



The Coast Sustainability Trust

Eric van Soeren, Trustee

6705 London Drive
Delta, B.C. V4K 4W7

Phone: 604-940-0850

Cell: 604-318-6259

Fax: 604-940-0858

Email: eric@vansoeren.net

www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com

September 2004 News Release

CST investment in Mount Waddington area nears \$1-million

The Mount Waddington Regional Steering Committee of the Coast Sustainability Trust has approved another \$383,250 in funding for eight initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity in the region.

“This brings the total number of approved projects in the Mount Waddington area to 18, with a total dollar value of \$986,331,” said Trustee Eric van Soeren. “Two previously approved projects that have not yet started were deferred until next fiscal year,” said van Soeren.

The Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala Nation has been offered \$90,000 towards a \$200,000 project to expand their services and the existing infrastructure at the Village Tsatsisnukwomi and to further develop native cultural and eco-tourism initiatives. They will also carry out key improvements to the Village to provide facilities so that residents may return to and live in the community that is their traditional home.

Malcolm Island Shellfish Cooperative (MISC) will receive \$100,000 towards an \$866,000 project to move its abalone farm to a large acreage and expand to five times the size of its current operation.

The District of Port Hardy will receive \$100,000 towards a \$265,000 project to complete the service area, as well as walkway improvements of its Harbour and Fisherman's Wharf. This includes redesigning and reconstructing the service area to make it more user-friendly.

The Regional District of Mount Waddington is being offered \$5,000 towards a \$10,000 project to develop a business plan for a North Island Community Salvage License. The proposed business plan will develop a model for a Community Salvage License, showing economic factors and administrative requirements, and to investigate potential impacts on stakeholders.

The Regional District of Mount Waddington will receive \$37,850 towards a \$95,700 project to expand the existing campground at Bere Point Regional Park, to improve an existing hiking trail there, and to develop a sustainable whale watching facility and management framework for Bere Point.

The Mount Waddington Innovation Centre Society will receive \$41,400 towards a \$100,600 project to hire a coordinator for its proposed Innovation Centre which will focus on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP). The coordinator will provide outreach to communities as

well as marketing and workshop presentation. The Centre will work with the NTFP community to improve on their existing ventures and develop new products and markets. This will expand economic diversification and benefit the northern area of Vancouver Island and the Central Coast.

The Regional District of Mount Waddington will receive \$4,000 towards an \$8,000 project which will involve the coordination of resources and services of all of the harbours in the region. In order for this to take place, a North Island Harbours Commission will need to be formed, a preliminary report written, and a workshop held for interested stakeholders.

The Regional District of Mount Waddington has been approved for \$5,000 towards a \$15,000 project to develop a Regional Forest Sector Strategy. A preliminary report will be produced, a stakeholder workshop held, and a final report completed which sets priorities for forest sector development.

“These are the kinds of projects we love to see moving forward,” said Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbott. “The contributions from the Coast Sustainability Trust will move the communities forward in their efforts to bring new economic opportunity, to strengthen existing ventures and to really enhance the quality of life for the people who live there”

“It’s exciting to see our communities given the help they need to create new opportunities and new jobs, as well as inspire confidence that we’re on a healthy path.” said North Island MLA Rod Visser.

“The Regional Steering Committee members, Chief Tom Nelson, Dawn Nicolson, Mayor Larry Pepper and Brenda Swanson are all 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 in the Mount Waddington area.”

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.