



MIEDS Interim Strategic Direction

Introduction

The Misty Isles Economic Development Society (MIEDS) was founded in 2008 as a regional economic development organization representing the civic communities of Haida Gwaii. In its first 8 years, MIEDS has been involved in supporting forestry, tourism, small business, workforce development, agriculture, grant writing, and other sectors. A Strategic Plan developed in 2013 provided direction up to 2016. At a Strategic Planning session held in February, 2016, the communities agreed to continue collaborating on economic development initiatives through MIEDS. This document provides interim direction for the society, and will be replaced by a new Strategic Plan in 2017.

Constitution

The purposes of the society are:

- To develop a sustainable and diversified economy for all residents of the Misty Isles economic region
- To promote stronger communities and careful stewardship of the land and water
- To provide Island leadership for Island business attraction, retention and expansion
- To promote Island initiatives that strengthen economic capacity
- To work with the Haida on economic development to benefit all Islanders
- To provide a link to regional economic development initiatives.

Our Mandate

The mandate provides a baseline to determine whether a project or initiative should be addressed by the society. The Mandate of MIEDS is:

To support the development of a **sustainable and diversified economy** for all residents of Haida Gwaii by:

- Providing leadership in **business** attraction, retention and expansion;
- Actively **addressing barriers** to development;
- Developing and supporting initiatives that strengthen the **economic capacity** of the islands and/or of islanders;
- Providing a link to **regional** and provincial economic development initiatives;
- Engaging in **workforce** and business development initiatives;
- Being **accountable and transparent** as an organization.



Our Mission

The mission statement encapsulates the expectations the public has of MIEDS, and states how the organization will respond to those expectations. The Mission of MIEDS is:

To work with individuals, businesses, stakeholders, governments, communities and potential investors to coordinate, collaborate and implement island wide economic development initiatives aimed at increasing employability, employment and/or jobs for the people of Haida Gwaii.

Economic Development

This definition provides a common understanding and reference point for the organization's leaders and stakeholders, as well as the general public.

Economic Development is any project or initiative that prompts, demonstrates or contributes to long term income sustainability, job creation, skill development, community or individual capacity building, or sustainable growth for the benefit of all island communities.

Strategic Goals

These three goals were adopted through the 2013 Strategic Plan, and provide broad themes for projects and initiatives in the society's work plan.

1. To increase collaboration and communication within industry and between governments.
2. To increase employment and employability of islanders.
3. To facilitate development by addressing barriers on Haida Gwaii.

Project Goals

These six project goals identify specific topics to be addressed by the society.

1. Maintain openness and accountability with the public, Village Councils, and Regional District
2. Collect and share information to create a unified voice for industry, businesses and member communities
3. Support the collaborative growth and sustainability of the islands' forest industry
4. Support the collaborative growth and sustainability of the islands' tourism industry
5. Support small businesses through marketing and skills training opportunities
6. Assist municipalities and non-profit societies in accessing grant funding