

LINC's Charitable Purposes

- To advance education by providing lectures, workshops and written materials to the public on the topic of conservation of the environment.
- To preserve and protect the environment by acquiring interests in land in order to conserve its natural features for the benefit of the public.

LINC's Mission Statement

LINC works to conserve the natural ecosystems of Lasqueti Island and its surrounding islands and waters by facilitating education, stewardship and acquisition of legal interests in land.

LINC's History

Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC) is a land trust whose history begins with the Squitty Bay Park Extension in 2007.

Lasqueti Island residents have a strong sense of place. Squitty Bay on the south end of Lasqueti Island has been used for many years as an island gathering site for picnics, beach combing, weddings and other celebrations. When the Provincial government proposed trading 14 acres of the spectacular Squitty Bay peninsula for 174 acres of Crown land the islanders said no to any loss of publicly owned land. Through vigorous lobbying of the government, the trade did not take place. Rather, money was found in the public treasury to purchase the parcel and Lasqueti had its first Provincial Park - Squitty Bay Provincial Park. The residents lobbied hard and raised some of the final sale price.

“In 1987, the Nature Trust acquired through Dr. Peter Pearse, a five hectare peninsula partially encompassing Squitty Bay...One year later, the Province purchased the adjoining seven hectare property...and The Nature Trust offered to lease their property.” (BC Parks Management Plan, Squitty Bay)

Later, Jedidiah Island in the Sabine Channel was up for sale. The largely undeveloped 400 plus acres were well known to islanders and boaters up and down the Salish Sea. When the Provincial Government was reluctant to put up the money, Lasquetians offered again to raise a portion of the purchase price and the island was acquired through many generous donations.

In 2007 an opportunity to expand Squitty Bay Provincial park by 90 acres arose and islanders again took up the challenge. Another large fundraising effort was initiated resulting in the successful acquisition and transfer/lease of the property to BC Parks and The Nature Trust. At this point a few individuals felt that the time had come to have a conservancy on Lasqueti and LINC was founded.

Of the \$250,000 purchase price, \$107,000 came from the BC Trust for Public Lands, \$18,000 each from The Nature Trust of BC and Marine Parks Forever Society, \$5,000 from the Islands Trust Conservancy's Opportunity Fund, and a remaining \$130,000 was raised through community connections (private donors and foundations).

In 2010 LINC was designated by the BC Land Title and Survey to hold a section 219 covenant. In 2012, the conservancy revised its constitution, and applied for and received charitable status. In that same year, LINC resolved to work toward adopting the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. In 2013 LINC received designation as an Eligible Recipient for Ecological Gifts, and was given authority to hold a statutory right of way over lands with a Section 219 covenant.

LINC in 2019

LINC is governed by a Board of Directors and 75 (101 in 2020) supporting members. The Board meets monthly to discuss Conservancy business and plan events, such as our Annual Squitty Bay Day in August, our annual AGM and hike in April, and our ongoing restoration projects in partnership with Islands Trust Conservancy and BC Parks.

LINC currently holds conservation covenants over three Islands Trust Conservancy properties on Lasqueti: the 140-acre Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve, the 160-acre Johnny Osland Nature Reserve, and the 28 acre Salish View Reserve. These covenants must be monitored annually.



Our conservation successes along with our public outreach materials make LINC a trusted member of the Lasqueti Community. LINC has also developed productive relationships with a variety of off-island conservation partners and funders that have greatly benefited LINC's conservation efforts. LINC has an experienced Board of Directors to guide the organization and a strong membership that provides volunteer and financial support. These attributes are vitally important for LINC because the conservation value of Lasqueti Island's ecosystems have regional and global significance and need to be protected.

A number of constraints confront LINC in accomplishing its mission. These include limited organizational capacity because LINC is an all-volunteer organization with limited financial resources. Our profile in the community, while positive, is also low key. There is a general lack of knowledge of LINC's work in the community. Membership, financial support and engagement have

the potential to grow. Competing with other island organizations for the attention and support of community members is a challenge due to our limited capacity. Population growth on Lasqueti will mean more home sites and land clearing while regional and world-wide impacts like climate change will continue to challenge our capacity to conserve natural areas.

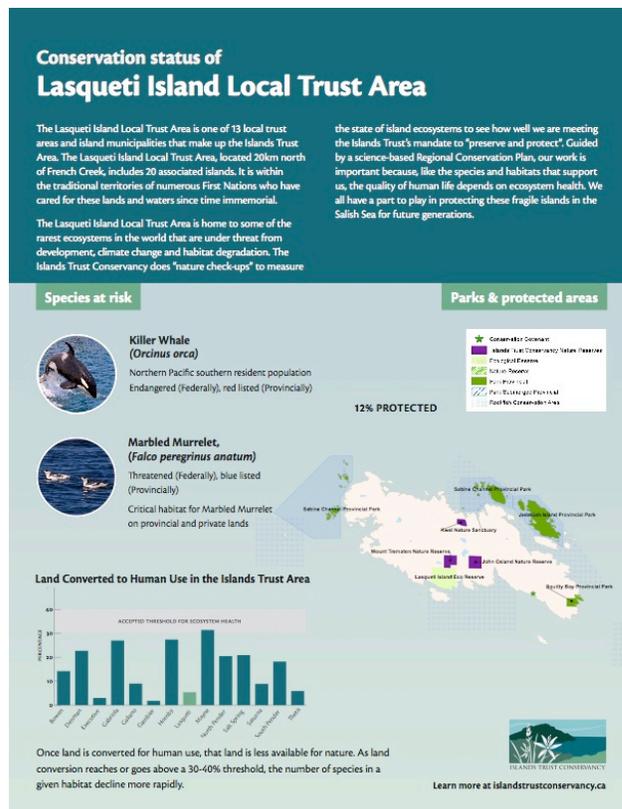
Land trusts like LINC take on significant financial and legal responsibilities as land conservation organizations. These include maintaining charitable status, monitoring conservation properties, insuring proper and transparent financial records while nurturing a healthy, vibrant and trusted community organization. LINC needs to maintain professional relationships with its partners, funders, local governments and First Nations.

In addition to maintaining these professional relationships LINC needs to be knowledgeable and aware about Lasqueti’s unique ecosystems, ecological history and trends, and adverse impacts to the local island environment. To fulfil its mission LINC needs to be able to identify what is important to conserve. Land trusts need expert biological and ecological advice to make effective decisions.

Fortunately for organizations like LINC there is a growing public awareness of the need for protecting sensitive ecosystems. Lasqueti Island is relatively unique in the imperiled Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem as it contains some of the most undeveloped and intact forests in the region. Lasqueti’s population is weighted significantly towards older residents (55+) which will result in a number of properties changing owners in the next 10-20 years. These trends will create more opportunities for conservation.

The Directors of LINC have reviewed these trends, factors, constraints and opportunities and have formulated a set of programs that will strengthen the organizational capacity of the organization, solidify community involvement and increase our knowledge of the island’s ecosystems.

These proposed focus areas are in addition to our on-going programs and are intended to support our land conservation/restoration activities and our on-going education and outreach on Lasqueti’s natural history, ecosystems and their conservation.



LINC Strategic Goals for 2019-2022

1. Events, Fundraising, Communications and Education

Goals:

To raise awareness of nature around Lasqueti and Islands (Charitable Purpose)

To conserve land and steward natural areas (Charitable Purpose)

(Fundraising is lower priority for the next years, although on-going with events)

Actions:

A. Lead bi-monthly hikes to crown lands and protected areas, plus shorelines & other sites.

B. Host special events bi-monthly -

1. *Talk/film/ event dinner – February*
2. *AGM hike – April*
3. *Spring nature walk and talk – June*
4. *August annual SBD - August*
5. *Mushroom or other walk and talk – October*
6. *Bird Count – December*

C. Maintain Social Media: (Facebook and lasqueti.ca/linc website) and Canada Helps (fundraising)

D. Produce three newsletters a year – expanding to 8 pages in future years (not now) – sharing ecological information about Lasqueti and surrounding areas.

E. Budget:

Speakers: \$350 x 3 = \$1050;

Newsletters 3 x \$350 = \$1050

Mailing & Other PR \$500

Total 2019-2020: \$2,600

Comments and suggestions from the members at the 2019 AGM:

Praise for the newsletter.

Speakers likely to come and speak just for the cost of getting here.

Mushroom walk and talk very successful.

Lots of local knowledge maybe focus on food growing tours as well.

Publicize specific volunteer needs/job description in each newsletter.

Develop the short-term rental partnership idea with the estimated 30 rental sites (business partner?).

Establish automatic monthly donation program.

Explore conservation fund tax with qRD.

2. Engaging with Membership

Goals:

Increase member awareness and involvement in LINC activities and operations.

Actions:

Update and keep current membership database (names, contact info, relationship).

Encourage regular payment of membership dues.

Increase volunteer opportunities.

Involve members in projects.

Hold a membership meeting once a year.

Coordinate with Events, Hikes, Restoration projects.

Who will be responsible:

Establish Volunteer Coordinator, either a Director or member.

Budget:

Supplies	\$200
Volunteer food (six events over one year)	\$400
Misc.	<u>\$100</u>
Total 2019-2020	\$700

Comments and suggestions from the members at the 2019 AGM:

Lots of different opportunities for engagement: beach cleanup, etc.

LINC to have short quarterly membership meetings with lecture/talk.

Prepare reports from workshops that are attended.

Invite local and off-island experts to share their knowledge, evening at the pub.

3. Improving ecological knowledge & enhancing stewardship of Lasqueti Island

Goals:

To increase knowledge of Lasqueti Island ecosystems, their trends, and relative importance to a healthy environment

To increase awareness of public lands on Lasqueti Island.

Actions:

LINC will facilitate surveys, studies and research of Lasqueti Island environment

LINC will conduct regular hikes and outings for members and the general public to accessible public lands.

LINC will develop a plan for stewardship actions

LINC will publish occasional informative articles about the public lands, their ecological and administrative status, and the islands ecosystem features.

Budget:

Surveys and Research, year 1	\$5,000
Office supplies	\$150
Total 2019-2020	\$5,150

Specific research and survey projects will require grant funding.

Comments and suggestions from the members at the 2019 AGM:

Link with eBird and other citizen science programs.

Engage with land share coops about the ecological attributes of their land.

Establish a structure to gather and organize data such as GIS.

Need to define specific research questions.

Collect data from visiting biologists.

LINC Going Forward

The work to operate these three program areas is envisioned to be accomplished primarily with volunteer Members and Directors at first. It is acknowledged however that it may be difficult to actually achieve these goals in a meaningful time frame solely with volunteer labor. Should the Directors decide that help is need to achieve these goals the Board may consider hiring a part-time administrator. Funding for these program areas would be provided in grants and/or through project specific support.