



The Coast Sustainability Trust

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The Coast Sustainability Trust Invests in the Islands

Two initiatives in the Queen Charlotte Islands – Haida Gwaii will receive a total of \$200,000 in funding from the Coast Sustainability Trust (CST).

“The Coast Sustainability Trust provides funds to innovative community projects that create jobs and bring new economic opportunities to the region,” said Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands. “Through the Trust, communities can expand and develop new industries creating a broad-based economy in the region that is sustainable for the long-term.”

The Qay’lnagaay Heritage Centre Society and the Skidegate Band Council will receive \$100,000 to help in the construction of the 46,000 square foot Qay’lnagaay Heritage Centre. The Heritage Centre is intended to celebrate the natural and cultural richness of the Islands and provide a critical boost to the tourism economy of the region.

“These are the first of what we hope will be many worthwhile projects that the CST will be able to support.” said Trustee Eric van Soeren.

The Haida Gwaii Local Food Processing Cooperative will receive \$100,000 towards a \$440,000 project to develop, produce and market value added forest products that utilize the natural resources of the Islands. It will initially process wild Chanterelle mushrooms to obtain a superior dried mushroom product using new vacuum microwave technology. Further valued added non-timber forest products will be added once the mushroom business is established. It is anticipated that the project will be in full production in 2006.

Funding for the two projects was approved at the October 2005 meeting of the Queen Charlotte Islands – Haida Gwaii Regional Steering Committee of the CST.

“Regional Steering Committee members Duane Gould, Carol Kulesha, Amanda Reid-Stevens and Ken Rea will be working hard to sift through what we hope will be many more worthwhile projects,” said van Soeren. “Their task is to decide which of the initiatives seem most likely to provide long-term sustainable economic development in the communities of the Islands.”

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. Interested parties can follow the links to the Community Matching Fund Guidelines and Stage One Application.