



**For Immediate Release**

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**Innovative funding brings upgraded, expanded facilities to Gibsons harbour**

The Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority (GLHA) long term harbor improvement plan kicks off with a \$1.3 million upgrade and expansion of its dock facilities — the first phase of a multi-phased, multi-use harbour revitalization project.

The initial construction of a drive-on concrete float and a commercial grade drive-on ramp will be augmented by additional floats, floating breakwaters and reconfiguration of the total harbour space for maximum efficiency during implementation of the comprehensive project.

The overall concept for the full expansion was first presented to the Gibsons Community in 2008 in a series of public meetings with an update in November 2012.

The project represents an innovative funding partnership between the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Small Craft Harbours (SCH) division (providing the float, plus engineering and design expertise); Island Coastal Economic Trust (contributing up to \$330,000 towards the ramp and anchoring system); Sunshine Coast Community Futures, a program of Community Economic Adjustment Initiative Program funded by Western Economic Development Canada (CEAI) (donating up to \$250,000 towards components and engineering services); and a commitment of \$115,000 from the GLHA's own capital development fund.

“We are very pleased that this funding collaboration will allow us to meet the needs of the commercial fishery through improvements in loading and unloading and maintenance efficiencies; to meet the needs of residents and businesses through improved barge access to Gambier, Keats and Paisley Islands; and to attract tourists through increased marine capacity,” stated Terry Rhodes, President of the GLHA. “These improvements will also support the marine services sector by allowing easier access to the harbour. When businesses in our region succeed, our communities reap the benefits.”

Town of Gibsons Mayor, Wayne Rowe, stated, “We are thrilled that the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority received this funding from Small Craft Harbours, the Island Coastal Economic Trust, and the Community Economic Adjustment Initiative. As the town of Gibsons is one of the few remaining working harbours, this expansion will support the fishing industry and increase the ability of the harbour for a variety of uses and significantly enhance the economic revitalization of Gibsons Landing.”

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### **About the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority**

Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority (GLHA) is a non-profit corporation registered under the Canada Corporations Act since December 18, 1997. GLHA manages and administers Water Lot DL5963 under a series of rolling 5-year lease agreements with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) according to regulations governing Small Craft Harbours. It is responsible for managing the federal government commercial docks in the Gibsons Landing Harbour. The Town of Gibsons is the sole Member of the GLHA Corporation and appoints its Directors.

The GLHA is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight members including commercial fishers, local business owners, a tourism business owner and a resident of one of the islands that depends on Small Craft Harbour (SCH)-based services.

A full overview of GLHA can be found at [www.gibsonsha.org](http://www.gibsonsha.org).

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