



ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST ANNOUNCES FUNDING SUPPORT FOR WILD PACIFIC TRAIL SECTION H IN UCLUELET

For Immediate Release

The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) today announced funding approval of \$55,500 to develop an extension to the world class Wild Pacific Trail in Ucluelet.

The existing Wild Pacific Trail extends 8.6 km through ancient spruce and cedar rainforests, skirting rugged cliffs and rocky promontories, and offers spectacular vistas of the Pacific Ocean.

The 1.5 km trail extension north of the existing trail, represents an important next step in the strategy to connect the Wild Pacific Trail to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The new trail will feature a stand of very large old growth cedars and dramatic rocky headlands along a rugged coastline.

“ICET is pleased to have supported an earlier phase of the Wild Pacific Trail, which has proven itself as a key economic driver for the District of Ucluelet,” stated ICET Chair Phil Kent. “We are confident that this incremental investment will enable Ucluelet to attract more tourism, new businesses and investment to the region, ensuring continued sustainable development, focused on the region’s strengths and existing assets.

Jim Martin (“Oyster Jim”) known locally as the visionary and driving force behind the Wild Pacific Trail will take on the supervision of this project. “We are very grateful to ICET for this funding support. This expansion of the trail is remarkably important. Not only is this the largest expansion of the trail we have ever undertaken, there are outstanding unique features to be gained, notably the most significant stand of old growth forest within the District of Ucluelet. This trail will provide an unforgettable “walk through the giant cedars” experience. This construction is a 'Big Win' for us all; locals, our visitors and the world at large,” said Martin.

Ucluelet Mayor Bill Irving stated “We are delighted that this funding has been made available and very excited to continue advancing this important trail because of all economic benefits it will provide the District of Ucluelet for generations to come. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Wild Pacific Trail Society as we strive to construct and celebrate the opening of the trail as quickly as possible.”

About Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established in February 2006 under an Act of the Province of British Columbia. It provided a \$50-million endowment that is managed by an independent Board of Directors comprised of thirteen members – eight Mayors and five provincial appointees from the prescribed area.

The Board's mandate is to make strategic investments in economic development priorities including forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business. The ICET region encompasses all Regional Districts and municipalities on Vancouver Island north of the Malahat as well as the Powell River and Sunshine Coast Regional Districts.

ICET has approved \$47 million in funding for over 90 projects on the Island and Sunshine Coast since implementing its grant program in 2007. The total economic impact of these investments is estimated at nearly \$250 million.

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

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For further information:

Mayor Phil Kent, ICET Chair
City of Duncan
Tel. 250-709-0186
mayor@duncan.ca

Line Robert, Acting CEO
Island Coastal Economic Trust
Tel. 250-871-7797 ext. 227
line.robert@islandcoastaltrust.ca

Mayor Bill Irving
District of Ucluelet
Tel. 250-726-7744
info@ucluelet.ca

Jim Martin
Wild Pacific Trail Society
Tel. 250-726-7565
oysterjim@hotmail.com