



## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY LOCAL ECONOMY

Gwaii Trust directors and staff have been working for the past 18 months on a strategic plan that will provide direction to the Trust over the next five years, between now

and 2022. We knew we needed a new plan because Haida Gwaii has changed a lot over the past decade. We have a less robust economy, a declining population, and we've seen an increase in social needs.

We wanted to find a way to focus our programs and funding so that we can continue to offer services that are as relevant as possible to the community.

After extensive community consultations, numerous facilitator-led discussions, and multiple committee meetings, the board has concluded that the basics of a vibrant local economy can only be built on a

foundation of healthy individuals, supporting healthy communities, to create a healthy Island.

As we move forward, we will be shifting our organizational structure slightly to address our new "Healthy Individuals, Healthy Communities, Healthy Islands" focus. One of our new structures will be the Haida Gwaii Community Foundation, which was registered in December 2016. The foundation will allow us to receive funds and issue tax receipts to donors both local and off-island - something we haven't been able to do before. The Gwaii Trust has also committed to matching up to \$750,000 in donations to the Foundation. We will be sharing more details about this exciting new initiative and our new direction in the coming months.

