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NEW LIGHTS TO SHINE ON ACADEMY OF MUSIC TALENT

COURTENAY – Artists on the stage at Powell River’s Academy of Music James Hall will feel like stars thanks to new stage lighting and the construction of a green room backstage. Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) is contributing \$10,000 through its Economic Infrastructure Program to support the Academy of Music’s continued growth as a centre for arts in the community.

“A vibrant arts and cultural community is key to improving quality of life, and that helps to attract entrepreneurs looking to settle in Powell River,” said ICET Chair Phil Kent. “Exposure to arts and culture provide an environment where creativity is developed, and that is essential in the Vancouver Island and Coast region’s new economy.”

With the assistance of this grant, the Academy will be able to update James Hall with new theatre lights, light board, scrim and build a greenroom to provide an appropriate environment for professionals and locals to prepare for performances.

“Through the Academy Concert Series and International Festivals such as the International Choral Kathaumixw the Powell River Academy of Music attracts artists and faculty from around the world to teach and perform. Some of these renowned artists choose to relocate to Powell River because of its unique lifestyle, cultural environment and facilities,” said Academy of Music Board Chair Don James.

The Powell River Academy of Music provides opportunities for over 900 students and adults to develop their talents and skills with music, dance, theatre, and visual arts programming. The Academy is also responsible for establishing the world renowned International Choral Kathaumixw, the Symphony Orchestra Academy of the Pacific, the International Harp Academy and the Academy Concert Series which attract visitors and enrich the lives of the students and citizens of Powell River.

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

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