



## OUR COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS ARE SMALL, BUT MIGHTY

When the World Indigenous Basketball Challenge took to the gym at UBC last month, bringing together more than a dozen teams from around the world, it marked the culmination of months of planning by local volunteers. This year's tournament built on the success of last year's event. The organizers secured a new, larger venue, made new partnerships, and attracted even more teams. Although it mostly took place in Vancouver, the challenge was completely organized on Haida Gwaii with the help of volunteers from every community, and some of the teams travelled here for a series of exhibition games. Earlier this year, the Skidegate Saints successfully applied for a \$5,000 Community Innovation grant to help cover some of tournament's expenses. A world-class event like this one allows local

volunteers to build new skills in areas like marketing and promotions, and displays Haida hospitality, culture, and sportsmanship to a wide audience, making it a natural fit with Gwaii Trust goals.

Our Community Innovation grants are designed to support smaller-scale community projects that improve basic facilities and/or services. We also want to encourage projects that create jobs, especially for youth or people who face employment barriers, and provide

education or experience in trades work. These grants are open to local governments and non-profit organizations. We will award up to \$10,000 in matching funds – applicants must provide at least 50% of the total project cost through fundraising, cash reserves or in-kind services.

We accept applications for this grant throughout the year, and our budget for 2017 is \$130,000. Last year, we funded 17 different projects through this program – ranging from an infrastructure upgrade at the Mount Moresby Adventure Camp, to replacing the entrance ramps at the Port Clements Museum, to helping the Swiilawiid Sustainability Society with a project to install solar panels at off-grid youth camps. See our website at gwaiitrust.com for complete details and online application forms.

*New ramp at the Port Clements Museum*

