

## **A1 - The Islands Trust at 35: Governing for Sustainability**

**Presentation title:** The Islands Trust at 35: Governing for Sustainability

### **Presenters:**

Linda Adams – Islands Trust

Bill Buholzer – Young Anderson

Mac Fraser – Islands Trust

### **Abstract**

In the year of the Islands Trust's 35th anniversary, this presentation will explore some of the successes of this unique local government land use planning agency, in charge of one of the province's most treasured and fragile regions. The presentation will provide an introduction to some of the Islands Trust's award-winning work with transferable examples that other communities can use. It will show how land use planning tools can be used to create and protect both ecological diversity and sustainable liveable communities, while resisting the detrimental changes that could result from the surrounding pressures of regional growth. The presentation will inspire people working for other local governments to use innovative tools to protect their communities and environment. Some of the unique and successful tools to be presented will include:

- The use of 'transfer of development potential' and amenity zoning to retrofit a rural community for more energy efficient settlement patterns.
- Conserving sensitive ecosystems with property tax exemptions, strategic planning, free Crown land grants, partnership with local conservancies and innovative communications tools.
- Working with First Nations and using land use planning tools to protect archaeological heritage sites.
- Protecting authentic community character and functions by managing tourism-related land uses.
- How the Islands Trust has vigorously defended its land use bylaws in the courts and how other BC communities can benefit from the results.

### **Speaker Biographies**

Linda Adams, B.Sc. M.C.I.P. became Chief Administrative Officer of the Islands Trust 5 years ago after holding a management position in the organization, responsible for policy, communications and intergovernmental relations. Prior to that, she was the senior planner for Salt Spring Island, authoring the OCP that was the basis for the community's recent Green Cities award. Before working for the Islands Trust, Linda worked as an environmental planner, primarily as a consultant to government and industry in BC and Alberta.

Mac Fraser B.Sc., Dip PAdmn, Director of Local Planning Services, has been responsible for community planning, infrastructure and environmental management in all three levels of government in five provinces and overseas over the last 30 years. Mac joined the Islands Trust in 2007 and is responsible to provide local planning services to 12 autonomous local trust committees with a staff of 25.

Bill Buholzer, M.A.(Plan), LL.B., M.C.I.P., is a partner at Lidstone, Young, Anderson. A member of several professional planning and legal organizations, Bill is extensively involved in professional development activities for planners. He is the author of several publications, including British Columbia Planning Law and Practice and the 'Planning and Zoning' title in Halsbury's Laws of Canada. He writes frequent legal updates for P.I.B.C.'s Planning West. His practice focuses on land use and planning law, building regulation, and opinions on a broad range of local government issues.