



The Coast Sustainability Trust

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The Coast Sustainability Trust invests \$550,599 in the North Coast

Since its creation last year the North Coast Regional Steering Committee of the Coast Sustainability Trust approved \$550,599 in funding for seven initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity in the North Coast.

“The Regional Steering Committee members have been 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 North Coast.”

The Tsimshian First Nations has been approved for \$100,000 towards a \$573,000 project to develop, package and market Tsimshian Nation tourism products and services as well as non-aboriginal tourism products and services. Matching funds have not yet been located, but are expected in the summer of 2004.

The Gingolx Village Government will receive \$100,000 towards a \$592,500 project to build a cultural longhouse/carving shed. It will serve as a catalyst for their aboriginal and eco-tourism development strategy, and help build the Gingolx cultural infrastructure.

The Hecate Strait Employment Development Society has been approved for \$77,135 towards a \$166,269 project to improve the look of the community of Prince Rupert along the corridor extending from the Atlin Cruise Ship dock to downtown and to provide the motivation and incentive for a downtown revitalization project. The proponent is still working at getting matching funds for the project.

The Gitxaala First Nations Band will receive \$100,000 towards a \$210,427 project to renovate their longhouse and convert it into a Cultural and Arts Center. Work will commence in the summer of 2004.

The North Coast Economic Development Corporation has been approved for \$49,500 towards a \$106,000 project to produce a strategic plan for economic and community development within the North Coast Region. Work will commence in the fall of 2004.

The Community Fisheries Development Center will receive \$48,964 towards a \$119,603 project, which will help in upgrades to be done on the Butze Rapids Trail. Work will commence in the fall of 2004.

The Rotary Club of Prince Rupert has been approved for \$75,000 towards a \$325,000 project to restore the existing Rushbrook to Seal Cove Trail, install interpretive signage, and correct safety concerns. Work will commence in the fall of 2004.

“Whether it is through the construction of improved trails systems, tourism areas or cultural centres in this area, it is exciting to see these B.C. communities receive the funding they need to remain vibrant and prosperous,” said Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbott. “Projects such as this demonstrate the North Coast’s high level of dedication to remembering its history, sharing its achievements, and building a future upon them,” said Abbott.

“Six other applicants have been asked to submit detailed stage two proposals, and other proposals are expected,” said van Soeren. “Over the next year the Coast Sustainability Trust expects to invest approximately \$1,000,000 in North Coast community based projects”.

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).