

August 16th, 2024

Dear Gambier Islanders,

Re: Gambier Island Community Association (GICA)'s Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) Project: IMPLEMENTATION update.

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement in the REDIP project and thank you to those who submitted proposals to GICA's REDIP Call for Proposals in July of 2024. We were thrilled to see such strong interest from community members from across the island in response to our call. In the end, we received 15 applications representing over two and a half times the funding we have available for community-led projects. While few project submissions were funded in full, almost all are receiving at least partial funding. GICA is pleased to announce the allocation of funding from the BC Provincial Government's Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) grant to the following projects led by community members from across the island:

- 1. Operation SAFER: Strategic Action for Fostering Emergency Readiness on Gambier Island - Safeguarding Gambier's future and building resilient community through organized emergency preparedness**
Project Description: Operation SAFER Gambier seeks to enhance emergency preparedness on Gambier Island through a strategic and phased approach. Phase 1 of this initiative will focus on implementing essential measures to elevate community readiness and resilience. Operation SAFER Gambier is designed to meet immediate needs while setting the stage for future development. Phase 1 will involve the development of an emergency preparedness plan that will be reviewed by a professional consultant.
Amount Allocated: \$7,500
- 2. Remote Health Connect**
Project Description: Remote Health Connect is a community-driven initiative to bridge the healthcare gap in our remote community. Our mission is to ensure that every resident has access to quality medical care, regardless of location. By bringing a dedicated doctor or doctors to our area, we aim to provide comprehensive healthcare services, including regular check-ups, access to vaccinations, and virtual healthcare. GICA has provided a \$500 honorarium towards this valuable project as it is in its early stages.
Amount Allocated: \$500
- 3. Waste & Recycling Removal**
Project Description: This project will include a free service to the southwest community of one truck-load of materials taken off island with focus on the removal of hazardous household waste such as shingles, paints, small motorized equipment etc. This trip will be well advertised to the community with information on the event and list of accepted items.
Amount Allocated: \$1,400
- 4. Gambier Re-Use & Re-Cycle**
Project Description: This project will include a free service to the southwest community of one truck-load of materials taken off-island to the Gibsons Dock for pick up from Big Brothers Big Sisters, and one truck-load of materials taken to Gibson's Recycling. These trips will be well circulated on social media etc. with information on the event and list of accepted items.
Amount Allocated: \$2,000
- 5. Gambier Grocery Group Hub**

Project Description: This project will include the applicants installing the soon-to-be former “ice cream shed” on their property in New Brighton and using it for community purposes.

Amount Allocated: \$7,150

6. Operation Fire Shield: SW Peninsula Neighbourhood Fire Hydrant Tank Project - Phase 1 (High Density Neighbourhoods)

Project Description: Operation Fire Shield focuses on providing neighbourhoods in the southwest with the equipment needed for immediate fire response (supplemented by annual training for residents) and ensure that the fire truck has a water source every 500 feet. Partial funding allocated will cover the installation of 2-3 new fire hydrant tanks (tank, hoses etc., pump, small building) across the southwest peninsula including one in West Bay.

Amount Allocated: \$10,000

7. Andys Bay Rd Fire Protection Tank

Project Description: GICA has provided \$2,000 to cover expenses incurred in the building of the fire protection tank located at the 700 block of Andy's Bay Road past the Community Centre.

Amount Allocated: \$2,000

8. Forest Fuel Conversion

Project Description: This project focuses on the conversion of fallen trees, branches and invasive species that pose high fire risk into valuable locally made mulch that the community can purchase through clearing, chipping and composting this debris. This project will also include an information meeting/presentation where community members can learn more about soil health.

Amount Allocated: \$2,000

9. Gambier Future Forests

Project Description: This project includes community engagement and education around invasive species in terms of fire safety.

Amount Allocated: \$1,300

10. Stand-by equipment for our community water tanks

Project Description: This project focuses on supplementing existing fire suppression equipment in the Fircom area in the interest of fire protection and more rapid response in the case of fire.

Amount Allocated: \$3,250

11. Fire risk reduction: the push to be Firesmart

Project Description: This project focuses on supplementing existing fire suppression equipment in the Sea Ranch area in the interest of fire protection and to allow for more reach to critical infrastructure.

Amount Allocated: \$3,000

12. West Bay Landing Fire Suppressant Equipment

Project Description: This project aims to provide critical (and dedicated) water service lines by interconnecting tanks, running lines from these tanks to fire hydrants, and installing firefighting equipment throughout the West Bay Landing community. Partial funding has been allocated in support of this project and fire protection island wide.

Amount Allocated: \$3,000

13. Douglas Bay Community Fire Suppression Project

Project Description: This project focuses on expanding community fire suppression equipment in the Douglas Bay Area and constructing a new fire equipment shed.

Amount Allocated: \$3,250

14. Brigade Bay Chipping event

Project Description: This project involves fire protection in Brigade Bay through a strategy to extend the natural road fire-brake by thinning, laddering and clearing the volatile understory of

combustible material in vulnerable sections, on either side of the main road. This would make it more difficult for a fire to climb the mountain or access the wetlands. This material will be processed through chipping.

Amount Allocated: \$3,250

For questions, more information about the projects or if you would like to get involved in a project, please contact gambierredip@gmail.com.

Best regards,

The Gambier Island Community Association Board,

The GICA REDIP Oversight Committee (Carmela Allevato, Elizabeth Carriere, Elaine Davies, Todd Elyzen, Zeno Farinelli, Torsten Kehler, Sophia Khan, Jeanne Mikita, Carol Petroski, Emily Pickett, Rod Robertson and Deb Wainwright) and

Samantha Wing, Project Coordinator