T 604-886-2274 F 604-886-9735

info@gibsons.ca www.gibsons.ca

Town of Gibsons To Receive \$254,394 in Funding for Improvements to Visitor Centre

February 7, 2022 – The Town of Gibsons (Gibsons) today announced that it has been awarded \$254,394 to upgrade the accessibility of, and improve the outdoor amenities surrounding, the Gibsons Visitor Centre (GVC). The grant is part of \$21.3 million in funding to be distributed by the Province of BC through the 2021 Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program's (CERIP) Destination Development stream.

The GVC moved to its current location on South Fletcher Road in 2020, following the interior redesign and renovation of an existing civic space. The new funding will help Gibsons and its project partner, Sunshine Coast Tourism, complete upgrades to the new GVC's exterior area. Planned features include: a partially enclosed, outdoor gathering and seating space; universal ramps and pathways connecting pedestrian traffic from Gower Point Road to the GVC and beyond; a covered, solar-powered outdoor map display; and installation of Indigenous interpretive signage, a totem pole, and bike racks.

"Tourism has been an essential and growing industry for the Sunshine Coast economy for the last five years, bringing millions of dollars in new revenue into our communities," said Mayor Bill Beamish. "Gibsons is the most frequently accessed gateway to the Sunshine Coast and the GVC is often a visitor's first customer service experience upon arrival. A fully developed visitor centre enhances guest experiences and encourages extended stays and exploration of the entire region, which benefits local businesses and increases the overall contribution of tourism to our economy. This has ripple effects for long-term economic development, attracting investment and new residents throughout the Sunshine Coast."

Construction of the new works is anticipated to begin in July of this year and be completed by March 31, 2023.

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For more information, please contact:

Emanuel Machado Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Resiliency Officer Town of Gibsons 604.886.2274

email: emachado@gibsons.ca

