



**ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST ANNOUNCES \$175,000
CONTRIBUTION FOR THE QUATSE SALMON STEWARDSHIP CENTRE IN
PORT HARDY**

**For Immediate Release
May 9, 2008**

Lake Cowichan, BC - Mayor W.J. (Jack) Peake, Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), today announced a funding commitment of \$175,000 towards the construction of the Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre in Port Hardy. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$865,000.

Chair Peake explained that the Salmon Stewardship Centre will add a significant provincial caliber attraction to the North Island region and greatly enhance growth in the tourism sector. The project will encourage increased visitations not just to Port Hardy but to other attractions and destinations in the North Island and is aimed to encourage increased visitations and longer stays in the region. "The ICET Board is sensitive to the economic challenges of the North Island which has suffered from resource sector difficulties and this project is an additional effort to diversify the economy of the North Island," said Chair Peake.

Grant Anderson, Chair of the Northern Vancouver Island Salmonid Enhancement Association, stated, "This new facility will help illustrate how valuable and fragile the salmon resource is, and support the ongoing enhancement of salmonids on the coast through research, monitoring programs and education. In addition, the centre will be a focus for North Island residents and visitors to learn about salmon and our relationship with this resource."

Construction is expected to begin next month, with a completion estimated in the spring of 2009.

About the 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 make strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, economic development, Olympic opportunities, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business. Information about the Trust can be found on www.islandcoastaltrust.ca.

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