

COAST OPPORTUNITY FUNDS

REGIONAL PLANNING GRANTS



Coast Opportunity Funds is the newly formed organization created and entrusted to oversee and manage two \$60 million funds that will support conservation management and sustainable economic development projects, initiated by First Nations, in the North and Central Coasts of B.C. and Haida Gwaii.

Coast Opportunity Funds will support new forms of innovation to preserve the rainforest ecosystem and the cultural values and rights of the aboriginal people who live in this extraordinary and globally significant region.

The **Economic Development Fund** will disburse \$60 million in public funds to support economically viable and environmentally sustainable businesses over the next five to seven years while the **Conservation Endowment Fund** will disburse the investment proceeds of a permanent \$60 million endowment, provided by private funders, to support conservation management and related job creation in perpetuity.

Working Together to Achieve our Goals

Coast Opportunity Funds resulted from groundbreaking partnerships forged through the efforts of First Nations, conservationists, private funders and the governments of B.C. and Canada working together through the Conservation Investments and Incentives Initiative.

After years of determined effort, the CIII legacy was realized when private funders committed \$60 million to support First Nations conservation and the federal and provincial governments matched that commitment with contributions of \$30 million each.

This commitment recognized that the lasting relationship First Nations have to the land can attract funds which will support sustainable economic opportunities. The joint management of the Economic Development Fund and the Conservation Endowment Fund by a shared board of directors and staff ensures a coordinated approach that leverages a broad set of skills to help build sustainable communities on the coast.

Regional Planning Grants

\$2 million from each of these two funds is now available to First Nations to support initial planning stages, development activities and related infrastructure of regional projects that are jointly proposed and endorsed by at least two eligible First Nations.



Who Can Apply

Grants are available to two or more eligible First Nations applying jointly within the geographical regions of the Central and North Coasts of British Columbia and Haida Gwaii. Grants may also be awarded to regional groups representing eligible First Nations, appointed as an agent and acting on their behalf.

To be eligible for a Regional Planning grant from the **Economic Development Fund** First Nations are required to have signed a land use planning agreement or treaty with the Province of B.C. that includes *some or all* of its traditional territory within the project area.

To be eligible for a Regional Planning grant from the **Conservation Endowment Fund** First Nations are required to have entered into a land use planning agreement with the Province of B.C. that includes *all* of its traditional territory within the project area.



Al Harvey, Slidefarm

Activities Eligible for Funding

The following are examples of activities eligible for funding:

- Capacity building (training, organizing, educating, relationship building)
- Development of business plans and funding applications
- Creation or strengthening of regional co-operation to undertake economic development initiatives
- Planning work that is linked to future conservation, economic development projects or sustainable businesses

Priority will be given to planning activities that:

- Catalyze and strengthen regional co-operation, leverage regional resources, encourage regional efficiencies and maximize regional access and inclusiveness
- Attract and leverage additional funds from other sources

The Funds will support planning activities that require:

- Multi-year funding commitments disbursed upon completion of pre-determined milestones
- Funding for activities dating back to January 1, 2008
- Funding for both project specific needs and contributions to the operating budget of approved organizations, undertaking specific planning work deemed eligible for funding



Allocation of Funds

The allocation formula for the \$2 million Regional Planning grants is currently being established by

Coast Opportunity Funds in dialogue with regional First Nation representatives to ensure equitable interests and participation by all eligible First Nations.

Economic Development Goals

Ultimately, the projects supported by planning activities funded with grants from the Regional Economic Development Planning Fund will achieve the following Economic Development Goals:

- Increase the capacity of eligible First Nation communities to realize sustainable economic diversification opportunities
- Enhance access to skills, development and training
- Enhance the economic infrastructure of the North and Central Coasts to support First Nations businesses within the project area
- Increase First Nations' economic share of commercial activities, such as shellfish aquaculture, tourism and cultural products
- Increase the number of businesses owned by First Nation communities or individuals living in the project area

“The cultural values of First Nations and the ecological integrity of the land can be combined to create jobs for our people and produce economic prosperity for our communities,” says Cindy Boyko, elected Representative to the Council of the Haida Nation and Coast Funds board member.

- Increase investment in First Nations sustainable business partnerships
- contribute towards a stable or increasing population in the project area and its communities
- Increase First Nations participation in the provincial economy
- Improve First Nations employment levels
- Increase First Nations average annual incomes

Conservation Goals

Projects supported by planning activities funded with grants from the Regional Conservation Planning Fund will achieve the following Conservation Goals:

- Enhance eligible First Nations' ability to manage ecosystems, protected areas, lands and resources in the project area
- Provide eligible First Nations with the capability to develop a suite of programs or projects to restore damaged habitat within their traditional territories
- Provide eligible First Nations with permanent (seasonal or full-time) jobs that support conservation planning, research, monitoring and interpretation
- Study, document and interpret ecosystems within eligible First Nations traditional territories
- Launch collaborative actions that enhance and sustain the biodiversity, productive capacity and resilience of ecosystems in the project area to sustain cultural and traditional resources, such as fish, wildlife and cedar
- Maintain, restore or enhance habitats and ecosystem productivity to preserve migratory birds, species at risk and productive riparian areas important to First Nations

“First Nations have always recognized the deep connection between our land, water and wildlife, and will continue to manage our economic growth to ensure the well being of our people and our resources,” says Harold Leighton, elected Chief of the Metlakatla First Nation and Coast Opportunity Funds board member.

Adrian Dorst Photo



Application Process

Step 1 Submit a Letter of Intent to Coast Opportunity Funds by email or post to notify us that you would like to apply for a Regional Planning grant.

The Letter of Intent should include the following information:

- 1 Name of project
- 2 Names of First Nations applying jointly for the grant
- 3 Name of agent, if applicable, acting on behalf of the applicant First Nations to receive funds or carry out work to be funded
- 4 Primary contact person
- 5 The conservation or economic development issue (need) and opportunity being addressed
- 6 The overall goal of the initiative, explaining how it aligns with the Conservation or Economic Development Goals of the Fund
- 7 Scope of work of the project
- 8 The specific deliverables of the initiative seeking funding
- 9 Grant amount to be requested, with preliminary target funding date(s), noting any relevant time sensitivities
- 10 Project time period with start and end dates

We encourage you to contact us by phone so we are able to answer any preliminary questions you may have, provide you with early feedback and support, and guide you through the next steps in the application process.

Step 2 Submit a Full Application.

Please contact Coast Opportunity Funds' office when you are ready to submit a full application. We will be happy to provide you with detailed application guidelines.



COAST OPPORTUNITY FUNDS

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(Unless otherwise indicated, photos from: www.bcforestinformation.com.)

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www.coastopportunityfunds.ca

Board of Directors

Coast Opportunity Funds' board of directors was appointed by representatives of the public funders, private foundations and First Nations based on a selection of competencies, including knowledge of coastal First Nations, business skills and environmental grant-making.

Members of the 2007-2010 board are:

- Cindy Boyko
- Beverly Briscoe
- Cameron Brown
- Merv Child
- Harold Leighton
- Thomas Olsen
- Paul Richardson
- Merran Smith
- Don Wright