



Island Coastal Economic Trust Announces Funding for Roberts Lake Fish and Wildlife Viewing Trail

For Immediate Release

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Gibsons, BC – Mayor Barry Janyk, Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (Trust), and Mayor of the Town of Gibsons, today announced funding approval of \$50,000 to develop an accessible outdoor wilderness recreation destination featuring trails, a dock for freshwater lake fishing as well as wilderness viewing. The total estimated cost for this initiative is \$100,000.

This project is a joint venture between the Campbell River and District Fish and Wildlife Association, Marine Harvest, the Ministry of Tourism Culture and the Arts and the Island Coastal Economic Trust. The initiative is designed to provide an intermediate access site which meets the needs of people with mobility, hearing and visual impairments in addition to seniors and families with strollers and young children and enables them to access and enjoy the wilderness.

“This project will provide fresh, new recreation opportunities which will help to address the shortfall in outdoor recreation facilities for people with disabilities in particular!” stated Janyk. “There are few trails, and even fewer docks, designed to meet the needs of visitors with mobility, hearing and visual impairments. This new attraction will draw these visitors to the North Island area and build on the area’s tourism and outdoor recreation infrastructure”.

This initiative will also provide employment for displaced forest industry workers and equipment. “We very pleased to be involved with an initiative which will not only leave a long term legacy for the North Island but also provide short term employment and economic benefits for displaced forestry workers” stated Shane Renouf, President of the Campbell River and District Fish and Wildlife Association. “In addition, this project coincides with B.C.’s Universal Trails strategy and the Vancouver Island Tourism Plan. Consequently, we are not only creating valuable local economic benefits but are also part of the bigger tourism infrastructure development strategy for the Island and BC”.

About Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established by Provincial legislation on February 27, 2006. It provides \$50-million that is managed by an independent board of directors made up of 8 locally elected government representatives and 5 provincially appointed members from the community. The board’s mandate is to makes strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business.

ICET has approved \$41 million for over 70 projects on the Island and Sunshine Coast since the inception of its grant program in 2007. The total impact of these investments is estimated at \$230 million. A full overview of ICET can be found at www.islandcoastaltrust.ca .

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For further information please contact:

Mayor Barry J. Janyk and ICET Chair
Town of Gibsons
Tel. 604-886-2274
bjanyk@gibsons.ca

Al Baronas, CEO
Island Coastal Economic Trust
Tel. 250-334-2427 Extension 223
info@islandcoastaltrust.ca

Shane Renouf, President
Campbell River and District Fish and Wildlife Association
Tel. 250-287-5027
SRenouf@westernforest.com

Wendy Ravai
Project Manager
Tel. 250-203-5233
wravai@forsite.ca