



September 20, 2023

Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC  
P.O. Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

**RE: AVICC Regional Resolution 2023-R5: Recapitalization of Island Coastal Economic Trust**

Dear Premier Eby,

The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) represents the interests of local governments and member First Nations in the British Columbia region of Vancouver Island, qathet, the Sunshine Coast, Central Coast and North Coast. After consideration at the AVICC Annual Convention in April 2023, AVICC members endorsed resolution 2023-R5, urging the Province to make a generational investment of \$150 million in the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET). Since this resolution is regional in nature, it will not be considered by UBCM members at the 2023 UBCM Convention.

The resolution is enclosed for your review and attention. Since its inception, ICET has invested over \$59 million to the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast regions of British Columbia through partnerships with community-led initiatives. These investments have led to the creation of significant permanent jobs, supported local small businesses and entrepreneurs, and developed infrastructure and services that have helped to attract new investment and visitors, continuing to build economic resiliency.

This resolution was conveyed to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, the Hon. Brenda Bailey, in May 2023 and meeting requests from AVICC members have been confirmed to meet with her at the UBCM convention. On behalf of the AVICC Executive and members, thank you for accepting a meeting on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Cote', is written over a light blue wavy graphic element.

Penny Cote  
President, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities  
Director, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District



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## **Recapitalization of Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) Resolution**

**Whereas** at the January 11, 2023, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting a motion was passed to urge the province to recapitalize the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) with a generational investment of \$150 million.

**And whereas** ICET has been a vital partner in our efforts to promote economic development and diversification in the rural, electoral areas of the CRD and its contributions have been instrumental in creating jobs, boosting local businesses, and improving the quality of life for our residents.

**Therefore be it resolved that AVICC & UBCM urge the province to recapitalize the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) with a generational investment of \$150 million.**

*I, Kristen Morley, Corporate Officer for the Capital Regional District, hereby certify that the above resolution was endorsed by the Capital Regional District Board at its meeting held on January 11, 2023 to be submitted for consideration at the 2023 AVICC and UBCM Convention.*

*Dated this 6th day of February 2023.*

*[original signed by Kristen Morley]*

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*Kristen Morley  
Corporate Officer*

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several overlapping, wavy lines in shades of blue and teal, creating a sense of movement and depth.



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## **Recapitalization of Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) Background Information**

Since its inception, ICET has invested over \$55 million to the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast regions of British Columbia through partnerships with community-led initiatives. These investments have led to the creation of significant permanent jobs, supported local small businesses and entrepreneurs, and developed infrastructure and services that have helped to attract new investment and visitors, continuing to build economic resiliency.

The unincorporated Electoral Areas of the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI EA), Juan de Fuca (JDF EA), and Salt Spring Island (SSI EA) are within the CRD, but contain communities that are rural by character, geography, population size, and capacity to sustain services. These rural electoral areas of the CRD were historically excluded from participating in funding programs of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) as a result of being a part of the CRD, which is otherwise characterized by urban municipalities with large population centres. The decision to exclude these rural areas from rural programs and funding was contested as it did not reflect the electoral areas rural character, geography, land use or capacity to sustain services.

In 2016, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities passed a resolution asking the Province to officially recognize and classify the three CRD electoral areas as rural communities. The CRD Board continued to advocate for our rural electoral areas and, in 2018, passed a resolution requesting the Province of BC classify the electoral areas as “rural,” so that they may qualify and receive the benefits from Provincial and Federal Government programs that are directed at rural communities. In 2021, the three CRD electoral areas were finally included within the boundaries of the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

In this short time, there has been some investment on Salt Spring and Pender Islands but additional funding is vital to supporting sustainability and resiliency in our rural coastal communities. Given the ongoing economic challenges facing our region, it is more important than ever that we continue to support ICET's vital work.

CRD's call for a generational investment of \$150 million into the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) is to enable our Electoral Areas to benefit from the only economic trust serving the island-coastal region. The CRD Board believes that a significant investment from the province would enable ICET to continue to make a real difference in our communities, and we request AVICC and UBCM's support to call on the Province to recapitalize investment in ICET.