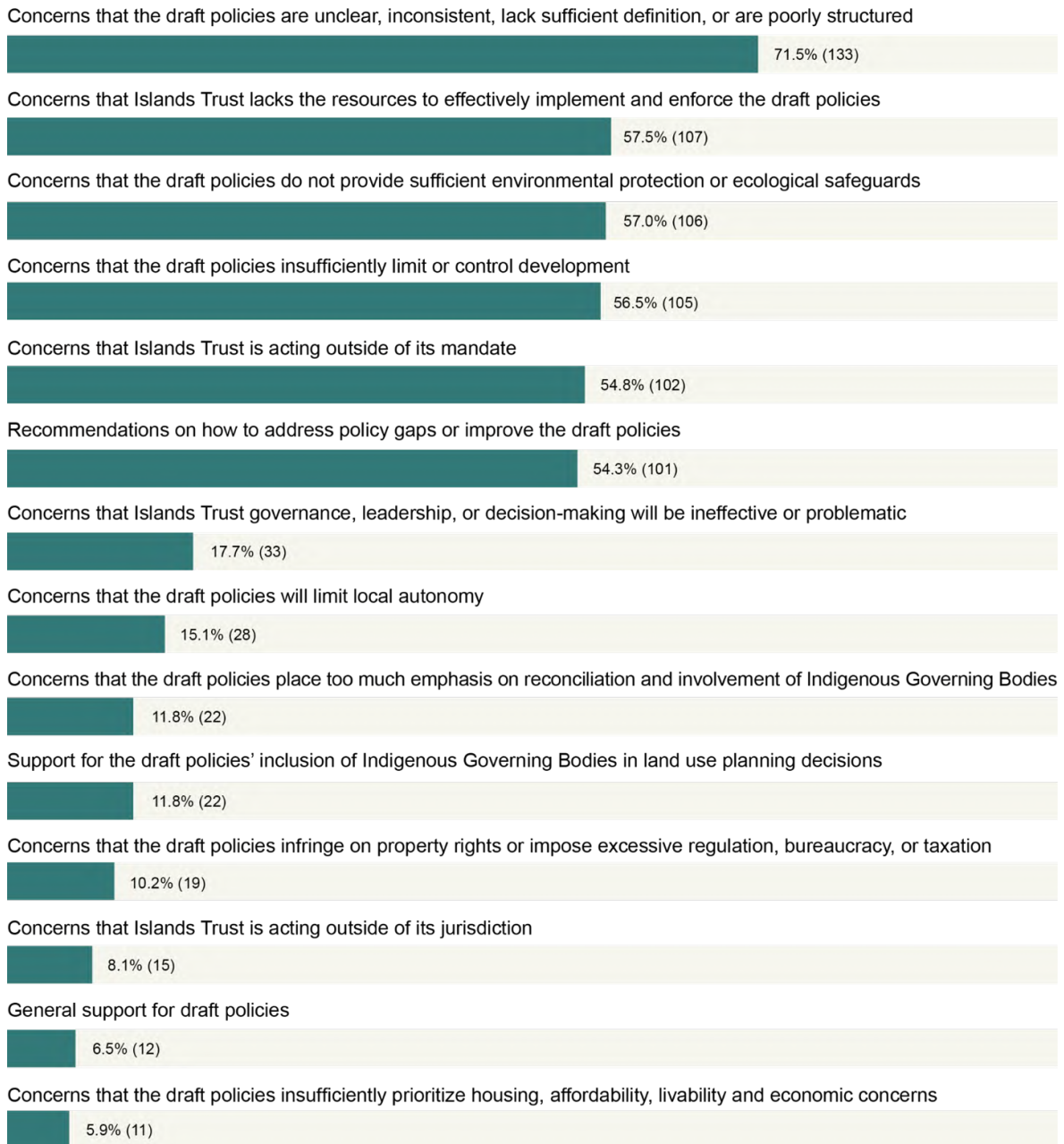
Overall Reflections

As with preceding survey questions, responses to this final item reflect a range of perspectives on the draft Policy Statement. While some respondents expressed support for elements of the draft, a larger share raised concerns related to reconciliation, environmental protection, implementation capacity, governance, and policy clarity. Across themes, there was a consistent call for clearer direction, stronger alignment with the Islands Trust Object, and more explicit guidance on how the policies will be applied in practice.

Public Correspondence Findings

A total of 186 pieces of public correspondence were included in this analysis.

The following chart highlights key themes identified in the submitted public correspondence:



General Observations

A portion of respondents used their public correspondence to provide general or non-specific support of the draft Policy Statement (6.5%).

When referring to specific sections of the draft Policy Statement, *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities* was discussed most frequently. This was followed by discussions of *Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems* and *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters*. Aspects of the Policy Statement's Guiding Principles and glossary were also discussed in some responses, but to a lesser extent than Goals 3–5. The remaining sections of the draft Policy Statement were discussed less often, including *Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation* and *Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Species*, as well as the *Islands Trust Act and Implementation* sections.

Response Themes

More so than in the survey responses, the analyzed public correspondence included detailed feedback on individual policies throughout the Policy Statement.

Broadly, responses most frequently expressed concerns where they felt draft policies are unclear, inconsistent, lack sufficient definition, or are poorly constructed (71.5%). Feedback referenced unclear terminology, lack of defined thresholds, and uncertainty in how policies related to development limits, shoreline protection, and housing would be interpreted and applied.

The public correspondence pieces raised additional concerns:

- Over half of respondents expressed concern about Islands Trust's capacity to implement and enforce the proposed policies (57.5%). Feedback highlighted challenges associated with monitoring shoreline development, groundwater use, and land-based activities, as well as concerns about staffing, resourcing, and coordination across jurisdictions.
- Respondents expressed concern that the draft policies do not provide sufficient environmental protection or ecological safeguards (57.0%). Feedback included calls for stronger protection of aquifers, coastal ecosystems, and forested areas, as well as concerns about habitat loss, water quality, and cumulative environmental impacts.
- In relation, a similar percentage of respondents noted concern that current levels of development are excessive and require stronger limits or controls (56.5%). Feedback emphasized limiting subdivision, reducing shoreline development, and preventing fragmentation of agricultural and forest lands.
- Over half of responses expressed concern that Islands Trust is proposing it act outside of its mandate (54.8%). Feedback reflected uncertainty about the appropriateness of addressing areas such as housing, transportation, and broader land use planning within the Policy Statement.
- Comparatively to the concerns above, fewer respondents expressed concerns about Islands Trust governance, leadership, and decision-making effectiveness (17.7%). Feedback referenced uncertainty about how decisions would be made, how competing interests would be balanced, and how accountability would be maintained.
- Respondents raised concerns about potential impacts on local autonomy (15.1%). Feedback reflected apprehension that regional policies may limit local decision-making related to land use, development, and infrastructure.

- Respondents expressed concerns about property rights and regulatory burden (10.2%). Feedback referenced restrictions on land use, permitting requirements, and impacts on private property, including limits on development and land management.
- Respondents questioned whether Islands Trust is acting outside of its jurisdiction (8.1%), including overlap with provincial authority in areas such as water management, environmental regulation, and agricultural land use.
- Respondents raised concerns about balancing environmental protection with housing, affordability, livability, and economic considerations (5.9%), including trade-offs between conservation objectives and community needs.

An equal share of respondents expressed concern that the draft policies place too much emphasis on reconciliation and Indigenous Governing Bodies' involvement, while others expressed support for including Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use planning decisions (11.8% each). Compared to survey responses, these sentiments were less prominent in public correspondence.

Response Recommendations

Over half of respondents used their correspondence to identify gaps in the draft Policy Statement or suggest ways to strengthen it (54.3%). Feedback focused on improving clarity, implementation, and coordination. Key recommendations included:

- Providing clearer definitions and more precise language across the Policy Statement, including terminology related to development limits, environmental protection, and land use policies.
- Outlining concrete implementation steps, including how policies related to shoreline development, water use, and land management will be applied and enforced.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and jurisdictional boundaries across Islands Trust and other levels of government.
- Strengthening policy specificity, including clearer thresholds, criteria, and standards for managing development and protecting environmental values.
- Establishing mechanisms for accountability, monitoring, and follow-through, including tracking environmental impacts and compliance.
- Ensuring alignment across policy areas and with existing regulatory frameworks, including provincial legislation and regional planning tools.
- Identifying the need for adequate resourcing and technical capacity to support implementation.

Overall Reflections

Overall, the public correspondence received during this phase reflected a range of perspectives on the draft Policy Statement, with sentiment leaning more strongly toward concern and specific critique of individual policies. Feedback emphasized policy clarity, implementation capacity, environmental protection, development pressures, and the role of Islands Trust within its mandate. Compared to survey responses, submissions more strongly emphasized environmental protection and development limits, while placing relatively less emphasis on reconciliation and the involvement of Indigenous Governing Bodies in land use decisions. Across submissions, respondents called for clearer direction, stronger policy specificity, and more explicit guidance on how the draft policies will be applied in practice.

Appendix A: Islands Trust Policy Statement Phase 4 Public Engagement Survey

Note: some instructions related to navigating and completing the online survey have been removed.

About the Policy Statement

The Islands Trust Act requires that Islands Trust adopt a Policy Statement that must be, “a general statement of the policies of the Islands Trust Council to carry out the object of the Trust.”

The Policy Statement is used by Islands Trust to do the following:

- Inform land use decisions and ensure that changes to policies or regulations on any of the islands align with the general direction set by the Policy Statement
- Guide the development of official community plans and regulatory bylaws by local trust committees and island municipalities across the region
- Set out principles to guide day-to-day planning and decision-making

The Policy Statement is Islands Trust's vision for the preservation and protection of the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment. It aspires to reflect the values and interests of island communities, Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Peoples, partner agencies, and all British Columbians, as well as the silent voices of island ecosystems, species at risk, and future generations.

The Policy Statement is not a set of regulations that apply to land in the Islands Trust Area today. Instead, it is a document that sets out principles and policies to be used in decision-making about potential future changes to the use of the lands and waters in the Islands Trust Area.

You can view the draft Policy Statement [here](#).

About this Survey

Purpose

The purpose of this survey is to gather your feedback on how well you think the draft Policy Statement will support the Islands Trust in achieving its goals and fulfilling the Islands Trust Object.

The survey will ask your opinion on the principles and goals set out in the draft Policy Statement as follows:

- **Guiding Principles:** General guiding principles, Reconciliation principles, and cooperation principles
- **Goal 1:** Advance Reconciliation

- **Goal 2:** Preserve and protect Indigenous cultural heritage and culturally significant areas, sites, and species
- **Goal 3:** Preserve and protect healthy and biodiverse ecosystems
- **Goal 4:** Foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities
- **Goal 5:** Foster sustainable stewardship of lands and waters

Under each goal you will find **Directive and Advisory policies**.

Directive policies are policies that Islands Trust Council expects local trust committees and island municipalities to implement through local bylaws. Official community plan and land use bylaws will be reviewed by Executive Committee or Trust Council for consistency with these directive policies.

Advisory policies are policies that Islands Trust Council would like local trust committees and island municipalities to consider in their local bylaws, but implementation is not required.

Guiding Principles

The object of the Islands Trust is 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 British Columbia in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.”

The draft Policy Statement proposes that this work is to be carried out in accordance with a series of General Guiding, Reconciliation, and Cooperation Principles. Each set of draft principles will be reviewed next.

General Guiding Principles

In its efforts to carry out the Islands Trust Object, Islands Trust Council commits to a set of shared principles to guide daily planning and decision-making by all bodies across the Islands Trust Area.

Please review the draft General Guiding Principles in the table below:

Trust Council's Guiding Principles

2.1.1	Acknowledge and Respect Indigenous Rights To grow understanding of the history and legacy of colonialism in the Islands Trust Area, to acknowledge and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to work together with Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders to preserve and protect culturally significant areas, sites, and species.
2.1.2	Prioritize Environmental and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Protection To place priority on preserving, protecting and restoring the environment, and preserving, protecting, and supporting restoration of Indigenous cultural heritage in all decision making.
2.1.3	Limit the Rate and Scale of Development To define and maintain appropriate limits for the rate and scale of development in order to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
2.1.4	Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities To support planning and land use management decisions that foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities, acknowledging the interdependencies between healthy communities and healthy ecosystems.
2.1.5	Take Guidance from the Precautionary Principle To be guided by the precautionary principle in all decision making to safeguard the environment and cultural heritage where there is uncertainty over the potential for serious or irreversible damage from development.
2.1.6	Account for Cumulative Effects To strive to account for the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development to avoid detrimental effects on watersheds, groundwater supplies, culturally sensitive areas and cultural heritage sites, and species and their habitats.
2.1.7	Foster Informed and Balanced Decision Making To be informed by a broad range of sources in its decision-making processes, including Indigenous Knowledge, institutional knowledge, local community knowledge, and science.

Q1. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* The General Guiding Principles will be effective in helping Islands Trust Council make decisions that support the Islands Trust Object.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Reconciliation Principles

Islands Trust has declared a commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, recognizing that this is a long-term commitment built on respect, learning, and meaningful relationships.

Please review the draft Reconciliation Principles in the table below*:

Trust Council's Reconciliation Principles	
2.2.1	Guidance from Truth and Reconciliation Commission Be informed by the 10 principles established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).
2.2.2	Guidance from United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Be informed by the articles established in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
2.2.3	Guidance from Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice Be informed by the Principles for Change used by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
2.2.4	Guidance from Indigenous Governing Bodies Be informed by guidance from Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders.

*If interested, the following webpages are referenced in this table: [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice](#).

Q2. (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Reconciliation Principles will be effective in helping Islands Trust Council make decisions that support the commitments in its [Reconciliation Declaration](#).

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Cooperation Principles

While Islands Trust must provide the necessary leadership to carry out the Islands Trust Object, its mandate requires cooperation with partners who each have unique roles to play in preserving and protecting the region.

Please review the draft Cooperation Principles below:

Trust Council's Cooperation Principles	
2.3.1	Collaborate with the Islands Trust Conservancy Board To collaborate closely with, and be informed by, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, particularly in the areas of science-based conservation planning, ecosystem mapping, identification of core conservation areas and protected area networks, and protection of species and ecosystems at risk.
2.3.2	Collaborate with Island Municipalities To collaborate with island municipalities, particularly in the areas of conservation planning, communications and engagement, the Policy Statement, and other areas supporting the Islands Trust Object.
2.3.3	Work Towards Collaborative Governance with Indigenous Governing Bodies Develop strong relationships with Indigenous Governing Bodies and work toward building foundations for collaborative governance with Indigenous Governing Bodies, including through the development of shared decision-making agreements under the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> .
2.3.4	Work Towards Strategic Inter-Agency Coordination To work towards establishing effective inter-agency coordination mechanisms with different levels of government, academic institutions and organizations who have important roles to play in supporting the Islands Trust Object.
2.3.5	Work Towards Accessible and Inclusive Public Communications and Engagement To work towards accessible and inclusive public communications and engagement strategies that engage a wide range of residents, communities, local organizations, and British Columbians.
2.3.6	Provide Public Education Opportunities To provide education opportunities to residents, communities, local organizations, and visitors, highlighting tangible ways they can contribute to preserving and protecting the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, while respecting the confidentiality interests of Indigenous Knowledge Holders and Indigenous Governing Bodies.

Q3. (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) The Cooperation Principles will be effective in helping Islands Trust Council make decisions that support the Islands Trust Object.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Other Comments

Q4. Is anything missing from the series of Guiding Principles above that you think would help Islands Trust better meet the Islands Trust Object, or is there anything else you would like to share about the Guiding Principles?

Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation

Islands Trust Council is committed to Reconciliation and to relationship-building with Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Peoples across the region.

The policies in this section aim to acknowledge the history, legacy and continuing relationships of Indigenous Peoples to the area since time immemorial, to recognize and respect the interests of Indigenous Governing Bodies regarding planning and land use management decisions that impact their territories, and to build foundations for collaborative governance and shared decision-making.

Please review the draft policies below:

Directive Policies – Reconciliation

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

3.1.1	Engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies Engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies and provide a record of the engagement at time of bylaw submission.
--------------	---

Advisory Policies – Reconciliation

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.1.2	Engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies Engage with Indigenous Governing Bodies on discretionary planning and land use management decisions.
3.1.3	Land Back Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, support opportunities to direct land to Indigenous Governing Bodies, including, but not limited to, as amenity contributions in applications seeking additional development potential.
3.1.4	Information Sharing Support and develop methods for regular and timely sharing of information with Indigenous Governing Bodies.
3.1.5	Respect Indigenous Protocols for Information and Data Provided Respect Indigenous Governing Bodies' and Indigenous Knowledge Holders' protocols about how their data and information should be collected, protected, used and shared.

Q5. (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation*.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Other Comments

Q6. Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 1: Advance Reconciliation*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies?

Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Significant Areas, Sites, and Species

Islands Trust Council recognizes Indigenous cultural heritage as a unique amenity in the Islands Trust Area that must be preserved, protected and, where possible, restored.

The Islands Trust Area is home to many culturally significant areas, sites, and species of importance to present and future generations of Indigenous Peoples.

This section of the draft Policy Statement lays out general types of Indigenous cultural heritage and culturally significant areas, sites, and species that should be identified and protected in each local planning area; this should be guided by Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and Indigenous Knowledge Holders and undertaken in a culturally sensitive manner that respects confidentiality protocols around the sharing of Indigenous Knowledge.

Please review the draft policies below:

Directive Policies – Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Culturally Significant Areas, Sites and Species	
Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...	
3.2.1	<p>Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites</p> <p>Minimize potential adverse impacts to Indigenous cultural heritage sites including, but not limited to, identified village sites, burial sites, camp sites, middens, cairns, petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, fish traps, clam gardens, pictographs, and registered, unregistered, or newly-discovered archaeological sites.</p>
3.2.2	<p>Indigenous Marine Harvesting Areas</p> <p>Minimize potential adverse impacts to marine harvesting areas used by Indigenous Peoples, including, but not limited to, fish weirs and clam gardens.</p>
3.2.3	<p>Indigenous Harvesting and Hunting Areas</p> <p>Minimize potential adverse impacts to land-based harvesting and hunting areas used by Indigenous Peoples.</p>

Advisory Policies – Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Culturally Significant Areas, Sites and Species

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.2.4	<p>Indigenous Cultural Heritage Sites</p> <p>Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and prioritize protection of Indigenous cultural heritage sites including, but not limited to, village sites, burial sites, camp sites, middens, cairns, petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, fish traps, clam gardens, and pictographs, and registered, unregistered, or newly discovered archaeological sites.</p>
3.2.5	<p>Indigenous Harvesting Areas</p> <p>Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and prioritize protection of Indigenous harvesting areas on land and marine foreshores including, but not limited to, fish weirs, clam gardens, camas meadows, and other areas used for Indigenous hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering of plants and medicines.</p>
3.2.6	<p>Indigenous Harvesting and Hunting Area Access</p> <p>Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and pursue opportunities to improve access by Indigenous Peoples to marine and land-based harvesting and hunting areas.</p>
3.2.7	<p>Other Culturally Significant Areas for Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify and prioritize protection of areas of importance for Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices.</p>
3.2.8	<p>Culturally Significant Species and Medicinal Plants</p> <p>Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, identify, prioritize protection, and support restoration of culturally significant species and medicinal plants and ochre.</p>
3.2.9	<p>Cultural Monitors</p> <p>Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, support opportunities for cultural monitors to be present for ground-disturbing activities.</p>

Q7. (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Species*.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Other Comments

Q8. Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage & Significant Areas, Sites, and Species*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies?

Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems

Islands Trust Council acknowledges that preserving and protecting the ecological integrity of the Islands Trust Area is essential to the Islands Trust Object and to supporting community well-being across the region.

The policies in this section aim to identify and protect key ecosystem types and characteristics that safeguard biodiversity and promote resilience to climate change.

Please review the draft policies below:

Directive Policies – Ecosystem Integrity	
Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...	
3.3.1	Protected Area Networks Identify, establish, and sustain a network of protected areas of sufficient size and distribution to preserve the environmental integrity of ecosystems in their planning area.
3.3.2	Sensitive Ecosystems Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of sensitive ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area, classified as the following ecosystem types: cliff; freshwater; herbaceous; old and mature forest; riparian; wetland; and woodland.
3.3.3	Forest Ecosystems Identify forest ecosystems and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of unfragmented forests, with a particular focus on the maintenance and restoration of their ecological integrity.
3.3.4	Coastal Oak and Prairie Ecosystems Identify and prioritize the preservation and protection of coastal oak and prairie ecosystems, with a particular focus on the maintenance, restoration and management of their ecological integrity.
3.3.5	Watershed Ecosystems Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of watershed ecosystems, freshwater sources, and groundwater recharge areas.
3.3.6	Marine Shorelines and Nearshore Areas Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, forage fish spawning areas, clam beds, estuaries, tidal salt marshes, mud flats, and coastal wetlands.
3.3.7	Critical Habitat for Species at Risk Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of critical habitat for species at risk.
3.3.8	Islets and Small Islands Identify and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of islets and small islands.
3.3.9	Light Pollution Minimize light pollution through the application of dark sky principles.

Advisory Policies – Ecosystem Integrity

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.3.10	Indigenous Ecosystem Management Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, support opportunities for Indigenous-led ecosystem management.
3.3.11	Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas Support Indigenous Governing Bodies in the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

Q9. (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems*.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Other Comments

Q10. Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies?

Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities

Islands Trust Council recognizes that the Islands Trust Object is for the benefit of residents of the Islands Trust Area and all British Columbians, who in turn, have a role in preserving and protecting this region.

The policies in this section support the preservation and protection of unique island character and aim to foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient island communities.

Please review the following draft policies relating to:

- Managing growth and development
- Housing
- Transportation
- Waste, emissions and pollutants
- Recreation

Managing Growth and Development Policies

Directive Policies – Managing Growth and Development

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

3.4.1	Sustainable Development Consider site capabilities, environmental and protected areas, and existing development patterns when determining the land use designation and appropriate locations and intensities of various uses of the land.
3.4.2	Growth Management Manage community growth and its associated impacts by directing residential, commercial and industrial development into suitable locations, to prevent sprawl, minimize fragmentation of forest lands, and avoid adverse impacts to Indigenous cultural heritage, harvesting and hunting areas.
3.4.3	Impacts of Development Consider the aesthetic, environmental, and social impacts of development.
3.4.4	Community Facilities and Services Ensure that each community's, and local Indigenous communities', current and projected long-term needs for educational, institutional, community, health, cultural, recreational facilities and services, and outdoor recreation are considered and planned for.
3.4.5	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Implement planning and land use management strategies, and consider nature-based solutions, to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to climate change-related vulnerabilities.
3.4.6	Hazardous Areas Identify areas at elevated risk of natural and climate change-related hazards and restrict development within these areas including, but not limited to, areas subject to flooding, sea-level rise, erosion, slope instability and wildfire.
3.4.7	Economic Activities Support sustainable economic activities that are compatible with the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities, environment, community well-being, and that consider transportation and infrastructure capacity.
3.4.8	Community Heritage Sites Identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of community heritage sites.

Advisory Policies – Managing Growth and Development

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.4.9	Existing Development Potential Identify land where current zoning or other land use regulations allow development that could be inconsistent with the object of the trust, and consider policy and/or regulatory options to reduce development potential or minimize the impacts of future development.
3.4.10	Economic Development Opportunities for Indigenous Communities Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, support economic development opportunities for Indigenous communities.

Q11a. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities.*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Housing Policies

Directive Policies – Housing

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

3.4.11	<p>Suitable Locations for Additional Housing Identify suitable locations that could support increased density for the development of safe, secure, diverse, and attainable housing.</p>
3.4.12	<p>Housing Diversity Support a range of housing types and tenures to help meet the identified housing needs of the island community and local Indigenous communities.</p>
3.4.13	<p>Clustered Small Dwelling Units Support alternatives to conventional single-detached dwellings by establishing policies to permit clusters of small dwelling units in suitable areas.</p>
3.4.14	<p>Floor Area and Lot Coverage Limits Set floor area and lot coverage limits for residential development to minimize negative environmental impacts, including on land used for agricultural purposes.</p>
3.4.15	<p>Affordable and Special Needs Housing Prioritize the processing of rezoning applications from non-profit housing providers and public agencies, and the processing of housing agreement bylaws for affordable and special needs housing.</p>
3.4.16	<p>Short-Term Rentals Identify and assess the impacts of short-term rental of dwellings on the availability of safe, secure and affordable housing and, where necessary, regulate and limit the number of short-term rentals accordingly.</p>

Advisory Policies – Housing

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.4.17	<p>Housing for Indigenous People Through engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies, support housing opportunities for Indigenous people in the Islands Trust Area.</p>
3.4.18	<p>Multi-Unit Residential Implement land use regulations for affordable and special needs housing and other multi-unit residential development that permit a range of potential site configurations, and control form and character through development permit areas.</p>
3.4.19	<p>Natural Building Materials and Techniques Encourage construction of buildings and structures using local natural building materials and techniques, and minimize barriers to their use.</p>

Q11b. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities.*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Transportation Policies

Directive Policies – Transportation

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

3.4.20	<p>Public and Active Transportation Networks</p> <p>Identify and establish appropriately-situated, safe, comfortable, and equitable transportation networks that reduce dependency on private automobile use, encourage zero emission modes of transportation, and support increased use of trail systems, public transportation, and active transportation.</p>
3.4.21	<p>Rural Roadways</p> <p>Identify and protect rural roadways, including scenic and/or heritage roads.</p>

Advisory Policies – Transportation

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.4.22	<p>Road Systems</p> <p>Ensure that road location, design, construction, and road systems are compatible with the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.</p>
3.4.23	<p>Transportation Network Vulnerabilities</p> <p>Cooperate with relevant agencies to identify parts of the local transportation network at risk of damage or deterioration and participate in planning to address mitigation or infrastructure relocation where necessary.</p>

Q11c. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities.*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Waste, Emissions and Pollutants Policies

Directive Policies – Waste, Emissions and Pollutants	
Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...	
3.4.24	<p>Pollutants to Air, Land and Water Regulate land use and development to reduce detrimental pollutants to air, land and water.</p>
3.4.25	<p>Disposal of Waste Where required, identify appropriate locations for waste transfer stations for the removal of waste from the Islands Trust Area.</p>
3.4.26	<p>Wastewater Disposal Systems Establish requirements for the location and siting of new wastewater disposal systems to mitigate adverse impacts on the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, with a focus on Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage sites and marine harvesting areas.</p>

Q11d. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities.*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Recreation Policies

Directive Policies – Recreation	
Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...	
3.4.27	Preservation of Natural Heritage Identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of natural heritage sites.
3.4.28	Location and Types of Recreational Facilities Identify appropriate locations for, types of, and access to, facilities for low-impact and active recreational activities, and discourage activities that may adversely impact the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
3.4.29	Access to Community Marinas, Boat Launches, and Docks Identify and support safe public access and routes to community marinas, boat launches, and docks.
3.4.30	Access to Anchorages Identify appropriate and safe small-craft anchorage public-access locations.
3.4.31	Trail Systems Identify appropriate locations for, types of, and safe public access to public pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trail systems to support active recreation that is compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
3.4.32	Public Shoreline Access Identify new, protect existing, and support the acquisition and protection of, safe public access to marine shorelines and along marine shorelines that are appropriate for low-impact, public recreational use and do not adversely impact the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, including Indigenous Peoples' identified cultural heritage sites and marine harvesting areas.
3.4.33	Public Access to Public/Crown Land Identify and support the acquisition and protection of public access and routes to publicly-owned lands.
3.4.34	Destination Gaming Facilities Prohibit destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls.

Q11e. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities*.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Other Comments

Q12. Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 4: Foster Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies?

Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters

Islands Trust Council recognizes that sustainable use of lands and waters in the Islands Trust Area is important to the long-term well-being and resilience of ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area and the communities that depend on them.

This section lays out policies for sustainable land and water use that support the long-term health of ecosystems and sustainability of freshwater.

Please review the following draft policies relating to:

- Freshwater
- Forest Lands
- Agricultural Lands
- Soil and Fill
- Marine Shorelands

Freshwater Policies

Directive Policies – Freshwater	
Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...	
3.5.1	Freshwater Sustainability Ensure that neither the density, nor intensity, of land use is increased in watersheds where the quality or quantity of the supply of freshwater is likely to be inadequate or unsustainable.
3.5.2	Freshwater Demand and Supply Projections Ensure that existing, anticipated, and seasonal water demand and water availability are considered.
3.5.3	Freshwater Self-Sufficiency Ensure that islands are self-sufficient in their supply of freshwater.
3.5.4	Saltwater Intrusion Identify areas at elevated risk of saltwater intrusion and restrict development serviced by groundwater within these areas.

Advisory Policies – Freshwater

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3-5.5	Freshwater Quality Ensure that freshwater quality is maintained or remediated.
3-5.6	Freshwater Uses Strive to ensure that water quality in lakes, streams and wetlands is maintained, and that freshwater use is not to the detriment of other uses of the waterway such as fish and amphibian habitat uses, Indigenous cultural and spiritual uses, and aesthetic and recreational uses.
3-5.7	Freshwater Storage Encourage freshwater storage in groundwater regions where the quality or quantity of groundwater is likely to be inadequate or unsustainable.

Q13a. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters.*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Forest Lands Policies

Directive Policies – Forest Lands

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

3-5.8	Forest Lands for Sustainable Management Maintain large land holdings and parcel sizes to support sustainable forest management practices that are compatible with preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.
3-5.9	Forest Lands and Road Systems Consider siting of roads and utility corridors to minimize the fragmentation of forest lands.
3-5.10	Forest Lands and Wildfire Risk Management Identify planning and land use management strategies that mitigate wildfire risk and that are appropriate to the unique biogeoclimatic zones and settlement patterns of each local planning area.

Q13b. (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Agricultural Lands Policies

Directive Policies – Agricultural Lands

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

3.5.11	Protection of Agricultural Lands Identify and protect agricultural lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve for current and future use consistent with the <i>Agricultural Land Commission Act</i> and its regulations, while considering down-stream impacts, wildlife habitat, and adjacent properties.
3.5.12	Agriculture and Adjacent Properties Minimize any adverse impacts of land uses from properties adjacent to agricultural lands.
3.5.13	Agriculture and Road Systems Consider siting of roads and utility corridors to minimize fragmentation of agricultural lands.
3.5.14	Economic Viability of Farms Consider land uses and activities that support the economic viability of farms without compromising the agricultural capability of agricultural land or adversely impacting the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

Advisory Policies – Agricultural Lands

Local trust committees and island municipalities should...

3.5.15	Sustainable Agriculture Preserve, protect, and encourage sustainable farming and the sustainability of farming.
3.5.16	Food Security and Food Sovereignty Support initiatives that advance food security and Indigenous food sovereignty.

Q13c. (Please rate your agreement with the following statement) These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Soil and Fill Policies

Directive Policies – Soil and Fill

Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...

3.5.17 Soil Removal and Deposit

Foster the preservation, protection, and restoration of soils in the Islands Trust Area.

3.5.18 Soil and Fill from Middens and Foreshore Areas of Cultural Significance

Prohibit alteration, removal or excavation of soil or fill from all identified archaeological sites, including middens or foreshore areas identified as culturally significant areas.

Q13d. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters.*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Marine Shorelands Policies

Directive Policies – Marine Shorelands	
Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in all official community plan bylaws, and other bylaws that require Executive Committee or Trust Council review or approval...	
3.5.19	<p>Aquaculture Tenures</p> <p>Direct commercial aquaculture tenures to appropriate locations that will not adversely impact areas identified as culturally significant by Indigenous Governing Bodies, that provide critical habitat for species at risk, are of recreational significance or established or designated upland land uses, anchorages or moorages.</p>
3.5.20	<p>Setbacks from the Sea</p> <p>Incorporate current and anticipated impacts of sea level rise and storm surge, and determine appropriate shoreline buffers and setbacks from the sea, taking into account best practices recommended by the federal and provincial governments.</p>
3.5.21	<p>Soft Shoreline Protections</p> <p>Prioritize and foster soft shoreline approaches, such as those identified by the “Green Shores” program, to set requirements for shoreline preservation, and to mitigate erosion of shoreline and foreshore cultural heritage sites.</p>
3.5.22	<p>Vessel Moorage</p> <p>Prohibit the moorage of vessels in sensitive marine areas, including, but not limited to, eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, forage fish spawning areas, estuaries and mud flats.</p>
3.5.23	<p>Marinas</p> <p>Identify requirements for the location, size, and nature of marinas that are compatible with the preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.</p>
3.5.24	<p>Sharing of Coastal Facilities</p> <p>Identify opportunities for the sharing of coastal facilities such as docks, wharves, floats, jetties, boat houses, board walks, and causeways.</p>
3.5.25	<p>Marine Docks</p> <p>Consider the cumulative effects of docks, and limit or prohibit new docks in areas identified as culturally significant by Indigenous Governing Bodies, in areas that provide critical habitat for species at risk, and in areas of recreational significance.</p>
3.5.26	<p>Marine Structures</p> <p>Limit or prohibit the construction or installation of breakwaters, groynes, rock weirs and jetties in marine areas that are not zoned for group wharfage, marine commercial or industrial use, or ferry terminals.</p>

Q13e. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* These policies will be effective in helping Islands Trust achieve *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters*.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Other Comments

Q14. Is anything missing from the policies in this section that you think will help Islands Trust better achieve *Goal 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters*, or is there anything else you would like to share about these policies?

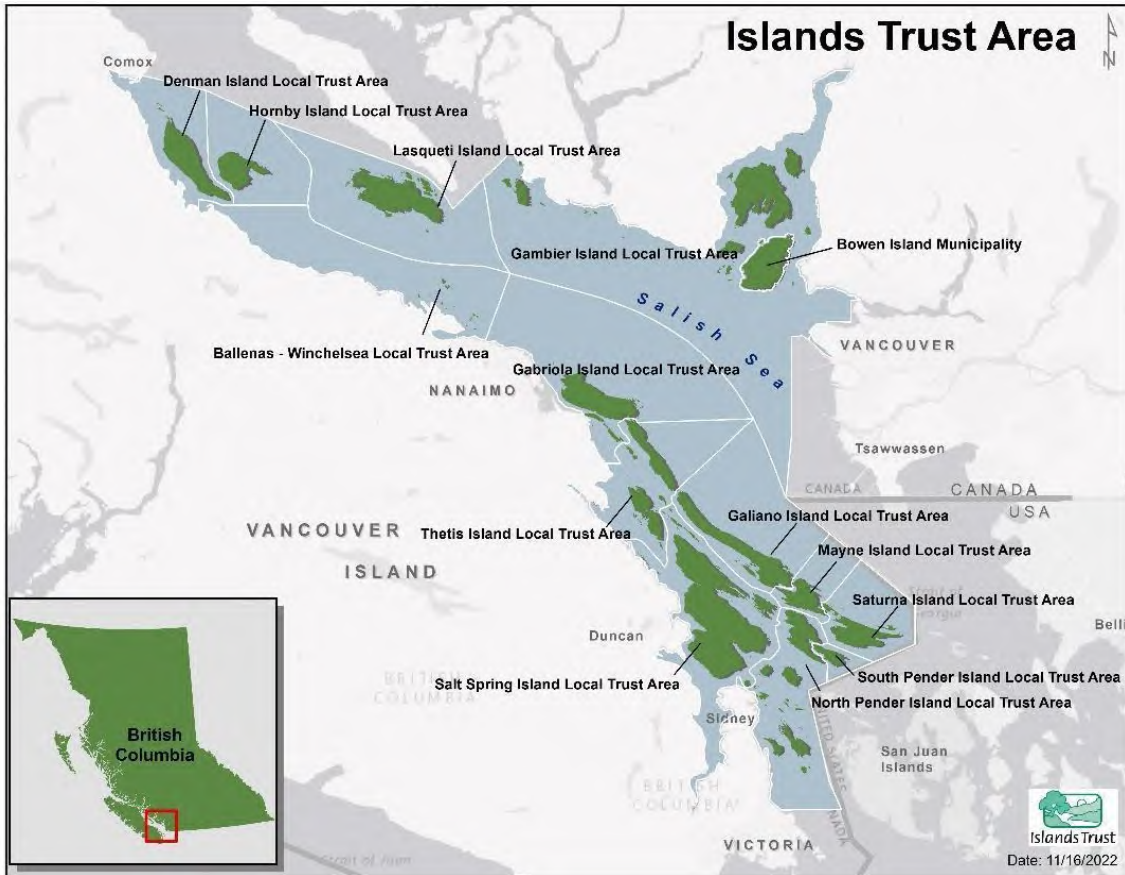
Overall Effectiveness of the Draft Policy Statement

Q15. *(Please rate your agreement with the following statement)* The draft Islands Trust Policy Statement will be effective in helping Islands Trust advance the Islands Trust Object 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 British Columbia in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations, and the government of British Columbia?”

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q16. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the draft Policy Statement?

About You



Q17. The Islands Trust Area is made up of 13 local trust areas (LTA) and Bowen Island Municipality. Which one do you feel most connected with? (Check all that apply)

- Ballenas-Winchelsea Island LTA
- Bowen Island Municipality
- Denman Island LTA
- Gabriola Island LTA
- Galiano Island LTA
- Gambier Island LTA
- Hornby Island LTA
- Lasqueti Island LTA
- Mayne Island LTA
- North Pender Island LTA
- Salt Spring Island LTA
- Saturna Island LTA
- South Pender Island LTA
- Thetis Island LTA
- The entire Islands Trust Area
- I have no connection to the Islands Trust Area
- I am not from elsewhere in British Columbia
- Prefer not to say

Q18. The Islands Trust Area occupies almost 5,200 square kilometers within the Salish Sea.

How are you connected to the area? (*Check all that apply*)

- I am a part-time resident (i.e., less than 6 months per year)
- I am a full-time resident (i.e., more than 6 months per year)
- I am a visitor
- I live adjacent to the region (e.g., on Vancouver Island or mainland BC)
- I am a non-resident property owner
- I am an Indigenous person with relationships to the Islands Trust Area
- Other (please specify):

When you are ready, click the 'forward' arrow below to submit your responses. **Once submitted, you will no longer be able to edit your responses.**

Appendix B: Additional descriptive statistics for survey's closed-ended Likert scale questions

Note: For the survey's closed-ended Likert scale questions, the following guidelines should be considered when interpreting the included descriptive statistics:

Statistic	Definition	Interpretation
Mean	Average response indicates the average score on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).	Higher values (closer to 5) indicate more agreement or support, while lower values (closer to 1) indicate more disagreement or opposition.
Median	Middle response; indicates the middle value when all responses are ordered from lowest (1) to highest (5).	Shows the typical response. If the median is 4 or 5, most respondents generally agreed; if it is 1 or 2, most generally disagreed.
Standard deviation	Variation; shows how spread out responses are.	Lower values (e.g., below 1.0) indicate that respondents had similar views, while higher values indicate a wider range of opinions.
95% confidence interval (CI)	A range of values that likely includes the true population mean. If the same survey were repeated many times using the same method, about 95% of the calculated intervals would contain the true value.	Narrower intervals indicate more precise results, while wider intervals indicate greater uncertainty.
Sentiment	$(\text{Strongly agree} + \text{Agree} = \text{Agreement}) / (\text{Strongly disagree} + \text{Disagree} = \text{Disagreement})$	Sentiment shows whether overall opinion leans toward agreement or disagreement, based on the difference between those who agree and those who disagree.

Qu	n	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Net agreement	95% CI	Sentiment*
Q1	1844	2.77	3.0	1.43	-9.4%	2.70–2.83	39.3% agreement / 48.6% disagreement
Q2	1846	2.64	2.0	1.48	-16.2%	2.57–2.71	34.6% agreement / 50.8% disagreement
Q3	1834	3.06	3.0	1.37	+11.5%	2.99–3.12	47.9% agreement / 36.4% disagreement
Q5	1773	2.47	2.0	1.39	-26.5%	2.41–2.54	28.7% agreement / 55.1% disagreement
Q7	1731	2.59	2.0	1.42	-20.1%	2.52–2.65	31.7% agreement / 51.8% disagreement
Q9	1703	3.11	3.0	1.44	+11.0%	3.04–3.18	48.9% agreement / 37.9% disagreement
Q11a	1640	3.07	3.0	1.38	+12.3%	3.00–3.13	48.2% agreement / 35.9% disagreement
Q11b	1644	2.87	3.0	1.4	-1.2%	2.80–2.93	41.5% agreement / 42.7% disagreement
Q11c	1639	3.34	4.0	1.32	+32.4%	3.28–3.41	58.1% agreement / 25.7% disagreement
Q11d	1645	3.49	4.0	1.31	+40.7%	3.43–3.55	63.6% agreement / 22.9% disagreement
Q11e	1660	3.47	4.0	1.36	+38.7%	3.41–3.54	63.7% agreement / 25.1% disagreement
Q13a	1617	3.63	4.0	1.32	+47.6%	3.56–3.69	68.0% agreement / 20.5% disagreement
Q13b	1605	3.61	4.0	1.28	+47.4%	3.55–3.68	67.2% agreement / 19.8% disagreement
Q13c	1605	3.58	4.0	1.29	+45.3%	3.52–3.65	65.0% agreement / 19.8% disagreement
Q13d	1607	3.23	4.0	1.34	+21.4%	3.16–3.29	50.5% agreement / 29.1% disagreement
Q13e	1609	2.89	3.0	1.43	-1.4%	2.82–2.96	42.1% agreement / 43.6% disagreement
Q15	1616	2.59	2.0	1.34	-19.4%	2.52–2.65	31.7% agreement / 51.2% disagreement

*Reported sentiment values may differ slightly from those presented in the main body of this report. Results in this appendix are calculated using underlying data, while percentages in the main body reflect the values shown in each question's figure, which are rounded to the nearest tenth of a decimal place.



Islands Trust Policy Statement Public Engagement Phase 4 Communications & Engagement Materials

Phase 4 engagement focused on informing residents about the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement and providing opportunities for meaningful participation. A mix of digital, print, and in-person approaches was used to provide accessible options for community members across the Islands Trust Area.

Engagement at a Glance

Print media	13 publications (print & online)
Household Mailer	16,491
Media technical briefing	21 journalists invited
Survey responses	1,889 (17 by mail)
Social media posts	69 posts, 19,878 views
Educational video	43 views
Islands 2050, FAQ, Policy Statement webpage views	7,305 webpage views
Virtual Town Hall registrants	165 registrants, 154 video views of the recording
Subscriber notices and news releases	5,850 subscribers and 90 media contacts received two news releases and nine subscriber notices
On-island posters	On 12 islands in the Islands Trust Area
Correspondence	186 pieces of correspondence

Print Media

Description: A total of 23 print and online ads were placed in 13 local publications across the Islands Trust Area, including Active Page, Bowen Island Undercurrent, Coast Reporter, Gabriola Sounder, Gulf Islands Driftwood, Hornby Tribune, Xwe'etay News, Mayneliner, Pender Post, Salt Spring Exchange, Saturna Scribbler, The Flagstone, and Thetis Island Quarterly.

Purpose: Awareness - introduce the project, raise awareness and promote opportunities for engagement and providing feedback.



islands 2050
THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST AREA

We want to hear from you!

The draft Islands Trust Policy Statement has been developed to help island communities adapt to current and future challenges and opportunities, and to reflect Islands Trust's commitments to Reconciliation, climate change, and diverse housing needs.

Your input on the draft Policy Statement matters!

Provide input:
Complete the survey | Email: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca | Call: 250-405-5151 | Attend the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee meeting on October 9, 2025.

Learn more:
Register to attend the virtual Town Hall on September 10, 2025
Read the draft Policy Statement
Learn more by scanning the QR code or visit: islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050



islands Trust Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea



islands 2050
THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST AREA

We want to hear from you!

The draft Islands Trust Policy Statement has been developed to help island communities adapt to current and future challenges and opportunities, and to reflect Islands Trust's commitments to Reconciliation, climate change, and diverse housing options.

Your input on the draft Policy Statement matters!

Provide input:
Complete the survey | Email: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca | Call: 250-405-5151
Attend a Hornby Island Local Trust Committee meeting on November 14, 2025

Learn more:
Register to attend the virtual Town Hall on September 10, 2025
Read the draft Policy Statement
Scan the QR code
Visit: islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050



islands Trust Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea



islands 2050
THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST AREA

We want to hear from you!

The draft Islands Trust Policy Statement has been developed to help island communities adapt to current and future challenges and opportunities, and to reflect Islands Trust's commitments to Reconciliation, climate change, and diverse housing options.

Your input on the draft Policy Statement matters!

Provide input:
Complete the survey | Call: 250-405-5151 | Email: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca | Attend the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee meeting on October 6, 2025

Learn more:
Register to attend the virtual Town Hall on September 10, 2025 | Read the draft Policy Statement
Scan the QR code or visit: islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050



islands Trust Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Household Mailer

Description: Educational brochures were sent to households across the Islands Trust Area.

Reach: 16,491 addresses

Purpose: Awareness - introduce the project, provide information, and promote opportunities for engagement and providing feedback.



What is Islands Trust?

Islands Trust is a special purpose government responsible for planning and land use management decisions on the Islands Trust Area, which is comprised of 73 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands and the surrounding waters in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound.

Islands Trust was created in 1974 through the Islands Trust Act with a legislated mandate to:

the subject of the trust is 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 British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, government agencies, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.



What is the Policy Statement?

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is a document required by provincial legislation that sets out the Islands Trust Council's strategic and policy framework for planning and land use management within the lands and waters of the Islands Trust Area.

It guides the development of the official community plans and land use bylaws of local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality, and the development of Trust Council's Strategic Plan.

It is the guiding document that Trust Council uses to carry out the preserve and protect mandate for this special part of British Columbia.

Why is the Policy Statement being updated?

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is being updated for the first time in more than three decades so that Islands Trust can better manage today's challenges and opportunities. The draft Policy Statement puts a needed focus on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, the housing needs of current and future residents, and responding to climate change. The draft Policy Statement reaffirms the Islands Trust's existing mandate to preserve and protect this unique region.

How was the draft Policy Statement developed?

In 2018, Islands Trust launched the Policy Statement Amendment Process - Islands 2050 - to update the Policy Statement. The draft Policy Statement was developed through public engagement, and input from Indigenous Governing Bodies and government agencies. The resulting document reflects a broad range of perspectives and is now ready for your feedback.

Where can I learn more about the draft Policy Statement?

Read more online at: <https://www.islandstrust.ca/engagement/islands-2050/>

How will the draft Policy Statement impact me?

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is a document required by provincial legislation. It does not change how land in the Islands Trust Area may be used under existing regulations. The Policy Statement confirms policies that draft trust committees and Island municipalities will use to guide decisions about future policy and regulatory change at the local level, and that Islands 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 official community plans and land use bylaws into alignment with the goals of the Policy Statement.

Does the draft Policy Statement enable the Islands Trust to preserve and protect the natural environment?

While the draft Policy Statement includes policies meant to help address community challenges related to housing, it retains its focus on protecting the ecosystems of the Islands Trust Area.

How will the draft Policy Statement help with housing challenges on the islands?

The draft Policy Statement offers support for Islands to move beyond the large single-detached housing that characterizes most of the current housing stock towards a range of housing types that better reflect today's affordability challenges and the diverse needs within Island communities.

How will the draft Policy Statement advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples?

In 2018, Islands Trust Council committed to a process through which the organization commits to "establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples". The draft Policy Statement addresses matters of importance to Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Peoples such as protection of Indigenous heritage and culturally significant areas, ecosystem protection, housing, and respects the organization's ongoing engagement.

How will the draft Policy Statement help address climate change on the islands?

The draft Policy Statement is full of policies that direct local trust committees and Island municipalities to protect the health of Island ecosystems, which is one of the best ways to reduce the impacts of climate change on Island communities.

However, we also know that climate change is already happening, and that raises risks for community members. In response to these risks, the draft encourages local trust committees and Island municipalities to identify and monitor development in areas that are more likely to experience flooding, sea level rise, erosion, or wildfires. It directs local trust committees and Island municipalities to ensure that waterbodies are protected and freshwater resources are maintained. The draft also supports planning for transportation networks that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

How will the draft Policy Statement be implemented?

The Policy Statement helps ensure that local planning decisions on each Island support the overall vision of Islands Trust. Section 10 of the Islands Trust Act requires the Islands Trust Executive Committee to assess whether proposed amendments to official community plans and land use bylaws are consistent with the Policy Statement. At the regional level, the Policy Statement guides Islands Trust Council in setting priorities.

What's next for the draft Policy Statement?

Islands Trust Council gave their reading to the draft Policy Statement on July 29, 2023. Phase 4 of public engagement on the Policy Statement has begun, and will run again until February 2024. During that time, Islands Trust will also be releasing the draft Policy Statement to Indigenous Governing Bodies, government agencies, and other organizations for their input. After that, Islands Trust Council will consider all feedback received to inform further amendments to the draft Policy Statement before advancing it further.

Steps In The Process



Goals and Policy Directions

The draft Policy Statement is organized around five goals. Overview policies are outlined within each goal area and can be viewed in the full draft Policy Statement.

- GOAL 1: Advance Reconciliation**
The policies to achieve this goal aim to acknowledge the history, legacy and continuing relevance of Indigenous Peoples to the area since time immemorial, to recognize and respect the interests of Indigenous Governing Bodies regarding planning and land use management decisions that impact their territories, and to build foundations for collaborative governance and shared decision making.
- GOAL 2: Preserve and Protect Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Culturally Significant Areas, Sites, and Spaces**
The policies to achieve this goal aim to set general types of Indigenous cultural heritage and culturally significant areas, sites, and spaces that should be identified and protected in each local planning area that should be guided by Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Knowledge Holders and undertaken in a culturally sensitive manner that respects protocols around the sharing of Indigenous Knowledge.
- GOAL 3: Preserve and Protect Healthy and Resilient Ecosystems**
The policies to achieve this goal aim to identify and protect key ecosystem types and characteristics that safeguard biodiversity and promote resilience to climate change.
- GOAL 4: Foster Sustainability, Inclusion, and Resident Communities**
The policies to achieve this goal support the preservation and protection of unique island character and aim to foster sustainability, inclusion, and resilient island communities.
- GOAL 5: Foster Sustainable Stewardship of Lands and Waters**
The policies to achieve this goal promote sustainable land and water use to sustain the long-term health of ecosystems and sustainability of livelihoods.

Media Technical Briefing – July 24, 2025

Reach: 21 journalists invited

Purpose: Awareness - The virtual session provided background on the Policy Statement Amendment Project, highlighted updates in the new draft, and offered an opportunity to ask questions.

Survey

Responses: 1,889 total (17 by mail)

Distribution: The survey was promoted through the Islands Trust website, social media, email subscriber notices, QR codes on posters on-island, and in the household mailer. The survey was available online and with 300 paper version of the survey with pre-paid envelopes available in Islands Trust offices on Gabriola Island, Salt Spring Island and Victoria, and at libraries across the Islands Trust Area from September 1, 2025:

- Bowen Island *Bowen Island Public Library*
- Denman Island *Dora Drinkwater Community library*
- Gabriola Island *Gabriola Island Library*
- Galiano Island *Galiano Island Community Library*
- Hornby Island *Hornby Island Library*
- Lasqueti Island *Lasqueti Community Association Community Hall; Lasqueti Post Office*
- Mayne Island *Mayne Island Community Library*
- Pender Island *Pender Island Public Library*
- Piers Island *Piers Island Library*
- Salt Spring Island *Salt Spring Island Public Library*
- Saturna Island *Saturna Island Library*
- Thetis Island *Forbes Hall Library*

Purpose: Participation and feedback - introduce the project, provide information, and promote opportunities for engagement and providing feedback.

Social Media

Description: 69 social media posts were shared on Islands Trust social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) between August 11, 2025 and January 30, 2026.

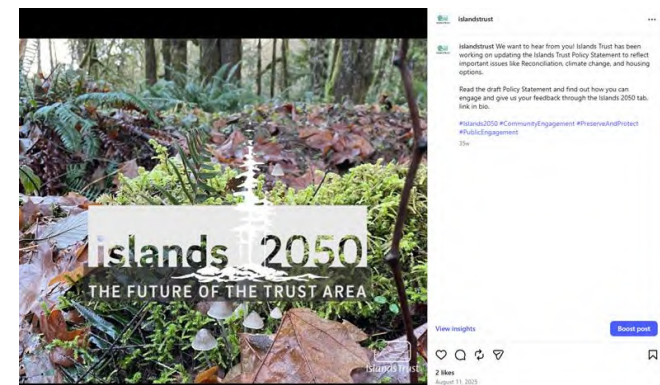
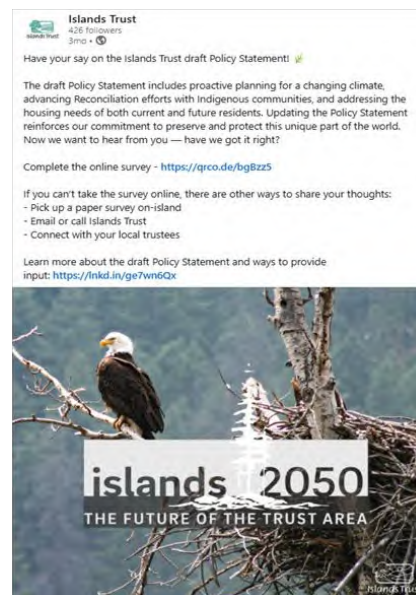
Reach: Reach was organic, no social media ads or boosting was included in this project. Facebook posts that were shared in community Facebook groups enjoyed a particularly wide reach.

Facebook: 16, 818 views, and 95 reactions, saves, shares, and/or comments

LinkedIn: 1,201 impressions, and 74 reactions, shares, and/or comments

Instagram: 1,859 views, and 35 reactions, saves, shares, and/or comments

Purpose: Awareness - introduce the project, provide information, and promote opportunities for engagement and providing feedback.



Educational Video

Content: Executive Committee members featured in a 1 minute, 52 second video, available on the Islands Trust website and hosted on the Islands Trust YouTube [channel](#), which answered the questions:

- 1) What is Islands Trust?
- 2) What is a policy statement?
- 3) Why does it need to be updated?
- 4) How does it affect residents in the Islands Trust Area?

Reach: 43 views as of April 7, 2026

Purpose: Awareness - introduce the project and raise awareness



Islands 2050 - the Islands Trust Policy Statement...

Islands Trust Website

Description: The Islands Trust webpage has one project webpage dedicated to the Islands 2050 project, one webpage for frequently asked questions about the Islands 2050 project and the Policy Statement, and one page dedicated to the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Reach: (July 29, 2025 – February 2, 2026)

- [Islands 2050 Project Webpage](#)
6, 201 webpage views, 3,598 webpage users
- [Islands 2050 Frequently Asked Questions Webpage](#)
374 webpage views, 254 active webpage users
- [Islands Trust Policy Statement Webpage](#)
730 webpage views, 434 active webpage users

Purpose: Awareness - introduce the project, provide information, and promote opportunities for engagement and providing feedback.

Virtual Town Hall

Description: The Islands Trust draft Policy Statement virtual Town Hall was hosted and facilitated by consultant group Be the Change. The public was invited to attend the evening event on September 10, 2025 to hear a presentation about the draft Policy Statement from staff, and participate in a question-and-answer period, moderated by the consultant. The public were encouraged to send it questions ahead of the virtual Town Hall, as well as ask questions during the question-and-answer session using the chat function.

Reach: 165 registrants, 154 views on the Islands Trust [YouTube channel](#), and 538 [event webpage](#) views

Purpose: Information and participation - introduce the project, raise awareness on how to provide feedback, and receive feedback.




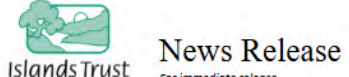


Subscriber Notices and News Releases

Description: From August 14, 2025 to February 9, 2026, Islands Trust had approximately 5,850 subscribers and 90 media contacts. During this period, two news releases and nine subscriber notices were distributed.

In addition, approximately 150 interested and affected parties—including community groups, societies, and associations within the Islands Trust Area—were contacted. Many of these groups help share Islands Trust information through their own networks.

Reach: 5,850 subscribers, and 90 media contacts received two news releases and nine subscriber notices

Purpose: Awareness - introduce the project, provide information, and promote opportunities for engagement and providing feedback.

Hello,

On July 29, 2025, Islands Trust Council gave first reading to the Islands Trust draft Policy Statement, beginning a six-month public engagement process that ended on February 2, 2026.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the in-person and online engagement opportunities, which encouraged broad participation and resulted in a diverse range of views and thoughtful ideas on the draft Policy Statement.

The public was invited to provide feedback through an online survey, with a paper version (including pre-paid postage) available at select on-island locations. Feedback was also received via email and letters to Islands Trust Council, a Trust-wide online webinar, and through delegation presentations and town hall comments at Trust Council meetings. Local trust committees received feedback through public comment at on-island and online community information meetings and town halls, through emails and letters to local trust committees, and through delegation presentations and town hall comments at local trust committee meetings.

Staff will provide Islands Trust Council with an engagement report at a future Islands Trust Council meeting to help inform consideration of next steps for the project.



While the formal public engagement period for this phase of the project has concluded, you can still provide feedback via email to islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca. This feedback will get posted to the 'Public Correspondence' folder on the [Islands 2050 webpage](#).

Referral of the draft Policy Statement bylaw to Indigenous Governing Bodies and government agencies coincided with public engagement and a report on responses to those referrals will be provided at a future Islands Trust Council meeting.

Learn more about the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement [here](#).

Home Page
 Contact Us
 Privacy Policy
 Manage Your Subscription
 Unsubscribe

Islands Trust
 200 1627 Fort Street
 Victoria British Columbia V8R 1H8
 Canada
<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/>

Islands Trust Council gives first reading to the draft Policy Statement

Laik "aajan, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – On July 29, 2025 Islands Trust Council gave first reading to the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement and is preparing to launch a six-month engagement period.

"It's important that the Islands Trust Policy Statement represents the values of island communities, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and the residents of British Columbia. Islands Trust Council is updating the Policy Statement to better address the challenges of our time such as the impacts of the changing climate and lack of housing options – while advancing Reconciliation. These are topics the existing Policy Statement is largely silent on," said Laura Patrick, Chair, Islands Trust Council. "This draft Policy Statement has been shaped by what we heard in previous rounds of engagement, and keeps the Islands Trust preserve and protect mandate at its core. Trust Council looks forward to receiving comments on these revisions over the next six months."

This draft of the Policy Statement reflects input from island communities, Indigenous Governing Bodies, local organizations, and partner agencies. It contains guiding, coordination and Reconciliation principles for Islands Trust Council, and provides policy direction and advice for local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality to use when updating official community plans and land use regulations. The draft Policy Statement has five main goals:

1. Advance Reconciliation
2. Preserve and protect indigenous cultural heritage and culturally significant areas, sites, and species
3. Preserve and protect healthy and biodiverse ecosystems
4. Foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities
5. Foster sustainable stewardship of lands and waters

Having given first reading of the bylaw, which signals it is ready for public comment, Trust Council is launching six months of public engagement. During this time, community members, Indigenous Governing Bodies, local organizations, and government partners are invited to provide feedback on the draft.

When the public engagement period begins, feedback may be provided in several ways, as outlined on the [Islands 2050 webpage](#).

On-Island Posters

Description: Posters displayed in public locations across 12 islands

Purpose: Awareness - introduce the project, provide information, and promote opportunities for engagement and providing feedback.



Correspondence

The islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca email address was dedicated to receiving feedback from residents. 186 pieces of correspondence were received via email between July 29, 2025 and February 2, 2026. To ensure equitable access and in line with accessibility requirements, the public were offered multiple options to provide feedback on the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement, including by phone. During the engagement period, less than 20 phone calls were received from members of the public.