

# Quadra Island Economic Diversification Plan:

**Community Voices  
and Priorities**

**Summary Report**

December 2025

## Funding and supporting partners:



Province of British Columbia  
Rural Economic Diversification  
and Infrastructure Program  
(REDIP)



Island Coastal Economic Trust  
(ICET)



Quadra Island Foundation



In partnership with  
**We Wai Kai Nation**

## Land acknowledgement:

The Discovery Islands Chamber of Commerce acknowledges that this work takes place on the traditional territory of the We Wai Kai Nation, who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial.

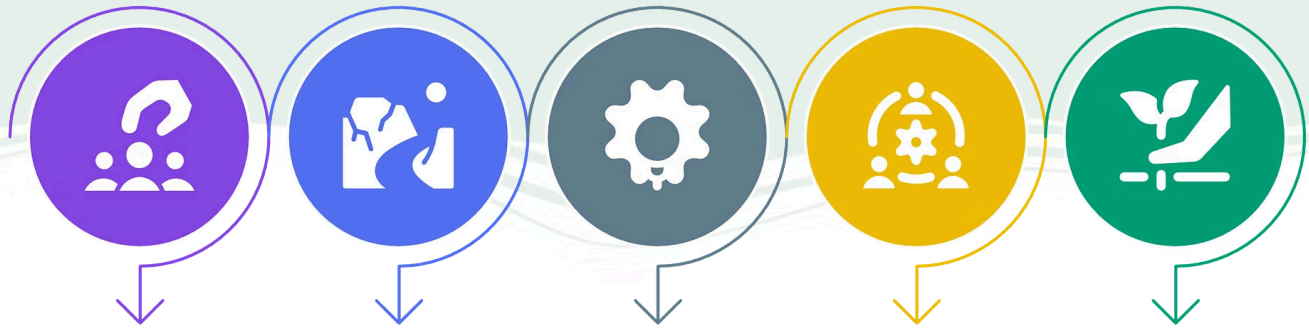
# Why Economic Diversification, and Why Now

Quadra Island is experiencing a convergence of pressures that affect everyday life, economic stability, and long-term resilience. These pressures are not isolated. Housing, services, livelihoods, environmental conditions, and community capacity are deeply interconnected on a small island. This plan was developed to help the community make sense of those connections and identify shared directions for the future.

## Pressures Shaping Quadra Island's Economy



## Quadra Island's Strengths



### Strong Social Ties

A culture of mutual support fosters community resilience.

### Connection to Nature

Deep ties to the land and water define the island's identity.

### Diverse Local Skills

Creativity and initiative drive innovation within the community.

### Active Community

Organizations and leaders contribute to a vibrant society.

### Indigenous Stewardship

Long-term responsibility to the land ensures sustainability.

### Economic diversification is not about growth for its own sake

Across community workshops, surveys, and interviews, residents emphasized that economic diversification on Quadra Island is not about expansion or attracting growth at any cost. It is about balance, continuity, and care. Diversification is understood as strengthening livelihoods that fit island life, supporting year-round stability, and ensuring economic activity does not undermine environmental health, social wellbeing, or community cohesion.

### Indigenous perspectives shape how economic futures are understood

From the We Wai Kai Nation's perspective, economic decisions are inseparable from stewardship responsibilities and long-term care for land, air, water, people, and spirit. The concept of awinak'ola expresses this interconnection and reinforces that economic choices must operate within ecological limits and existing governance relationships.

This shared understanding of pressures, strengths, and values provides the foundation for the strategic directions that follow.



# How This Plan Was Developed

## Community Knowledge, Evidence, and Dialogue Over Time

This plan was shaped through a layered engagement process that combined community knowledge, Indigenous perspectives, and multiple forms of evidence.

### Quadra Island Economic Diversification Plan Development Timeline



# Access and Continuity

All major engagement summaries and outputs are publicly available. This plan is intended to support continued dialogue and future reflection rather than to close conversations.

Access point: [www.quadraEDP.ca](http://www.quadraEDP.ca)

## Community Values Shaping Quadra Island's Vision



## Quadra Island's Vision Cycle

### Protect Resources

Preserve land and water for future generations

### Local Livelihoods

Support small, rooted businesses



### Balance Growth

Prioritize balance over rapid growth

### Diverse Community

Foster inclusivity across ages and incomes

## Quadra Island's Vision of Success

### Stable Livelihoods

### Community Care



### Attainable Housing

### Environmental Health

Residents expressed a desire for more housing, services, and stability, while also wanting to protect Quadra Island's character, environment, and social fabric.



## Which strategic direction should guide economic diversification?

### Advance Indigenous Leadership

Ground economic futures in Indigenous governance.

### Build Local Economy

Strengthen local livelihoods to reduce seasonality.

### Secure Homes & Services

Focus on housing, healthcare, and infrastructure for resilience.

### Strengthen Community Connections

Support community spaces and care systems.

### Build Capacity & Coordination

Align priorities and support coordinated action.

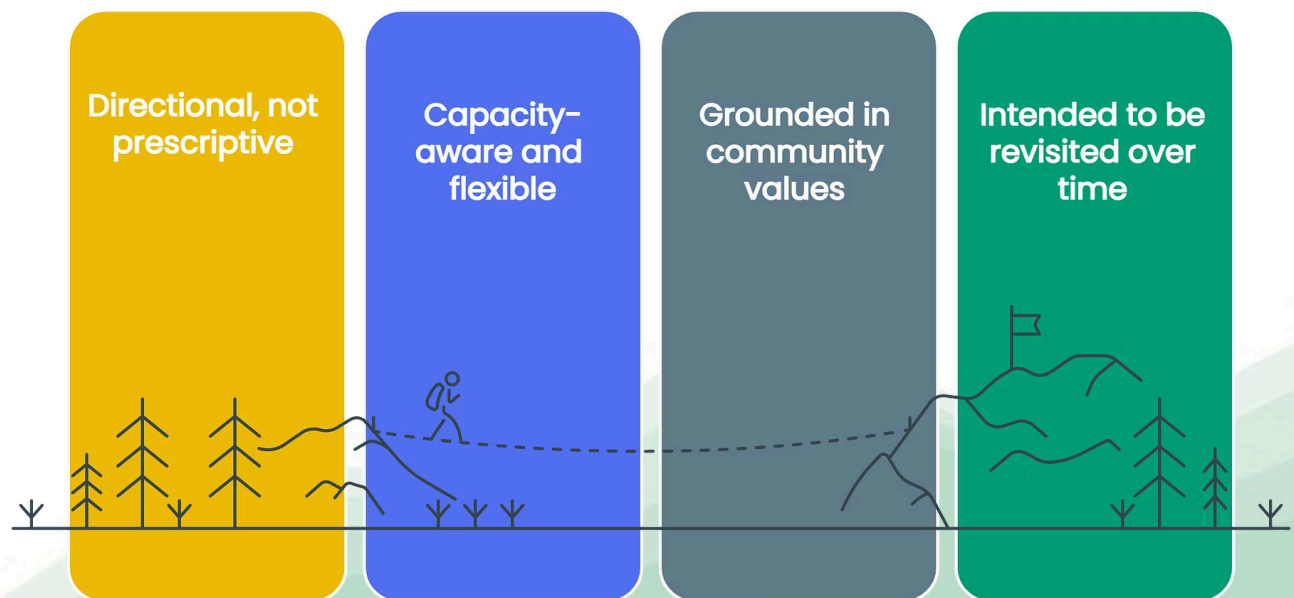




## Strategic Directions & Time Horizon

Strategic Direction	Near Term (1-2 Years)	Medium Term (3-5 Years)	Longer Term (+5 Years)
 <b>Homes that Fit Island Life</b>	Housing groundwork	Small-scale non-market housing	Expanded housing mix
 <b>Diverse, Year-Round Local Livelihoods</b>	Year-round business support	Mixed local employment base	Stable, diversified local economy
 <b>Indigenous Leadership &amp; Economic Relationships</b>	Relationship-building	Partnership pathways	Long-term Indigenous-settler economic collaboration
 <b>Infrastructure, Energy, Water &amp; Climate Resilience</b>	Risk awareness	Climate-resilient infrastructure upgrades	Long-term watershed security
 <b>Capacity, Care &amp; Community Foundations</b>	Volunteer sustainability	Shared service models	Durable community institutions

## Directional Roadmap



# Keeping the Plan Alive

## Learning, Reflection, and Ongoing Dialogue

This plan is intended to support shared learning over time, not to function as a fixed blueprint or checklist.

### Why learning matters

Conditions shaping Quadra Island's economy will continue to change. Housing pressures, service capacity, climate risks, demographic shifts, and relationships with Indigenous partners evolve over time. The value of this plan lies in its ability to support ongoing reflection and shared understanding as these conditions change.

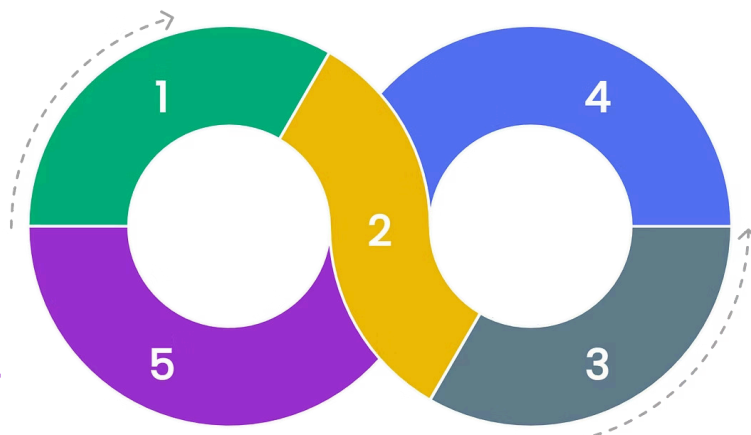
### Monitoring without metrics

Monitoring in this context is not about tracking targets or producing technical reports. It is about periodically asking whether the community feels more stable, supported, and aligned with its values, and whether economic choices continue to reflect care for people, land, and relationships.

### Questions to return to over time

Are livelihoods becoming more stable and compatible with island life?

Is community capacity being respected rather than stretched?



Are housing, services, and care systems becoming more secure and accessible?

Are relationships, particularly with Indigenous partners, being strengthened?

Are land and water being stewarded responsibly for future generations?

## A flexible rhythm

Community members suggested revisiting priorities periodically, such as every one to two years, to reflect on what has changed, what remains relevant, and what may need adjustment. The timing and format of these conversations should reflect capacity and context.

## Shared responsibility, shared care

Keeping the plan alive does not rest with any single organization or group. It relies on continued dialogue among community members, organizations, Indigenous partners, and governing bodies, each acting within their own roles, mandates, and capacities.

This plan remains relevant only if it continues to reflect lived experience, Indigenous leadership, and collective responsibility to place.





**Discovery Islands**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[www.quadrapdp.ca](http://www.quadrapdp.ca)

Prepared by Discovery Islands Chamber of  
Commerce