



## **Island Coastal Economic Trust Announces Funding for 2009 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge**

**For Immediate Release  
October 17, 2008**

**Port Alberni, B.C.** – W.J. (Jack) Peake, Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) on behalf of the ICET Board of Directors, together with Mayor Ken McRae, today announced funding approval of \$100,000 for marketing support to the 2009 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. The total budget for the event is \$1,112,176.

Chair Peake explained that the principle goal of ICET support for this project is to generate economic benefits for the region, to build additional regional capacity to sponsor other major international events, and to showcase the region.

“This event is expected to provide a direct economic benefit of approximately \$3 million to participating communities and anticipates the partnership to capture a number of sporting, cultural, and events in the years to come,” stated Peake.

Ron Paulson, Co-Chair of the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge Society, noted that this event is being organized by the Alberni Valley Host Committee and sister Committees in each of the partner communities including Campbell River, Courtenay/Comox, Duncan/Cowichan, Nanaimo, and Parksville/Qualicum.

Paulson added that the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge is a Hockey Canada “Program of Excellence” event pitting five Canadian regional hockey teams against 5 international teams including Russia, Finland, Slovakia, Germany and the United States. The event is viewed as a world championship for this age group.

“Our six communities will host a total of 5 exhibition games and 27 tournament games. This marks the first time the bid for the event has been made and won by a consortium of communities, the first time the event will be hosted in British Columbia, and the smallest population ever to host the event,” emphasized Paulson.

The games will be held from December 28, 2008 to January 4, 2009 inclusive.

### **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 make strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business.

The Trust has approved some \$32 million for over 30 projects since inception in 2006. The total impact of these investments is estimated at \$193 million. Information about the Trust can be found on [www.islandcoastaltrust.ca](http://www.islandcoastaltrust.ca).

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