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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **REMEMBERING ICET BOARD MEMBER MAYOR BEV PARNHAM**

COURTENAY - Port Hardy - and indeed, B.C. - lost a true leader this week with the passing of Mayor Bev Parnham.

Mayor Parnham died on May 21 in Nanaimo after a brief illness.

As a member of the Island Coastal Economic Trust Board of Directors, Mayor Parnham helped to guide the organization through investments across the Island and Sunshine Coast, leading to renewed economic activity in communities across the region.

"Bev was a leader in the truest sense of the word," said ICET Board Chair Mayor Phil Kent. "She was optimistic and realistic, and in her role on our Board, she advocated for investments that would help communities grow and reinvent themselves."

Parnham never sought the spotlight, instead choosing to recognize and focus on the community members who helped achieve the successful projects that reshaped Port Hardy and the entire ICET region.

Colleagues remember Parnham for her ability to 'walk the talk', and to be focused on implementation and results. She was a great regional thinker, just as proud of the projects in other communities as the projects in her own.

"In her home of Port Hardy, and as a Director of ICET, Bev was the embodiment of the term 'resilience'," said ICET CEO Line Robert. "No matter the challenge, Bev believed that if people worked together, solutions would arise. She was relentlessly optimistic, and her spirit encouraged others to help achieve great things for communities all across the Island."

ICET Board Chair Phil Kent noted that in the often unforgiving world of politics, Bev Parnham was willing to listen and consult, and then make (and stick with) the decision that she felt was best.

"Our Board is tasked with making decisions that balance the interests of multiple stakeholders, and Bev was a strong, smart woman who was decisive and effective," he explained. "She earned the respect of all of us because she stayed focused on making the right decisions, not the politically-expedient ones."

### **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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