
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Community and Rural Development

\$159K INVESTMENT IN CAMPBELL RIVER TRAILS ASSISTS WORKERS

VICTORIA – Workers in Campbell River are improving more than 11 kilometres of trails and gaining access to employment opportunities, thanks to \$159,946 in funding from the Community Development Trust and Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), announced Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley on behalf of Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development and Barry J. Janyk, ICET chair.

“The Job Opportunities Program is about creating immediate employment opportunities for resource workers while strengthening communities,” said McRae. “This project allowed these five workers to stay close to home this holiday season, while using their hard work and ingenuity to develop a safer and more user-friendly trail system.”

Workers are cutting brush, pruning limbs, assessing and falling danger trees, and bucking deadfall to improve trail safety and visibility for hikers. They are also building picnic tables from wind-thrown trees, carving benches out of downed trees beside the trails, creating reroutes for enhanced user experiences, and building steps on previously slippery slopes.

“The ICET board has chosen to respond to the current crisis in the forest sector and will assist in any way that it can, consistent with its mandate for economic development,” said Janyk. “Trails are a major component of the trust’s tourism sector. Coming to the assistance of resource workers now will also help us ensure a true economic legacy is created.”

Forsite Consultants is co-ordinating the project, employing five resource workers to improve trails and recreation sites north of Campbell River. The work is taking place at trails around Chain Lake, Goose Lake, Pyes Creek, Ripple Rock and Sitka Spruce Beach. Work is expected to continue until March.

“Investments in these projects play a significant role in providing economic opportunities for rural communities,” said Kevin Krueger, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. “These projects enhance recreational experiences, and promote exciting, healthy venues for outdoor activities that citizens and visitors of all ages can enjoy.”

The Job Opportunities Program was first announced in May 2008 as one component of the federally funded \$129-million Community Development Trust. In July 2009, the provincial government committed an additional \$30 million toward the program, which the federal government is matching on a project-by-project basis through the Community Adjustment Fund.

The Province of British Columbia's contribution to the Job Opportunities Program is part of its commitment to provide stability for workers and communities, maintain the workforce during the economic downturn and help British Columbians gain new skills to be successful in the future.

ICET was established by legislation in 2006 and makes strategic investments in economic development priorities including forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business. The ICET region encompasses all regional districts and municipalities on Vancouver Island north of the Malahat, as well as the Powell River and Sunshine Coast regional districts.

ICET has approved \$39 million for over 50 projects on the Island and Sunshine Coast since starting its grant program in 2007. The total impact of these investments is estimated at \$215 million.

For more information about the Community Development Trust and Job Opportunities Program, go to: www.cd.gov.bc.ca/cdt/.

A full overview of ICET can be found at: www.islandcoastaltrust.ca.

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Media
Contacts: Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Community and
Rural Development
250 387-4089

Mayor Barry J. Janyk and ICET Chair
Town of Gibsons
604 886-2274
604 886-9735 (fax)
www.gibsons.ca

Al Baronas, CEO
Island Coastal Economic Trust
250-334-2427 (extension 223)
250-331-0962 (fax)
info@islandcoastaltrust.ca

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