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TOGETHER

Gwaii Trust responds to COVID-19 pandemic

With the declaration of a COVID-19 pandemic, The Gwaii Trust Society staff and Board of Directors want to assure grantees, community partners and all residents of Haida Gwaii that we will do our best to provide appropriate support throughout this period of heightened risk and unprecedented uncertainty.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

The Gwaii Trust Board of Directors moved immediately to create a new Haida Gwaii COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant, aimed at organizations serving islands residents affected by the pandemic. The Gwaii Trust has made an initial commitment of \$250,000 towards this fund. The intent of this grant is to provide short-term financial assistance to organizations that are providing direct response and support to those affected on Haida Gwaii. Grants will be approved based on need and available funding. Within the first few weeks, directors approved \$179,716 to non-profit, local organizations including the Village of Queen Charlotte Emergency Operations Centre (\$10,000), the Island Wellness Food Bank (\$31,190), and School District 50 (\$50,000 for internet service for families in need and the purchase of 70 devices to lend to students).

Regular Grants

All of our grants, with the exception of the Travel Assistance Grant, remain open at this time. Depending on the length and impact of the pandemic, there may be shifts in the priorities of the

Board and programs may change. If there are further changes to our programs or deadlines, we will provide updates on our website.

Approved Grants

If you currently have a grant from Gwaii Trust Society, we understand that you may not be able to complete your project as originally outlined in your application. If you need to change the timelines, activities or budget, let us know and we will work with you. If the grant was for an event or included participation that has been impacted by COVID-19, we are open to discuss that impact and potential areas to redirect that grant at your organization. To prevent any disruption in payments, Gwaii Trust is encouraging grant holders and vendors to register your direct deposit details with us when requesting payment. Currently, we can offer direct deposit for Northern Savings members, but we are working on a solution to expand this to clients of other financial institutions.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Vibrant Haida Gwaii Communities**
- **Community Innovation**
- **Arts Workshops**
- **Arts Mentorships**

Deadline is the first of each month at 4 pm (excluding August and December). Visit gwaitrust.com/grants for information and to apply online or contact Project Officer Dana Bellis.

Contact: Dana Bellis
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