

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### REMEMBERING MAYOR TED LEWIS

COURTENAY – After his passing following a courageous battle with cancer, Mayor Edward (Ted) Lewis of Zeballos is being remembered by the Island Coastal Economic Trust as an eternal optimist who loved his community and worked tirelessly to help it grow and thrive.

“Ted was a truly good guy, and it was that genuine, caring personality that also made him such a great advocate for his community and the entire region,” said ICET Board Chair Phil Kent. “He knew that the future for Zeballos involved partnerships and regional thinking, and whether it was working with local First Nations or community groups, Ted was a bridge-builder focused on a positive future for everyone.”

Mayor Lewis, elected as Mayor of BC’s smallest municipality in 2008 and former Chair of the Strathcona Regional District, sat on ICET’s Regional Advisory Committee for 6 years and was elected to the Board in 2012.

Ted brought a personal touch to all of the working relationships he developed.

“I remember seeing Ted at the UBCM convention in a reception line to greet the Premier,” said ICET CEO Line Robert. “When his turn came up, she offered her hand but Ted smiled and said ‘I waited in line this long, I’m getting a hug!’, and he gave the Premier one of his famous bear hugs. She laughed, and probably still remembers that friendly encounter with the Mayor from Zeballos!”

Ted spent twenty years in the military as a logistics technician, which included 5 UN tours of duty. He left the Comox Valley in 2005 to retire in Zeballos, and quickly came to recognize the opportunity to help the community grow and prosper. Whether it was personally recruiting new families to move to town or working with his First Nations neighbours on a joint economic development strategy, Ted was a relentless advocate for Zeballos.

“Ted Lewis was the kind of Mayor that every community deserves, and he’ll be missed,” said Kent. “On behalf of our Board, Regional Advisory Committees and staff, I want to offer my sincere condolences to Ted’s family and friends.”

## **About the Island Coastal Economic Trust**

The Island Coastal Economic Trust is a \$50 million endowment established in 2006 by the Government of British Columbia to help diversify the economies of central and northern Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

ICET is guided by a Board of Directors and two Regional Advisory Committees which include more than 50 locally elected officials and MLAs and five appointees. This exceptional team of leaders collaborates to set regional priorities and build vital multi-regional networks.

Through a community-centred decision-making process, ICET has approved \$47 million for over 100 economic infrastructure and economic development readiness projects on the Island and Sunshine Coast since implementing its grant program in 2007. ICET investments have leveraged over \$260 million in incremental funding into the region.

A full overview of ICET can be found at [www.islandcoastaltrust.ca](http://www.islandcoastaltrust.ca).

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