



## Four Island Initiatives Receive Building Healthier Communities Grants

**Tuesday-September 12, 2017 – Vancouver Island & the Gulf Islands:** As part of our Building Healthier Communities Fund (BHCF), Coastal Community is proud to announce funding for community projects from Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association, Victoria Youth Paddling Club Society, Alberni Valley Transition Society and LUSH Valley Food Action Society. These four projects exemplify BHCF's criteria of sustainability, support for a broad range of people, and visible and meaningful impact in one of our local communities.

BHCF has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in seed money to activate dozens of local organizations with long-term initiatives that contribute to building healthier Island communities. Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association joins the list with a grant of \$5,500 to purchase a trailer to turn into a mobile tack store kiosk. The expanded economic potential will help support the association's equine-based wellness programs for children and youth with special needs.

Victoria Youth Paddling Society also enriches the lives of our Island's younger set. The registered non-profit society is dedicated to offering safe, affordable and fun water sports for Island youth ages nine and up, so every youngster can experience the benefits of a lifetime of paddling. The club receives \$4,000 to purchase new float for replacement docks, followed by the installation of the docks and new storage sheds.

The Alberni Valley Transition Town Society will put its grant of \$4,000 toward the production of a cycling map for the area. The project will educate local young riders by providing the safest routes and bicycle safety tips, while encouraging all ages to grab a bike and hit the streets. The Society's goal is to help make Port Alberni a more liveable, people-centered community.

Finally, the Courtenay-based LUSH Valley Food Action Society will use its \$3,520 grant to support its Healthy Food Programs. The association offers a series of workshops and food services, many focusing on youth, which educates people on the importance of healthy and if possible locally-sourced food. The environmentally-focused organization celebrates how central the sharing of good food is to community well-being.

"Each of these organizations shares our vision of social responsibility, leadership and building healthy vibrant communities," said Allyson Prescesky, Manager, Community Experience and Communications with Coastal Community Credit Union. "We are inspired by their passion to enrich the lives of our young people, many of whom are among our communities' most vulnerable members."

For more information on our Building Healthier Communities fund, please visit [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca).

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GREAT THINGS

About  
COASTAL COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

***Improving financial health, enriching lives, and building healthier communities...*** These are at the core of who we are and what we do at Coastal Community Credit Union (CCCU). With these as our focus areas, we continued to grow our position as the largest financial services organization based on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, while remaining among the largest credit unions in British Columbia when measured by asset size.

In order to help our members and clients improve their financial health, CCCU's family of companies offers a wide range of products, services and expertise in personal, business and commercial banking, general and commercial insurance\* and wealth management\*\*. Across the Islands, we operate 23 branches, 16 insurance offices, four regional business centres, one centralized contact centre (1.888.741.1010) with extended service hours, plus a team of mobile experts and a full range of online and mobile services. CCCU was the first to bring cutting-edge Interactive Teller Machine technology to the Island and continues to add new innovations to simplify finances—and life. By really listening and understanding, and then providing meaningful solutions, Coastal Community's 600-person-strong team is able to help our members and clients achieve their financial and life goals.

As a 100% Island-based business, we're committed to making meaningful differences in the places we call home. Our Building Healthier Communities Fund has provided hundreds of thousands in seed money to activate dozens of local community betterment initiatives. CCCU is also an award winning organization, having most recently been recognized as one of B.C.'s Top Employers.

Want to learn more? Visit [ccu.ca](http://ccu.ca) or join us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

\*References to "insurance" in this article refer to the insurance services provided through Coastal Community Insurance Services (2007) Ltd., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union

\*\*References to "wealth management" in this article refer to the financial planning and investment services provided through Coastal Community Private Wealth Group, a division of Coastal Community Financial Management, Inc. which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union