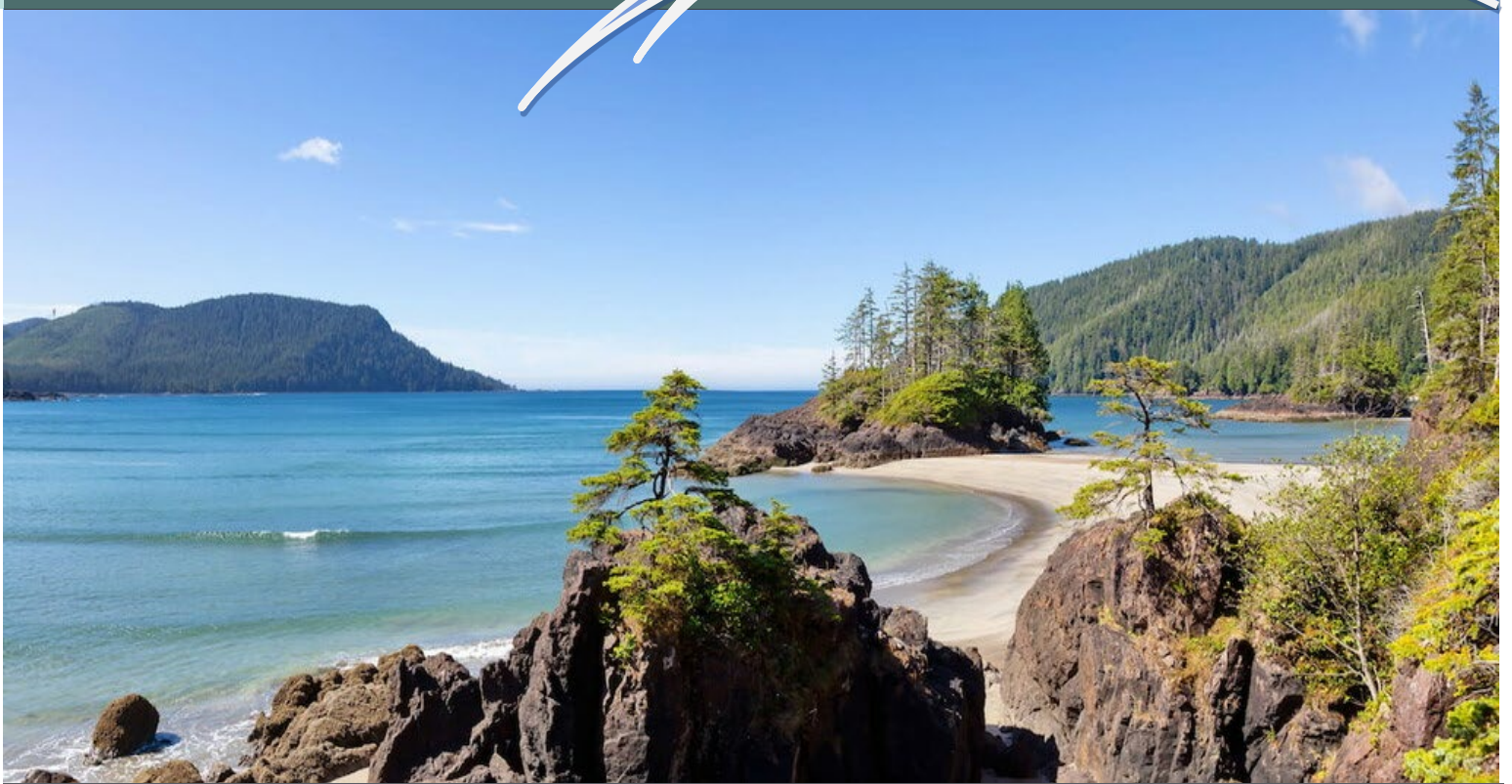


Regional District of Mount Waddington

2025 RURAL TOURISM ACTION GRANT PROGRAMS





Tourism Grant Programs

RURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS CAN ACCESS SUPPORT

In 2022, the local tourism accommodation sector authorized the Province to levy a 3% accommodation room tax in Electoral Areas A, B, C, D and the Village of Port Alice. Over 50% of the tax revenues raised provides financial support for the Vancouver Island North Tourism Association's regional destination marketing activities.

The remainder of the revenue is available to community organizations for trailhead signage, festival and event marketing and the development and promotion of community tourism.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Trail Enhancement Program

- Provides funding for the production and installation of an information sign at a trailhead and improvements to existing trails.
- For trail improvements, a community organization may apply for program funding up to \$5,000 with matching funding, a maximum of which may be 50% in kind, and will assume responsibility for carrying out the improvements.
- For trailhead signs, the RDMW may apply up to \$10,000 annually to the production and installation of not more than 4 trailhead signs based on a standard format and may provide a trailhead sign shelter.

Festivals and Events Program

- Design, production, and distribution of marketing materials that target out-of-region consumers.
- Program funding up to \$5,000 is available to match equal spending by the applicant. The matching requirement also applies to contributions from municipalities hosting the event.
- Festivals and Events may not access funding from the program for more than 2 consecutive years.
- Maybe combined with VINT Event support program

Community Tourism Program

- Development of community projects that contribute to the tourism experience.
- Program funding up to \$5,000 is available to match spending by the applicant, half of which may include documented in-kind contributions.
- Expenditures for capital or on-going operational costs are not eligible.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Assist rural communities to increase tourism activity.
- Improve visitor experience and information on trails.
- Leverage private sector resources to secure community tourism goals.
- Improve the visitor experience and;
- Increase attendance at, and support for, local events and festivals that target consumers from outside the local area.

GRANT PROGRAMS

- 1) Trail Enhancement
- 2) Festivals and Events
- 3) Community Tourism

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- 1) **Community organizations, service clubs, not-for-profit societies and enterprises (partnership proposals with the local commercial sector encouraged)**
- 2) **Village of Port Alice**
- 3) **First Nations governments within the bylaw area**

The proposal's activities must offer substantial benefits to communities within bylaw area and be supported by the electoral area director.

Proposals that offer benefits to Port Hardy, Port McNeill and/or Alert Bay are eligible to apply subject to some matching contributions from these jurisdictions.

If you have any questions about the RTAG program, please contact:

Cameron Neil
Economic Development Officer
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250.956.3301

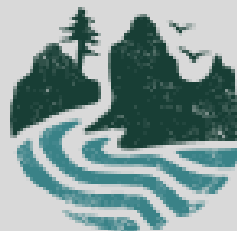


ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Eligible costs mean direct costs properly and reasonably incurred and paid by the proponent in the development or implementation of an eligible project.
- A successful proponent is eligible to be funded up to \$5,000 (subject to available funding) and may be required to make matching contributions in-kind or in cash, based on the program guidelines.
- Costs are only eligible when they take place after the proponent is notified of their successful award and are payable upon receipt of a valid invoice.
- No "up front" contributions or instalments will be made upon award.
- Applicants are responsible for obtaining and disclosing all necessary permits and approvals for the project.

Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2025.
Projects must be completed within a year of funding approval.

Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
NORTH**

HOW TO APPLY

The 2025 Application Form for the Tourism Grant Program is available at the RDMW office or may be downloaded from the website. Additional information requested in the application, including evidence that, as proponent, your organization is in good legal and financial standing in the Province of British Columbia, must be attached to the form. Please ensure that you attach all letters, approvals and permits in support of the application.

The project must be completed and a final report with accompanying financial statements and invoices and a description of outcomes must be submitted by December 31, 2025.

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

The following documentation is required for all applications:

- Proof that the applicant is current with regulatory registration.
- Copy of the applicant's latest financial statement.
- Permits required for the project.
- Evidence of support from the area's regional or municipal director.

If the application is approved, payment of the grant requires proof of spending and proof of contributions, including any allowed in-kind contribution.



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