

The Coast Sustainability Trust

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November ~~24~~²⁶, 2003

News Release

The Coast Sustainability Trust invests in the ~~North Island~~Central Coast

In their November, 2003 meeting the Central Coast Regional Steering Committee of the Coast Sustainability Trust approved \$227,000 in funding for four initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity on the Central Coast.

“The Regional Steering Committee members, Terry Corbould, Debbie Nelson, [Brian Bryan](#) Clerx and Keith Hamilton are all working hard to sift through the many worthwhile projects,” said Trustee Eric 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.”

“The \$35 million trust fund approved by the province last year is part of a broader strategy, which has a focus on economic diversification,” said Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, Stan Hagen. “The trust fund is designed to help workers, contractors, communities and companies whose interests have been negatively affected along the coast.”

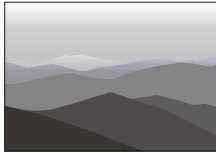
“Over the next year The Coast Sustainability Trust expects to invest \$1,000,000 in Central Coast community based projects,” said van Soeren.

The ~~six~~four initiatives chosen for funding are:

- Coast Connect Development Society, to develop Broadband Internet on the Central Coast - \$100,000
- Bella Coola Valley Tourism, for a variety of projects to enhance tourism- \$20,000
- Heiltsuk First Nation, to [help](#) develop Innovative Ecosystem Based Forestry - \$79,000
- Bella Coola Nuxalk Resource Society, to develop a Forestry Venture Business Plan - \$28,000

For more information on these initiatives please see the Backgrounder.

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Backgrounder

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The Coast Connect Development Society was successful in its request for \$100,000. These funds will be used to help develop and install broadband internet access for all of the communities on the Central Coast. Other funding will come from Industry Canada, the Bella Bella and Bella Coola hospitals, the Nuxalk Nation, Mid Coast First Nations Training, and several other as yet to be confirmed sources.

Bella Coola Valley Tourism will receive \$20,000 to assist in a number of projects, including development of a full colour 16 page Visitor's Information Booklet, a feasibility study for a tourist information centre, the production and installation of signs, a tourism survey, marketing of the Bella Coola Valley in print and at community events, and updating and reprinting the Bella Coola tourist map and brochure. Matching funds will come from the Community Futures Development Corporation of Williams Lake. (NOTE: Not yet confirmed. Waiting to hear back from Larry Stranberg)

The Heiltsuk Tribal council will receive \$79,000 to support their initiative in Innovative Ecosystem Based Forestry. They plan to develop opportunities based on accessing under utilized timber with innovative harvesting, forwarding and management practices. They hope to develop cost effective Tourism North Central Island and the Vancouver Island North Visitor's Association were successful in their joint request for \$200,000 over the next three years. This will help fund a direct marketing sales program that will see them traveling to a variety of trade shows to market North Central and North Island tourist destinations. It will also assist in the development of an inbound reservation system that will provide point of contact support for tourism operators. Matching funds will come from the District of Campbell River and a number of smaller communities.

tive methods of implementing Ecosystem Based Management in Heiltsuk forestry ventures. Matching funding is expected to come from a combination of Heiltsuk Tribal Council contributions, assistance from Ecotrust Canada, and as yet unidentified Federal Government sources.

Finally, the Bella Coola Nuxalk Resource Society has been successful in its bid for \$28,000 to be used to assist in developing a forestry venture business plan based on the combined present and expected allowable annual cuts of Bella Coola and the Nuxalk

Nation. The Vancouver Island Economic Developers Association will also receive \$200,000 over three years. This will assist them in the New Marine Frontier project to attract investment to grow the shellfish industry. Matching funds will come from the Program for Export Market Development, Community Futures Development Corporations in Cowichan and Stratheona, Mid Island Science Technology and Innovation Council, and the communities of Nanaimo, Parksville, Cowichan, Comox Valley, Campbell River, Aberni/Clayoquot, Ladysmith, Ucluellet, Mount Waddington and Port Hardy.

The Comox Indian Band has been approved for \$100,000 to help them build a 60-unit campground and RV park. This venture is expected to help stimulate other Band tourism services, including guided tours, whale watching, wild life viewing and equipment rental. Matching funds are being secured, likely through a combination of band and federal funds.

The Village of Port Alice will receive \$100,000 towards the construction of a light industrial park to accommodate up to 10 businesses. Eight businesses have already made a financial commitment to set up operations in the community, so at least 20 jobs are expected to be created immediately. The total project size is \$560,000, with matching funds coming from the federal government through the Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative, the Village of Port Alice, and the Regional District of Mount Waddington.

The Wild Island Foods Co-operative in Sointula has been approved for a \$50,000 contribution to enable it to construct its proposed food processing facility. This facility will allow it to add value to a wide variety of local resources such as seafood, agricultural products, wild berries and forest botanical products. Funding approval is subject to identification of matching funds, but the co-op is optimistic that it will be successful.

Finally, the Regional District of Mount Waddington received \$5,000 to help develop a Regional Economic Development Strategy.

At present, there are seven other projects that have been asked by the Central Coast Regional Steering Committee to proceed to stage two, and are currently in various stages of completion. The Mount Waddington Regional Steering Committee also decided to ask 6 other stage one applicants to advance to a more detailed stage two application. In the case of the Comox-Stratheona Regional Steering committee, 8 stage one applicants were asked to proceed to stage two. These applications include regional economic development planning, shellfish aquaculture, infrastructure and cultural and eco-tourism related initiatives.