



Island Coastal Economic Trust Announces Funding for Gibsons Landing Harbour

For Immediate Release

December 5, 2012

Courtenay, BC – The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) today announced funding approval of \$330,000 for the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority Project in Gibsons. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1.3 million.

The Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority’s project is a multi-phased, multi-use harbour revitalization initiative. This first phase of the project consists of a drive-on, side-by-side concrete float and a commercial grade drive-on ramp. Future phases of the comprehensive project will provide additional floats, floating breakwaters and reconfiguration of the total harbour space for maximum efficiency.

“ICET is pleased to invest in the Gibsons Landing harbour, an initiative that will support the regional economy by creating jobs and promoting growth,” stated ICET Chair Phil Kent. “This investment will help the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority develop important infrastructure to support marine-related activities in Gibsons and throughout the entire region. This is another example of what the Province had in mind when it created the Trust – the opportunity for communities to develop visionary projects suiting their needs while allowing them the opportunity to be part of the decision making process for the allocation of Trust funds. The Board lauds the Province for creating this model that supports projects like this, which serve to diversity and strengthen the local and regional economies,” stated Kent.

“We are very pleased that this funding collaboration between the federal government, the Island Coastal Economic Trust, and the community will allow us to meet the needs of the commercial fishery through improvements in loading and unloading efficiencies, the needs of residents and businesses through improved barge access to Gambier, Keats and Paisley Islands, and attract tourists through increased marine capacity” stated Terry Rhodes, President of the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority. “These improvements will also support the marine services sector by allowing easier access to the harbour. When the businesses in our region succeed, our communities reap the benefits.”

Town of Gibsons Mayor Wayne Rowe stated, “We are thrilled that the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority received this funding from ICET. As the Town of Gibsons is one of the few remaining working commercial harbours, this expansion will support the fishing industry and increase the usability of the harbour for a variety of uses and significantly enhancing the economic revitalization of Gibsons Landing.”

About the Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) was 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 funds community driven economic development initiatives in targeted sectors to spark new and sustainable regional economic growth. These sectors include: forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business.

ICET is managed by an independent Board of Directors comprised of thirteen members – eight Mayors and five provincial appointees from the ICET Region. ICET has approved \$47 million for almost 90 projects on the Island and Sunshine Coast since implementing its grant program in 2007. The total impact of these investments is estimated at over \$260 million.

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

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