



ISLANDS TRUST FUND
Protecting Canada's Islands in the
Salish Sea

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Campaign for New Lasqueti Island Nature Reserve Hits Halfway Fundraising Goal
'Salish View' to protect old-growth trees and stunning view**

Lasqueti Island, British Columbia, August 16, 2018— A joint fundraising campaign to raise \$250,000 by December 21, 2018 to protect 11.6 hectares (28 acres) of spectacular Coastal Douglas-fir forest and ridgetop on Lasqueti Island has exceeded an important half-way milestone.

The Islands Trust Conservancy and the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy have only five months left to raise the additional \$115,000 needed to purchase the Salish View property. The new nature reserve will be adjacent to Squitty Bay Provincial Park. The partners are urging the public to donate to help meet this important goal.

"In less than six months, over 80 generous islanders and supporters from as far as Calgary, Victoria, Vancouver, Parksville, Nanaimo and Qualicum have donated more than half of the \$250,000 needed to purchase the land," said Gordon Scott, President of the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy. "We're so grateful for their early support and are now hoping that this campaign will appeal to donors beyond our shores. With less than 1% of the original old growth left in the Coastal Douglas-fir zone, we all benefit from the conservation of forested areas like Salish View."

The Salish View property rises above Lasqueti's rocky southern coastline to a prominent ridgetop with a stunning 270-degree vista of the Salish Sea. Once protected, the property will be open to the public, offering residents and visitors opportunities for walking on nature trails through beautiful old-growth trees and rocky bluffs to the viewpoint. The proposed Salish View Nature Reserve will also protect habitat for species at risk and an important part of the watershed of Wamer Creek – one of only three salmon-bearing streams on Lasqueti Island.

"Protecting the Salish View property means there will protected areas at Squitty Bay that extend from shore to the ridgetop, supporting the resiliency of species and ecosystems" said Tony Law, Chair of the Islands Trust Fund Board. "Protecting forests that support healthy salmon streams and watersheds is urgent as there is a salmon food shortage for iconic Salish Sea Orcas".

Donations for the Salish View campaign can be made to the Islands Trust Fund's [Lasqueti Island Acquisition Fund](http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/salish-view.aspx) www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/salish-view.aspx and the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy's [CanadaHelps page](http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/canadahelps) . Tax receipts will be issued for gifts over \$20. On-island fundraising garden tours and guided hikes to Salish View are planned for the remainder of the summer, information and tickets are available at <https://lasqueti.ca/LINC>.

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The Islands Trust Fund is the conservation land trust for Canada's islands in the Salish Sea. Since 1990, the Islands Trust Fund has protected more than 1,270 hectares of natural island ecosystems. This success is thanks to the vision, support and generosity of our donors and partners. Visit us online at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/> (Note: The Islands

A CONSERVANCY FOR CANADA'S ISLANDS IN THE SALISH SEA

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Trust Fund has recently changed its legal name to the Islands Trust Conservancy. Look for a public launch of our new name in the fall.)

The Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC) conserves and protects land for the benefit of wildlife, plants and the public. To achieve our mission, LINC acquires legal interests in land and provides public education on the natural and cultural features on Lasqueti and surrounding islands. Learn more at <http://www.lasqueti.ca/LINC>

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