

---

# News Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 15, 2009

## British Columbia's Coastal Communities' to Benefit from West Coast Community Adjustment Program

**CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C.** — Today, John Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced more than \$7-million in federal funding, through Western Economic Diversification Canada, towards the West Coast Community Adjustment Program (WestCCAP). The program will focus on generating and attracting new jobs, business, and industry to British Columbia's coastal communities affected by changes in the salmon fishery.

“Our Government is pleased to launch this program to support B.C.'s coastal communities whose economies have relied heavily on the seasonal fishing industries,” said Mr. Duncan. “Today's investment will help the affected communities not only make it through these tough times, but emerge stronger and more prosperous for the future.”

Western Economic Diversification Canada will invest more than \$7-million in coastal B.C. communities to support economic growth, job creation and future sustainability of communities affected by the challenges faced by the salmon fishery. Canada's Government supports initiatives that combat challenges facing traditional industries and protects resources in affected areas to support the long-term success of resource-dependent communities. This new initiative will be delivered by the Fisheries Legacy Trust, comprised of the 13 west coast Community Futures Development Corporations.

“The 13 B.C. coastal Community Futures offices are looking forward to working with our communities to develop and implement innovative WestCCAP projects,” said Sherree Walter, Executive Director at the Community Futures of Central Island. “The Program provides another tool for Community Futures to foster increased community economic development activity in the region. It will provide a mechanism to advance economic diversification, provide employment

-more-



opportunities, promote sustainable development, and advance a collaborative approach.”

A stakeholder Program Steering Committee has been established to determine program criteria and make all funding decisions. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from Aboriginal communities, coastal community mayors, Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC’s) and the federal and provincial governments.

The WestCCAP has a two-stage application process composed of an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) followed by a full funding proposal. To be considered, projects must fall under one or more of the four broad program areas: Community Capacity Building; Economic Diversification; Value-Added Fishery; and Economic Infrastructure. The 13 coastal CFDCs will review and determine the eligibility of *Expressions of Interest* received from their region, and contact eligible applicants to request a more detailed proposal. Further information on deadlines, how to apply and eligibility criteria are available on Community Future’s Island Coastal Region website at [www.cfislandcoastal.ca](http://www.cfislandcoastal.ca).

Western Economic Diversification Canada in partnership with the provinces, industry associations, and communities promotes the development and diversification of the western economy, coordinates federal economic activities in the West and represents the interests of western Canadians in national decision-making.

**For additional information, media should contact:**

Donna Howes  
Communications Manager, British Columbia  
Western Economic Diversification Canada  
Telephone: 604-666-1318  
Cell: 604-505-6616

Sherree Walter  
Executive Director  
Community Futures of Central Island  
Telephone: 250-753-6414

Toll-Free Number: 1 888 338-WEST (9378)  
Web Site: WD is online at [www.wd-deo.gc.ca](http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca)

***A stronger West. A stronger Canada***