



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2014

### **LOCAL MAYORS ELECTED TO ICET BOARD**

COURTENAY – Mayors from three Vancouver Island communities are joining the Island Coastal Economic Trust’s Board of Directors, and the organization is thanking three others for their service.

Tofino Mayor Josie Osborne, Comox Mayor Paul Ives, and Campbell River Mayor Walter Jakeway are the newly-elected members of the ICET Board of Directors. All are from the North Island Sunshine Coast Regional Advisory Committee (NISCRAC), a group that includes Mayors, Regional District Chairs and MLAs from the region.

Port McNeill Mayor Gerry Furney was re-elected to ICET’s Board and Qualicum Beach Mayor Teunis Westbroek will continue to serve as Chair of the NISCRAC and ex-officio Board member.

ICET Board Chair, Mayor Phil Kent of Duncan, congratulated all on their elections.

“As Committee and Board members on the Trust, we represent our communities, but we also have a duty to invest in projects and programs that benefit the entire region. I’d like to thank all of the newly elected Board Members for stepping forward to help guide this unique regional investment organization,” he said.

Kent thanked outgoing members Mayor Ted Lewis of Zeballos and Mayor John Henderson of Sechelt for their service and commitment to the ICET Board. He also recognized the late Bev Parnham, Mayor of Port Hardy.

“We’re still shocked and saddened by Bev’s sudden death, and on behalf of ICET, I’d like to acknowledge her passion and efforts to improve conditions for the entire region.”

In addition to the three newly-elected NISCRAC members, the Central South Island Regional Advisory Committee (CSIRAC) re-elected Mayor John Ruttan of Nanaimo, Mayor Phil Kent of Duncan, Mayor Rob Hutchins of Ladysmith, and Joe Stanhope of the Regional District of Nanaimo to the ICET Board. Gerry Giles of the Cowichan Valley Regional District will continue to serve as CSIRAC Chair and ex-officio Board member.

Both Regional Advisory Committees elect four Board members for two year terms. The two Regional Advisory Committee Chairs sit on the Board as ex-officio members. The remaining five Board members are appointed by the Province for three-year terms.

The NISCRAC held elections on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the CSIRAC on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The new Board terms are effective July 15, 2014 to July 14, 2016.

### **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)

-30-

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