



The Coast Sustainability Trust

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News Release

The Coast Sustainability Trust invests in the Central Coast

In its February 25, 2004 meeting the Central Coast Regional Steering Committee of The Coast Sustainability Trust approved funding for five Bella Coola based initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity in the Bella Coola Valley.

The Coast Connect Development society will receive \$100,000 to help develop and install Broadband Internet availability through out the Central Coast. This will be in addition to the \$100,000 approved in a previous meeting.

The Ocean Falls Economic Development Commission will receive \$15,000 to help repair the existing deteriorating seaplane ramp so it can be used for both boat launching and seaplanes.

The Heiltsuk Nation Shellfish Cooperative will receive \$10,000 to help it expand and properly manage its activities by retaining a full time coordinator for a six-month period.

The Bella Coola Discovery Coast Music Festival will receive \$17,500 to support the design and construction of the Discovery Coast Community Stage, and to support the festival coordinator position.

The Bella Coola Valley Sustainable Agriculture Society will receive \$3,500 to help support sustainable agriculture in the Bella Coola Valley by supporting the expansion of community gardens, assisting in the construction of a greenhouse, and purchasing equipment such as a seed drill and rototiller.

The Regional Steering Committee also decided to ask 4 stage one applicants to advance to a more detailed stage two application. These applications include tourism, a Native artist's co-op gallery, and two strategic economic development planning initiatives.

Trustee Eric van Soeren said, "The Regional Steering Committee members, Terry Corbould, Debbie Nelson, Brian Clerx and Keith Hamilton, have all been working hard to sift through the many worthwhile projects. 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.

“Over the next year The Coast Sustainability Trust expects to invest \$1,000,000 in Central Coast community based projects. To date, only \$428,550 has been committed, so new initiatives can be considered on an ongoing basis. Interested parties are invited to go to the Coast Sustainability Trust website at www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com and follow the links to the Community Guidelines (Stage One Proposals) to see if their project might be eligible.”