



The Village of
PORT CLEMENTS
"Gateway to the Wilderness"

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Port Clements, BC
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3:00 p.m. Special Meeting of Council, Monday, March 27, 2020

AGENDA

- 1. Adopt the Agenda**
- 2. Government**
G-1—Community Trails and Recreation Program Grant – CAO Decock
- 3. Adjournment**



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REPORT TO COUNCIL

Author: Ruby Decock, CAO
Date: March 27th, 2020
RE: Community Trails and Recreation Program Grant

BACKGROUND:

In August 2019, Council agreed to submit two applications to the Rural Dividend Grant: The Golden Spruce Trail Extension Study for \$10,000 and the Sunset Park Trail Improvement Project for up to \$100,000. Part of this application required a commitment of 20% contribution to the Sunset Park Trail Improvement Project. Although the applications were submitted, the Provincial government cancelled the Rural Dividend Funding program and reallocated the funds to provide critical supports to workers and families impacted by mill closures and curtailments; however, our community was notified that our applications would be kept on file for future funding consideration.

DISCUSSION:

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations contacted the Village to identify that both Rural Dividend Fund applications were eligible projects under the Community Trails and Recreation Program Grant. They need confirmation from Council that they are willing to pursue these projects, and if these projects are approved through the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' (FLNRO) Community Trails and Recreation Program Grant, a contract for the funding would need to be signed before March 31, 2020.

IMPLICATIONS:

STRATEGIC

(Guiding Documents Relevancy – Strategic Plan, Official Community Plan)

This project was previously identified and does not change Council's Strategic Plan and it follows one of the objectives stated in the OCP.

FINANCIAL

(Corporate Budget Impact)

There will be no changes to the existing planned budget. Financial commitments to this project were agreed upon through the Rural Dividends Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE

(Workload Impact and Consequence)

No changes, except management of contract and reporting.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

THAT The Village of Port Clements council agrees to apply to the Community Trails and Recreation Program Grant for up to \$100,000 towards the Sunset Trail Improvement Project

THAT the Village of Port Clements Council agrees to apply to the Community Trails and Recreation Program Grant for up to \$10,000 towards the Golden Spruce Trail Extension Study.
THAT the Village of Port Clements commits to contribute up to \$25,000 towards the Sunset Trail Improvement Project to match the Rural Dividends Program.

THAT Council gives permission for the municipal staff to sign a funding agreement for the Sunset Park Trail Improvement Project and the Golden Spruce Trail Extension Study.

Respectfully Submitted:



Ruby Decock, CAO

Attachments - Rural Dividend's Fund Applications:
① Golden Spruce Trail Extension Study
② Sunset Park Trail Improvement



Review request

Sunset Trail Improvement Project.

Please review your application below. To make changes, use the tabs at the top of the page to navigate back to the corresponding page.

Overview

Think about the direct activities related to your proposed project.

Select the [BC Economic Development Region](#) and Regional District where the majority of the direct activities will take place:

Direct activities are:

- Actions, steps or events that must be undertaken to complete the proposed project.

Examples of direct activities (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Providing training workshops for community members;
- Implementing recommendations from a completed business case for a tourism initiative;
- Building or upgrading destination trails.

North Coast

Skeena-Queen Charlotte

Provide the name(s) of the municipality(ies), reserves and/or electoral area(s) where the majority of the direct activities will take place:

Village of Port Clements

Think about the direct benefits of your proposed project.

Describe the geographic area that will directly benefit from your proposed project:

Direct benefits are:

- Positive change(s) that a specific community (or group of communities) experience as a direct result of actions or events undertaken in the implementation of the proposed project.

Examples of direct benefits (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Estimated number of training workshops provided and number of community members who receive training;
- Additional recreation tourism opportunities due to the planning and construction of destination trails in the community;
- Increased supports for local businesses through the implementation of a business attraction and retention project.

The Sunset Trail Improvement Project will restore a destination walking trail in Port Clements, increasing its value for tourism and for local recreation.

Which project funding stream are you applying for? [Learn more about BC Rural Dividend's project funding stream.](#)

Single Applicant Project (up to \$100,000)

Eligible Applicant Organization Type: [Learn more about the BC Rural Dividend's Eligible Organization types.](#)

Local Government

Select the project category that best reflects the focus of your proposed project:

[Click here](#) to learn more about the categories and see examples.

Community and Economic Development

Details

Project Title

Sunset Trail Improvement Project

In 2-3 sentences please summarize your proposed project.

This project will restore Port Clements' Sunset Trail by replacing bridges, resurfacing sections that are overgrown or prone to pooling, falling danger trees and doing some selective thinning where the trail crosses Sunset Park Campground. Restoring this destination trail will improve safety as well as add value to tourism and local recreation.

Describe your proposed project:

Your description should include:

- What direct actions you are taking;
- Why (the rationale for the proposed project); and
- What you hope to accomplish (the anticipated outcomes).

The project involves hiring contractors to replace six of the nine wooden footbridges along Sunset Trail, to lay landscape fabric and fresh gravel over about 1.5 km of trail that is overgrown, to raise low areas prone to pooling rain, to survey the trail area for danger and wildlife trees, and to remove the danger trees as well as doing some selective thinning along the section of trail that traverses Sunset Park Campground and ends at the birdwatching tower overlooking the Yakoun River estuary.

First and foremost, the rationale of this project is to make Sunset Trail safer, which not only adds to its tourism value, but also to its value for local recreation. Since it was extended in 2017 so that it leads to the exhibition grounds of the Port Clements Museum, the Sunset Trail has been the venue of an annual 6 km trail race during Canada Days in Port Clements.

Second, the trail improvements will make Sunset Park Campground a more attractive place for visitors to stay overnight. The shoreline trail and the birdwatching tower the trail leads to are both key features of this municipally-run campground, and the selective thinning along the trail should bring more light and airflow into the area.

Restoring Sunset Trail may be a step towards a future project — a proposal to link the Sunset Trail with the nearby Golden Spruce Trail, and to extend the Golden Spruce Trail further along the Yakoun River. The combined trail would result in a half-day, family- and senior-friendly walk that features old-growth riparian forest, the Masset Inlet shoreline, the estuary of Haida Gwaii's largest river, two prime birdwatching sites, and an interpretive trail that tells the history of Kik'yaas or the Golden Spruce. Moreover, the existing Sunset Trail already starts from the exhibition grounds of the Port Clements Museum, a few minutes' walk away from shops and restaurants in downtown Port Clements.

The anticipated outcomes of this project are a safer trail that is free of danger trees, with bridges in good condition and a trail surface that is level, clear of weeds and properly drained. Applications for Destinations Trails projects need to provide information as to how your proposed project relates to the [Trails Strategy for British Columbia](#).

If this is a Destination Trails project, please provide a description of how the proposed project supports and is linked to the Trails Strategy for British Columbia.

The Sunset Trail Improvement Project supports the Trails Strategy by promoting active lifestyles, recreation for people 55 and older, and a tourist attraction that supports local businesses — three of the demand trends identified by the Trails Strategy. Bookended by the birdwatching tower that overlooks the Yakoun River estuary and the exhibition grounds of the Port Clements Museum, the trail also enhances awareness of the environment and of local history — two of sustainability benefits listed by the Trails Strategy. Finally, the trail improvements will lower the liability risk to the local municipality, one of the action items listed in the Trails Strategy.

The following four questions relate to the objectives of the Rural Dividend Program.

If a stated objective is not relevant to your proposed project, please type "N/A" in the response box. Your application will not be penalized if your proposed project is not linked to every objective.

Where applicable, include any details related to the innovative aspects of your proposed project.

Objective 1): Increase community resilience and support economic development and diversification through enabling rural communities to implement their vision for long-term vibrancy, as well as prepare and respond to economic disruptions.

Describe how your proposed project will support economic diversification resulting in a more resilient community:

The Sunset Trail Improvement Project will increase community resilience by restoring a destination trail that brings visitors to the Port Clements Museum, one of the town's key attractions, and to the Sunset Park Campground, a municipally-run campground with tent and RV sites along the Masset Inlet shoreline that features views of the Yakoun River estuary. In a place with many natural wonders, the Yakoun is a standout. Just past the campground, Sunset Trail ends at a two-storey bird tower that overlooks the Yakoun River estuary — known to the Haida as the River of Life, it is the largest river on Haida Gwaii, home to five species of salmon and an internationally significant bird habitat.

Objective 2): Support Indigenous communities and organizations to develop and lead traditional and/or emerging economic opportunities, including in the natural resource sector.

Describe how your proposed project will support Indigenous communities to develop and lead both traditional and emerging economic opportunities:

N/A

Objective 3): Strengthen the capacity of small and remote communities to address unique challenges in realizing their economic potential.

Describe how your proposed project will 1) strengthen the capacity of the communities involved and 2) use the additional capacity to benefit the local economy:

The project will strengthen the capacity of Port Clements to market itself as a tourist destination, which benefits the local economy by increasing stays at local hotels and B&Bs as well as increased use of local grocery stores, restaurants, and other services. With a population of about 280, Port Clements is small, and along with all of the communities on Haida Gwaii it is remote as well — an eight-hour ferry ride from the B.C. mainland or two-hour flight from Vancouver.

Objective 4): Assist rural communities to pursue innovative economic opportunities that support climate mitigation and/or adaptation for a cleaner future for BC.

Describe how your proposed project will investigate and pursue economic opportunities that support a cleaner future.

N/A

Will the project directly create any additional jobs?

No

Describe potential indirect employment (not in the project itself) created as a result of the project.

Restoring the Sunset Trail will provide a boost in tourist visits to Port Clements, which in turn will benefit local accommodation, retail, food and service providers.

Please indicate the components (key steps or elements) of your proposed project as well as

the associated deliverables (to enter more than one component, use the "Add another component" link).

[Click here](#)* to see examples of project components and deliverables.

Please describe the component of your proposed project:

Upgrade of a destination trail (the 3 km Sunset Trail in the Village of Port Clements)

Please describe the associated deliverables for this component:

- 1) Replacement of six ageing wood footbridges along Sunset Trail
- 2) Laying landscape fabric and gravel 1.5 km of overgrown trail
- 3) Filling potholes in the trail's unpaved parking lots
- 4) Spreading 10 loads of sand over low spots in the Sunset Park Campground area
- 5) Surveying for wildlife and danger trees along the trail
- 6) Felling any danger trees and selected trees for improving trail views

Does the community/communities in which the project will be implemented have a current community and/or economic development plan?

Yes

Please note the section(s) in the plan which relate directly to the project and describe how the project supports the plan(s).

Under Section 7, Social Wellbeing, the Official Community Plan for the Village of Port Clements includes objective 7.2.4, to enhance quality of life by "providing an adequate and safe infrastructure. In the same section, objective 7.2.8 is to enhance quality of life by "promoting a range of age-friendly recreational opportunities." Finally, objective 7.3.1 is to "encourage the provision and expansion of recreational and entertainment facilities in order to address the needs of all ages and to attract more families."

Under Section 8, Economic Development, the Tourism sub-section at 8.3 notes that "Port Clements is committed to pursuing and supporting tourism initiatives in our community. Noting its attractiveness as a "Gateway to the Wilderness" with a central location and marine opportunities as well as parks and walking trails, the Tourism objectives include 8.3.6, which states, "Continue to maintain and enhance the Sunset Park RV and tent facility." The Sunset Trail is a key feature of Sunset Park Campground, and restoring the trail will better maintain the attractiveness of the campground as a whole.

Finally, under Section 15 — Parks, Trails, and Recreation Land Use — the plan includes objective 15.2.1, which is to "provide a system of parks, trails and recreational areas which meet the needs of local residents and visitors."

Please attach your document using the Browse button below.

File: Official Commun.pdf

Size: 2 Megabytes

Describe the existing support for your proposed project. Indicate how support has been demonstrated within the community/communities and where applicable, outcomes from formal or informal discussions with indigenous communities:

[Click here](#)* to see examples of support.

The Sunset Trail Improvement Project has the support of the Village of Port Clements council.

Budget

Important

Please fill out the separate Rural Dividend Budget Form, available on the [Rural Dividend website](#), to complete the following section.

Please note that if the amounts listed in the application differ from the completed Budget Form, the Program will assess the project utilizing the information in the Budget Form.



Golden Spruce Trail Extension Study.

Review request

Please review your application below. To make changes, use the tabs at the top of the page to navigate back to the corresponding page.

Overview

Think about the direct activities related to your proposed project.

Select the [BC Economic Development Region](#) and Regional District where the majority of the direct activities will take place:

Direct activities are:

- Actions, steps or events that must be undertaken to complete the proposed project.

Examples of direct activities (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Providing training workshops for community members;
- Implementing recommendations from a completed business case for a tourism initiative;
- Building or upgrading destination trails.

North Coast

Skeena-Queen Charlotte

Provide the name(s) of the municipality(ies), reserves and/or electoral area(s) where the majority of the direct activities will take place:

Village of Port Clements

Think about the direct benefits of your proposed project.

Describe the geographic area that will directly benefit from your proposed project:

Direct benefits are:

- Positive change(s) that a specific community (or group of communities) experience as a direct result of actions or events undertaken in the implementation of the proposed project.

Examples of direct benefits (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Estimated number of training workshops provided and number of community members who receive training;
- Additional recreation tourism opportunities due to the planning and construction of destination trails in the community;
- Increased supports for local businesses through the implementation of a business attraction and retention project.

The Golden Spruce Trail Extension Study will directly benefit the Village of Port Clements by assessing the feasibility of a new recreation tourism opportunity — an extended destination trail that ventures up part of the Yakoun River, the largest river on Haida Gwaii.

Which project funding stream are you applying for? [Learn more about BC Rural Dividend's project funding stream.](#)

Project Development (up to \$10,000)

Eligible Applicant Organization Type: [Learn more about the BC Rural Dividend's Eligible Organization types.](#)

Local Government

Select the project category that best reflects the focus of your proposed project:

[Click here](#)* to learn more about the categories and see examples.

Details

Project Title

Golden Spruce Trail Extension Study

In 2-3 sentences please summarize your proposed project.

The project will study the feasibility of extending the Golden Spruce Trail up a portion of the Yakoun River, and possibly connecting it with the existing Sunset Trail. It will involve hiring a consultant to produce a report based on research and site walks.

Describe your proposed project:

Your description should include:

- What direct actions you are taking;
- Why (the rationale for the proposed project); and
- How the work will support future project phases?

The Village of Port Clements will hire trail consultants to 1) assemble relevant maps, photos, and plans and 2) to walk the areas in question and scout possible trail routes. The consultants will then produce a feasibility study that explores the possibility of extending the Golden Spruce Trail south along a portion of the Yakoun River and/or connecting it with the existing Sunset Trail to the north.

One rationale for the study is that extending the Golden Spruce Trail would offer visitors and residents an improved destination trail in the Port Clements area — one that ventures along the banks of what is Haida Gwaii's largest river, and a place of great natural and cultural significance. Local trail advocates have suggested a second bird tower might be installed along the extended trail, offering another view of what is an internationally significant habitat for waterfowl and other birds.

A second rationale is that linking an extended Golden Spruce Trail with the existing Sunset Trail would result in a half-day, family- and seniors-friendly trail that begins on the grounds of the Port Clements Museum and ends on the Yakoun River after winding past the community park, the Masset Inlet shoreline, the Yakoun River estuary, and the mouth of the Yakoun River itself. The longer trail may give visitors more reason to overnight or spend a full day in Port Clements, benefiting local accommodation and service providers.

Describe how your proposed project addresses one or more of the following program objective(s):

- Increase community resilience and support economic development and diversification through enabling rural communities to implement their vision for long-term vibrancy, as well as prepare and respond to economic disruptions.
- Support Indigenous communities and organizations to develop and lead traditional and/or emerging economic opportunities, including in the natural resource sector.
- Strengthen the capacity of small and remote communities to address unique challenges in realizing their economic potential.
- Assist rural communities to pursue innovative economic opportunities that support climate mitigation and/or adaptation for a cleaner future for BC.

By laying the groundwork for an improved destination trail, the project would strengthen the economic potential of Port Clements. It is a community of fewer than 300 residents that has depended largely on forestry, but which has more recently diversified to include more tourism ventures. Like all of Haida Gwaii, it is remote — a seven-hour ferry ride from the B.C. mainland and a nearly two-hour flight from Vancouver.

The project would also increase community resilience as the Golden Spruce and Sunset Trails are a clear benefit to local recreation, fitness, and environmental awareness.

Describe potential indirect employment (not in the project itself) created as a result of the project.

Indirect employment would most likely come thanks to longer visitor stays, as tourists may be more inclined to overnight or spend a full day in Port Clements to hike the longer trail or trails.

That would in turn benefit local hotels, B&Bs, grocery stores, restaurants, and other service providers. Local guides would also benefit — already, some guides take visitors on interpretive walks along the Golden Spruce Trail, to explain the ancient and more recent history of the Golden Spruce tree, or K'iidk'yaas.

Please indicate the components (key steps or elements) of your proposed project as well as the associated deliverables (to enter more than one component, use the "Add another component" link).

[Click here](#)* to see examples of project components and deliverables.

Please describe the component of your proposed project:

Completion of a feasibility study and business case that looks at options for 1) extending the Golden Spruce Trail 2) connecting the Golden Spruce and Sunset Trails

Please describe the associated deliverables for this component:

1. Assembly of existing maps and trail plans
2. Site walks and hikes to scout possible trail routes
3. Business case and final proposed mapping

Does the community/communities in which the project will be implemented have a current community and/or economic development plan?

Yes

Please note the section(s) in the plan which relate directly to the project and describe how the project supports the plan(s).

Under Section 7, Social Wellbeing, the Official Community Plan for the Village of Port Clements includes objective 7.2.4, to enhance quality of life by "providing an adequate and safe infrastructure. In the same section, objective 7.2.8 is to enhance quality of life by "promoting a range of age-friendly recreational opportunities." Furthermore, objective 7.3.1 is to "encourage the provision and expansion of recreational and entertainment facilities in order to address the needs of all ages and to attract more families."

Under Section 8, Economic Development, the Tourism sub-section at 8.3 notes that "Port Clements is committed to pursuing and supporting tourism initiatives in our community. Noting its attractiveness as a "Gateway to the Wilderness" with a central location and marine opportunities as well as parks and walking trails, the Tourism objectives include 8.3.6, which states, "Continue to maintain and enhance the Sunset Park RV and tent facility." The Sunset Trail is a key feature of Sunset Park Campground, and restoring the trail will better maintain the attractiveness of the campground as a whole.

Finally, under Section 15 — Parks, Trails, and Recreation Land Use — the plan includes objective 15.2.1, which is to "provide a system of parks, trails and recreational areas which meet the needs of local residents and visitors."

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Describe the existing support for your proposed project. Indicate how support has been demonstrated within the community/communities and where applicable, outcomes from formal or informal discussions with indigenous communities:

[Click here](#)* to see examples of support.

The Village of Port Clements council supports the project, as have some local trail advocates and Dr. John Colton, a professor in the department of community development at Acadia University. In 2016, Dr. Colton authored a Port Clements Tourism Development Roadmap that recommended the village study the idea of adding a 1 km extension loop to the Golden Spruce Trail and connecting it with the Sunset Trail to the north.

"By extending the Sunset Trail and connecting to the Golden Spruce Trail, visitors and residents will have more options for longer hikes," Colton wrote. "This type of development will attract more visitors to the community and also keep many of these visitors in the community longer."