

Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust

“People are like trees, and groups of people are like the forests. While the forests are composed of many different kinds of trees, these trees intertwine their roots so strongly that it is impossible for the strongest winds which blow on our islands to uproot the forest, for each tree strengthens its neighbour, and their roots are inextricably intertwined.

In the same way the people of our Islands, composed of members of nations and races from all over the world, are beginning to intertwine their roots so strongly that no troubles will affect them.

Just as one tree standing alone would soon be destroyed by the first strong wind which came along, so it is impossible for any person, any family or any community to stand alone against the troubles of this world.”

Chief Skidegate – Lewis Collinson, 1966

This quote has served as a long-standing reminder to the Trust and its directors of the importance of unity and consensus

Meeting Outcomes

- Consultation with communities
- Overview of the 3 R's as tenets of the fund
- Communicate next steps

Guiding Principles

OUR MISSION

- The Gwaii Trust will enhance environmentally sustainable social and economic benefits to Haida Gwaii through the use of the fund

OUR VISION

- The Gwaii Trust will advocate and support an Islands community characterized by respect for cultural diversity, the environment, and a sustainable and increasingly self-sufficient economy

VALUES AND BELIEFS

- To ensure a sustainable Islands community we must plan and manage our own development in ways that reflect our cultural and environmental uniqueness
- The Gwaii Trust offers us an opportunity to pursue fundamental economic and social transition. The lack of some of the most basic community infrastructure demands immediate attention. The pursuit of a sustainable community requires us to address and implement responsible stewardship

What is Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust (AGLT)

- Provincially legislated charitable trust valued at \$50 Million.
- The Gwaii Trust Society (GTS) Executive members hold two trustee positions on AGLT and the GTS Board of Directors holds the third position.
- AGLT was set up with a mixture of charitable and non charitable purposes which is not legal so the fund cannot currently be spent.
- AGLT Trustees and staff have been working with the federal and provincial government since 2014 to rectify the situation.
- In 2018, government proposed the dissolution of AGLT and transfer of funds to GTS as the preferred solution.
- While the details are worked out and the legislation sits in the queue, the GTS Board of Directors can plan the roll-out and start consultation with communities

Comparing Gwaii Trust and Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust

- Athlii Gwaii will be governed by the same Board, legislation, bylaws and constitution as the Gwaii Trust. Athlii Gwaii will operate as a perpetual fund with flexibility to change programs to adapt to local needs
- Athlii Gwaii funds will be tracked separately
- Athlii Gwaii will fund specific purposes - the three tenets:
 - **Restoration, Renewables, Revitalization**
- Potential to delegate approvals to a committee with external members
- Possible expansion of eligible applicants to include incorporated business

Restoration

Goal:

- To protect and restore the natural environment and ecological integrity of Haida Gwaii's land, air and waters

Examples of Eligible projects:

- Stream and riparian restoration
- Support Local Fish Hatcheries
- Island forest and forest habitat restoration
- Marine shore restoration
- Research Centre
- Silviculture (tree planting, spacing, etc.)

Renewables

Goal:

- To support the transitioning of Haida Gwaii's fossil fuel-dependent electrical grids to renewable energy sources
- To support the productive and sustainable use of Haida Gwaii's natural resources (land, air and water) in perpetuity

Examples of Eligible Projects:

- Renewable Energy: Wind, solar, biomass, Hydroelectric, tidal
- Energy Efficiency
- Local food production
- Recycling and waste
- Nursery to provide seedlings for reforestation
- Electric Vehicle Charging

Revitalization

Goal:

- To support the increase of economic diversification, resilience and self-sustainability of the communities and residents of Haida Gwaii

Examples of Eligible projects:

- Partnerships with colleges and institutes for local skills training needs
- Local food distribution, storage
- Locally processed forest products
- Graham & Moresby Islands backroad infrastructure support
- Tourism and Trails
- Rennel Sound Campground /Boat Launch Upgrades
- Barge /Container loading facility
- Inter Island ferry/transportation
- Steel recycling facility
- Boat Building

Over-arching Goals for sustainability, security and sovereignty

- Job Creation
- Local Business Opportunities
- All island benefits
- Leverage external funding
- Work with other Economic development groups to promote funding opportunities
- Community Consultation

Potential Considerations for Gwaii Trust Board

- Review outcomes from community consultation
- Determination of initial spend down and annual spend
- Eligibility of businesses for grants/ equity / loans
- Multi year funding with annual reporting
- Partnership with lender(s)
- Decision making process

Potential Funding Structure

- New granting stream(s)
- Grants may include a request for proposals
- Funding available only for locally based organizations (Not for profits, local government, and potentially incorporated businesses)
- Scoring matrix to be developed to rank applications based on alignment with goals

Next Steps

- Create strategic plan based on outcomes from community consultation
- Final legislative approval
- Integration of Athlii Gwaii to Gwaii Trust – merging of administration and financial reporting
- Spend down of accumulation of funds to meet CRA requirements