



The Coast Sustainability Trust

Eric van Soeren, Trustee

6705 London Drive
Delta, B.C. V4K 4W7

Phone: 604-940-0850

Cell: 604-318-6259

Fax: 604-940-0858

Email: eric@vansoeren.net

www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com

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News Release

The Coast Sustainability Trust invests in the Central Coast

Over the past three months the Central Coast Regional Steering Committee of the Coast Sustainability Trust approved \$176,000 in funding for five initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity on the Central Coast.

The Kitsoo Band Council will receive \$100,000 towards a \$455,000 project to construct a small convention and accommodation facility in Klemtu to support community development and economic diversification.

The Heiltsuk QQS Projects Society will receive \$22,000 towards a \$54,000 project to do strategic planning to develop a long term vision and management plan for a 16 bed lodge they own and currently use for training programs and retreats.

The Nuxalk First Nation will receive \$12,000 towards a \$24,000 project to develop a community driven economic strategy. They will hold a series of community meetings and collaborate with schools and colleges to involve youth in community visioning and planning.

The Central Coast Regional District and the Nuxalk First Nation will receive \$25,000 towards a \$50,000 project to create a Strategic Economic Development Operating Plan.

The Bella Coola Valley Tourism Association, working with the Bella Coola Valley Museum and the Norwegian Heritage Society, will receive \$17,000 towards a \$34,000 project to enhance tourism in the Bella Coola Valley.

“This brings the total number of approved projects on the Central Coast to 16, with a total dollar value of \$604,550,” said Trustee Eric van Soeren, “Nine other applicants have been asked to submit detailed stage two proposals, and other proposals are expected. Over the next year the Coast Sustainability Trust plans to invest a total of \$1,000,000 in Central Coast community based projects”.

“The contributions made from the Coast Sustainability Trust will go a long way in meeting the current economic challenges that these communities face,” said George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management.

Regional Steering Committee member Keith Hamilton has moved out of the Central Coast, and will be replaced by Chief Ross Wilson of the Heiltsuk First Nation.

“Chief Ross Wilson and the other committee members, Terry Corbould, Debbie Nelson, and Bryan Clerx, will be working hard to sift through the many worthwhile projects,” said van Soeren. “Their task is to decide which of the initiatives seem most likely to provide sustainable long-term economic development in the communities of the Central Coast.”

Interested parties are invited to go to the Coast Sustainability Trust website: www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com and follow the links to the Community Guidelines (Stage One Proposals).