



Islands Trust

General Information for Candidates

Islands Trust Local General Elections 2022

What is Islands Trust?

Encompassing the waters and islands of the Salish Sea between southern Vancouver Island and the mainland, the Trust Area of British Columbia has been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. The region features vibrant communities, spectacular beauty, extensive cultural sites, and some of the world's most precious and endangered ecosystems. The Islands Trust Area covers 5,200 square kilometres and is home to over 30,000 residents, 10,000 non-resident property owners, and is the homeland of over 28,000 Coast Salish People.

Islands Trust is a special purpose government mandated to preserve and protect over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea.

The Province of British Columbia created the Islands Trust in response to the high rate of development in the Gulf Islands and the need to protect the unique amenities and environment of the region.

Today, Islands Trust preserves and protects the islands in the context of many complex challenges, including climate change, lack of affordable housing, freshwater

limitations, hundreds of species at risk, and development and tourism pressures.

What Does Islands Trust Do?

Land-Use Planning

Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality create policies and regulations for land and marine areas that respect the Islands Trust preserve and protect mandate.

Regional Collaboration and Advocacy

Islands Trust Council advocates and cooperates on issues important to the entire region in a non-regulatory way to preserve and protect the Trust Area for future generations.

Land Conservation

[The Islands Trust Conservancy](#) works with people and communities to preserve and protect the unique ecosystems and culturally significant places in the Trust Area. Since 1990, over 110 places across the region have been protected.

Governance and Responsibility, Local Accountability, and Oversight

The Islands Trust Area is divided into local trust areas and an island municipality. Local trust committees oversee the development of official community plans and land use bylaws. Trustees elected from Bowen Island Municipality only participate in regional Trust Council and Islands Trust Conservancy decisions as land use decision making remains the responsibility of the municipality.

Islands Trust has approximately 60 full and part-time staff, with offices on Gabriola and Salt Spring Islands and in Victoria. Positions include land use planners, policy advisors, mapping technicians, freshwater and ecosystem specialists, communications specialists, support staff and other roles. Funding for operations comes from property taxes, provincial grants, and development application fees.

Regional Action

Islands Trust Council sets the annual budget and policy, advocates on issues important to the region, oversees public education programs and coordinates with other levels of government.

The [Islands Trust Conservancy](#) carries out a mission to protect special places in the Trust Area through conservation planning, land conservation, land management, and focussed community outreach.

The Role of a Trustee

Like other communities in British Columbia, island communities elect their local representatives for the Islands Trust every four years in accordance with Part 3 of the Local Government Act. Island communities elect trustees that: i) serve on a local trust committee and ii) serve on Trust Council.

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 generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia”

– *The Islands Trust Act*

Trustees have two primary responsibilities – local trust area decision making, and region-wide decision making.

1. As a Trustee for the Local Trust Area

Each **local trust committee** has land use jurisdiction over a major island, plus smaller islands and surrounding waters. Local trust committees are made up of two locally elected trustees and an appointed chair from the Executive Committee. British Columbia’s Local Government Act and *Islands Trust Act* guide land use decisions in the Islands Trust Area.

Local trustees’ responsibilities include:

- Making residential, commercial, and other land use decisions within their local trust area in accordance with applicable Provincial legislation
- Any amendments to official community plans and land use bylaws
- Local advocacy on behalf of their island
- Engagement with First Nations governments

Bowen Island Municipality is responsible for municipal functions, including land use. Two municipal trustees represent Bowen Island Municipal Council on the Islands Trust Council.

2. As a Trustee on Trust Council

The 24 local trustees and two municipal trustees form the Islands Trust Council, which makes decisions on behalf of the whole region to further the Object of the Islands Trust, including:

- Overall policy
- Staff resources and budget
- Governance
- Region-wide advocacy
- Provincial outreach and liaison

Executive Committee, elected by and from Islands Trust Council, guides day-to-day operations and cooperative relations with other levels of government. It also reviews the land use bylaws of local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality to ensure consistency with the Islands Trust Object and Policy Statement. It acts as the local trust committee for the Ballenas-Winchelsea Islands.

There is also an opportunity for trustees to join any of four standing committees of Trust Council: Financial Planning Committee, Regional Planning Committee, Trust Programs Committee, and Governance Committee. These committees play an important role in advancing the work of Trust Council, and any trustee may stand for any of these committees.

Trustees elected to the Islands Trust Conservancy Board have the added responsibility to put the Object of the Islands Trust into action by:

1. Engaging in conservation planning, research, and mapping
2. Working with First Nations as described in the [Islands Trust Conservancy Reconciliation Declaration](#).
3. Conservation of land and active management of protected areas as nature reserves and conservation covenants, including a program to protect species at risk
4. Building internal and shared strength and resilience through fund development and outreach work

The Conservancy consists of two island trustees elected by the Islands Trust Council, one Executive Committee representative elected by the Executive Committee, and three members from the public, appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Conservancy is guided by the [Conservancy Plan](#).

How much time does it take to serve as a trustee?

Time commitments for trustees vary considerably, based on the population they represent and the number and types of land use issues that face their community.

Local trust committees meet regularly, with most having between six and ten regular meetings per year, with additional special meetings added as needed. Some local trust committees may meet less frequently but there is a minimum requirement, established by the local trust committee bylaws, of at least two meetings a year. The purpose of these business meetings is to



deal with land use planning applications and long range planning projects. Local trust committees may hold other meetings to seek community input or to meet statutory requirements. Local trust committees are supported by planning and administrative staff. The two trustees from Bowen Island Municipality are also municipal councilors, and attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Bowen Island Municipal Council which are held twice a month, as well as other meetings related to Bowen Island Municipality.

Trustees also spend time meeting, speaking or corresponding with community members and attending meetings of other organizations.

All trustees attend four quarterly meetings of Islands Trust Council. These meetings may be held on different islands throughout the Trust Area or virtually. Traditionally, the December meeting is held in Victoria.

At the first meeting of the Islands Trust Council in November, soon after newly-elected trustees are sworn in, Trust Council will elect a chair and three vice-chairs

that will form the Executive Committee, which meets approximately 15–20 times per year. Each member of Executive Committee also serves as the chair of one or more local trust committees, leading to a more demanding workload and much more inter-island travel.

Trust Council will also elect two members to the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, with a third elected by the Executive Committee. Potential candidates may wish to speak to current or former [Islands Trust Conservancy Board](#) members to get a better sense of time commitments. Trustees elected to the Islands Trust Conservancy Board meet approximately six times per year for meetings that last between five and six hours. Islands Trust Conservancy Board members may also sit on Conservancy committees as deemed necessary by the Board.

What are some of the important dates leading up to the elections?

- **August 30, 2022** Nomination period begins at 9:00 a.m.
List of electors becomes available for review and objection
- **September 9, 2022** Nomination period ends at 4:00 p.m.
End of opportunity to register objections to names on the list of electors
- **September 12, 2022** Deadline for nominations if there is an extension due to insufficient candidates ends at 4:00 p.m.
- **September 13, 2022** Deadline for challenge of nominations ends at 4:00 p.m.
- **September 14, 2022** Last day to move or buy property and qualify as an elector ends at 4:00 p.m.
- **September 16, 2022** Deadline for withdrawal of candidates
- **September 19, 2022** Declaration of election by voting or of candidates elected by acclamation ends at 4:00 p.m.
- **October 5, 2022** Required advance voting opportunity (additional advance voting day may be scheduled in some locations – see local advertisements for details)
- **October 15, 2022** **GENERAL VOTING DAY**

What is the remuneration for trustees?

As defined in [Trustee Remuneration Policy 7.2.1](#), trustees receive remuneration for their service to their community, reflecting the population size and level of work in their

community, with the following amounts approved for the fiscal year April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

Local Trustees	Remuneration \$ per Year	Remuneration \$ per Month
Denman	\$12,178.00	\$1,014.83
Gabriola	\$21,492.00	\$1,791.00
Galiano	\$13,049.00	\$1,087.42
Gambier	\$11,863.00	\$988.58
Hornby	\$12,241.00	\$1,020.08
Lasqueti	\$10,072.00	\$839.33
Mayne	\$13,155.00	\$1,096.25
North Pender	\$15,894.00	\$1,324.50
Salt Spring	\$37,061.00	\$3,088.42
Saturna	\$10,282.00	\$856.83
South Pender	\$9,561.00	\$796.75
Thetis	\$10,579.00	\$881.58
Municipal Trustees		
Bowen	\$3,705.00	\$308.75

Executive Committee Remuneration	Remuneration \$ per Year	Remuneration \$ per Month
Chair	\$ 50,959.00	\$ 4,246.58
Vice-chairs	\$ 40,767.00	\$ 3,397.25

Remunerations are subject to Income Tax and CPP under applicable regulations in place at the time of payment.

Medical and Dental Benefits

As defined in [Trustee Remuneration Policy 7.2.1](#), the premiums for the following medical and dental benefits are 100% covered by Islands Trust for trustees and their eligible dependents:

- Premiums for dental plan available through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
- Premiums for extended health care available through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
- Premiums for Employee and Family Assistance plan through the Union of C Municipalities (UBCM)

Payments of these premiums by the Islands Trust may be subject to Income Tax as defined by Canada Revenue Agency.

Local trustees who do not register for any health or dental benefits through Islands Trust shall be paid \$1,000.00 per annum, paid monthly at a rate of \$83.33 per month and prorated for periods of less than one year.

Honoraria for Board Members who attend Islands Trust Conservancy Meetings

The Chair of the Islands Trust Conservancy Board is paid an honorarium of \$250.00 per meeting attendance. The remaining members of the Board are paid \$150.00 per meeting attendance.

Honoraria for Council Committee Meetings

Meeting attendance will be remunerated at \$100.00 per meeting attended for committee members, and \$150 per meeting attended for committee chairs.

Travel

As defined in [Trustee Travel Policy and Procedure 7.2.3](#), Trustees are reimbursed for costs they incur to travel to meetings.

When will elections be held for Islands Trust trustees?

General local elections for local government officials in British Columbia (including trustees for Islands Trust) take place every four years. **The next general voting day is Saturday, October 15, 2022.**

Who administers General Local Elections in the Trust Area?

The Islands Trust is responsible for coordinating its general local elections process. For cost-effectiveness and for the convenience of voters, it contracts with

the following regional districts for administration of its elections.

Local Trust Area	Regional District
Denman / Hornby	Comox Valley comoxvalleyrd.ca
Gabriola	Nanaimo rdn.bc.ca
Galiano / Mayne / North Pender / South Pender / Salt Spring / Saturna	Capital crd.bc.ca
Gambier	Sunshine Coast scrd.ca Metro Vancouver metrovancover.org (for Bowyer and Passage islands)
Lasqueti	qathet qathet.ca
Thetis	Cowichan Valley cvrd.bc.ca

Maps showing the boundaries of local trust areas and Bowen Island Municipality are available on the [Islands Trust website](#).

Municipal trustees for Bowen Island are determined as part of the election process for the Bowen Island Municipal Council. Additional information about elections on Bowen Island is available from the Chief Election Officer at [Bowen Island Municipality](#).

Who may run for election?

You may run for local government office in BC if you:

- are a Canadian citizen
- are at least 18 years old on election day
- have lived in BC for at least six months, and
- have not been disqualified from voting in a BC local election

You do not have to live in the jurisdiction in which you are running for office.

More information for candidates in local elections can be found in the **Candidate's Guide** in the nomination package (if included) or [online at gov.bc.ca](https://www.gov.bc.ca).

How do electors learn about candidates?

Candidates may request a list of registered electors from those regional districts that maintain such lists.

During the campaign period, Islands Trust will post basic candidate information on its website, including nomination papers, and will provide an optional space for a photo and short biographical statement. Candidates must provide this information before the nomination period ends by sending an e-mail to elections@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Candidates must be familiar with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA)* and its requirements. Elections BC oversees the campaign financing, disclosure and third-party advertising rules for local elections. After the election, campaign finance disclosure documents (mandatory for all candidates, even if a candidate withdraws and even if no money is spent or raised) will be posted on the Elections BC website.

The [LECFA is available online](https://www.elections.bc.ca). Refer to Elections BC's *Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C.* and *Guide for Local Elections Third Party Sponsors in B.C.* for detailed information and instructions about the campaign financing disclosure process and requirements, and rules related to thirdparty sponsors, available online at: [elections.bc.ca](https://www.elections.bc.ca)

What are standards of conduct for elected officials?

All elected local government officials in BC must make an Oath of Office, must disclose financial information, and must comply with certain ethical conduct rules in accordance with the [Community Charter](#). This statute provides rules regarding topics such as conflict of interest, insider information, influence, gifts and confidentiality. Violation of these rules can lead to disqualification from office. Islands Trust Council has also adopted a policy on standards of conduct. Candidates should familiarize themselves with these rules and standards to ensure they are comfortable with them before running for election. Specific guidelines about conduct are available on the Islands Trust website.

- [Policy 2.1.2: Standards of Conduct](#) (PDF)
- [Policy 2.1.1: Guidelines: Statutory Rules of Conduct](#) (PDF)

Where can I find more information?

General information about local elections in British Columbia is available at the [provincial website](#).

Please check regularly for Islands Trust [election information online](#).

Additional information about the Islands Trust is available from Islands Trust staff (250-405-5151) and on the [Islands Trust website](#). For toll free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver 604-660-2421 and elsewhere in B.C. 1-800-663-7867.