



The Coast Sustainability Trust

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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\$11.5 MILLION FOR COASTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VICTORIA – B.C.'s coastal communities and First Nations can tap into \$11,500,000 from the Coast Sustainability Trust (CST) for sustainable economic development projects, Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell announced today.

“We have made a strong commitment to support communities and First Nations in their diversification efforts,” said Minister Bell. “CST funded projects are bringing long-term economic benefits to their communities and this funding from the province will build on that positive momentum.”

The increase in available CST Community Matching Funds is broken down as follows:

- \$2,000,000 in the Comox Strathcona Regional District
- \$2,000,000 in the North Island (Regional District of Mount Waddington)
- \$2,000,000 on the Central Coast
- \$2,000,000 on the North Coast
- \$3,500,000 on the Queen Charlotte Island-Haida Gwaii

The Province established the CST in 2002 to mitigate adverse impacts of land use decisions that flow from the Land and Resource Management Plan process. Since then, the CST has contributed \$13.7 million to provide mitigation to workers and contractors, and committed \$4.8 million to support 76 projects focused primarily on enhanced opportunities in tourism, shellfish aquaculture and infrastructure improvements.

“The large number of quality proposals we’ve received to date speaks volumes about British Columbians’ commitment to bettering their futures,” said Trustee Eric van Soeren. “This latest funding allotment is no small amount of money, so we encourage people to come up with more innovative ideas. We want to see their plans. We want to help them achieve their goals.”

Communities, First Nations and community-based non-profit organizations are invited to submit funding proposals. Application guidelines and general information is available on the CST website at www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com.

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1 backgrounder attached