

From: Brodie Guy <[brodie@islandcoastaltrust.ca](mailto:brodie@islandcoastaltrust.ca)>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 10:13 AM

To: Rob Douglas <[mayor@northcowichan.ca](mailto:mayor@northcowichan.ca)>; Ted Swabey <[ted.swabey@northcowichan.ca](mailto:ted.swabey@northcowichan.ca)>

Subject: Island Coastal Economic Trust — Letter of Support

Good morning Mayor Douglas and Ted,

We are at a pivotal moment for local economies across Vancouver Island and coastal communities — and the voice of your community matters.

Local leaders who govern Island Coastal Economic Trust are working to support the Province of British Columbia to advance a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize the Trust with a strategic investment to shape economic development across our region for decades. A brand-new [Independent Legislative Review — A Case For Change](#) — provides a compelling, evidence-based case for this change, identifying strategic investment as the essential foundation for modernizing the Trust and advancing co-governance with First Nations. This is something local governments and First Nations have sought since the Trust started, and now, enabling new legislation is being developed by the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth.

We are requesting the support of your council in this defining moment in Trust's history. Attached is a template letter for your council to consider sending to Minister Ravi Kahlon. At the Regional Advisory Committee meetings of the Trust, elected leaders encouraged each other to copy your local MLAs and, where possible, coordinate a joint letter with neighbouring councils, First Nations, and/or regional districts to amplify the message. Please feel free to adapt the template with stories and examples specific to your community — the Minister needs to hear the human and local economic impact of this work in your own words.

This advocacy builds on real momentum. Throughout early 2026, community leaders have engaged MLAs directly, building on recommendations from over 30 First Nations governments who contributed to the [First Nations Strategic Recommendations Report](#) — which is now actively informing the development of new legislation. Together, governments across our region have built a strong foundation. But the window is open now: legislative and investment decisions will be made in the months ahead, and elected voices like yours are essential to advancing this vision that is shared among local governments and First Nations.

Please reach out directly if I can support you in any way — I am ready to assist immediately.

With gratitude,

Brodie

BRODIE GUY

CEO

250.871.7797



As we work toward inclusive and resilient economic futures, we do so with a deep appreciation for the histories, contributions, and rights of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Penthlache, She-shashishalhem, Hul'q'umi'num, diitiid, aatx', SENĆOŦEN, Skwxwúmesh, Lekwungen, and T'Sou-ke speaking peoples;

[date]

Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth  
Government of British Columbia  
[JEDI.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:JEDI.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Kahlon,

On behalf of (Council/regional Mayors/Regional District), we are writing to express our strong support for advancing legislation to modernize the Island Coastal Economic Trust and to position it for long-term impact through strategic provincial investment.

The work to renew the Trust represents a Made on the Coast initiative shaped and championed by coastal First Nations, local governments, and regional leaders working together toward a shared economic vision. Over the past several years, your Ministry's partnership has enabled meaningful engagement and co-development, resulting in an unprecedented level of regional alignment.

Across 53 First Nations governments, 35 local governments, and elected MLAs in the region, there is broad consensus that the Trust should evolve into a modern, co-governed regional economic development institution that reflects partnership, reconciliation, and shared responsibility.

The alignment has been achieved. The regional mandate is clear.

To carry this work forward, we respectfully urge the Province to bring forward legislation as soon as possible to formalize the renewed governance structure and provide long-term certainty for the Trust.

As government focuses on economic resilience, regional development, and disciplined spending in a period of global uncertainty, the Trust represents an established and accountable mechanism to advance those shared priorities. Over nearly two decades, the Trust has leveraged provincial investment into tangible economic outcomes in coastal communities, strengthening local economies and fostering collaboration across jurisdictions.

Strategic investment in a modernized Trust would build on that proven track record, protect prior public investment, and provide a focused vehicle to support economic transition in coastal and rural regions. This approach aligns with the Province's emphasis

on strengthening British Columbia's economy while ensuring responsible stewardship of public funds.

As municipal leaders, we see firsthand the importance of strong regional institutions in supporting jobs, innovation, and community stability. With modernized governance and renewed capital, the Trust is well positioned to continue delivering measurable results for British Columbians.

Our region stands united behind this vision. Such consensus around a regional economic priority is rare and reflects years of careful collaboration.

We look forward to working with you to advance both the legislative and investment components necessary to secure the Trust's future.

Sincerely,

[Mayor / Council]

[Local Government]