

July 21st, 2023

Dear Gambier Islanders,

REDIP project update and upcoming survey

We want to give you an update on the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) project sponsored by the Gambier Island Community Association. As you know, GICA received a grant of \$84,000 from the provincial government. The first step is to identify the priorities of the community, and then to move to implementation. GICA is committed to continuously involving community members in all phases of the project. The following is an update for you;

- 1) The purpose of the project is to explore how to make Chá7elkwnech/Gambier Island **an even better place to live.**
- 2) An Oversight Committee has been appointed representing the various communities on Gambier.
- 3) We are pleased to announce that **we will be collaborating with the UBC Planning Studio from the School of Community and Regional Planning.** This will mean a savings of over \$20,000 of our grant which then can be used for implementation.
- 4) **Important dates and highlights:**
 - a) **Early August:** you will be asked to participate in a survey. The survey, developed by the UBC team with the Oversight Committee and our project coordinator, is designed to identify island resources, opportunities and challenges. *Your input is vital!* We will be reaching out to you through social media, the formal and informal organizations you belong to, emails etc.
 - b) **September to December:** summary of findings will be shared with the community through various forms of public engagement. *Your input is again vital!* Your feedback will help develop community objectives.
 - c) **January to April 2024:** work on a draft report for the community, including a review of potential resources and funding streams for meeting community objectives.
 - d) **April 2024:** final report, a summary poster and public presentation to the community.

Questions or comments around our survey protocol or other procedural aspects of the project can be directed to gambierredip@gmail.com, however we encourage you to wait until our survey is launched to provide feedback relating to what would make Gambier Island more livable.

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