

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
EDUCATION AND AWARENESS GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY
October 2017**

Abandoned and derelict boats are a significant problem within the Capital Regional District (CRD) on southern Vancouver Island. Local governments have been facing pressure from coastal communities to deal with abandoned and derelict boats that are littering the bays and beaches along the coast. First Nations communities have also expressed concern about abandoned and derelict boats.

The CRD will deliver an extensive outreach program to increase awareness and educate boat owners, First Nations communities, local governments and the public about abandoned boat issues and the responsibilities of boat owners, communities and government agencies in addressing these end-of-life boat issues.

The objectives of the Capital Region Abandoned Boats Stewardship (CRABS) initiative are to:

- educate and improve public awareness and understanding of the environmental and navigational impacts of abandoned boats on coastal communities.
- provide education and outreach to boat owners and the boating community on proper boat end-of-life practices and owner responsibilities, recycling and disposal options for boats, and new federal/provincial regulations regarding vessel registration and licensing.
- work with local First Nations in the Capital Region to inform them about the program, invite them to participate and support the removal of any abandoned vessels in their areas.
- educate and inform local governments of their roles and responsibilities and actions required to remove boats and work with them to address the issues of abandoned boats in the region.

To achieve these objectives, the CRABS initiative will implement a targeted, multi-faceted education and awareness campaign that will include: the creation and delivery of print material (brochures, rack cards, posters, pull-up banner), radio and print advertisements in several local media outlets, a video, an extensive social media and online program, and direct public engagement and education opportunities at community events. Workshops for Local Government staff and First Nations communities will be also be held.

Program delivery will be assisted through the existing Capital Region local government working group dealing with problem vessels in the region, which includes representatives from the 13 municipalities, 3 electoral areas and the Islands Trust. CRD Integrated Watershed Management staff will manage the project and will be supported by Corporate Communications staff in the development, design and reproduction of outreach materials. The CRD's First Nations Relations Division will facilitate discussions and opportunities for the 9 local First Nations in the region to engage and participate CRABS.

This project will run from November 2017-Fall 2019 and is estimated to cost \$66,700.