

## What is the HORNBY ISLAND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION?

**Origin** The Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation (HICEEC) was established in 1998, to gain local control over our property taxes allocated for economic development, which had been going to the Comox Valley. The term “enhancement” was chosen for the organization’s name to indicate the intent to represent local values and serve a broad range of local initiatives, rather than “development”, which can suggest simply promoting businesses.

**Guidance** HICEEC sets its priorities and develops its action plans based on consultations with the community:

- 2000 Hornby Island Community Vision: The hopes and dreams of the community for life on our island two decades in the future, developed from in-depth interviews with over 500 residents. See it at <https://hirra.ca/hornby/hornby-island-community-vision-statements/>
- 2015 Economic Action Plan: We polled 323 community members on their household and employment situations and opinions on a variety of economic-related topics. <http://www.hiceec.org/hornby-statistics.html>
- 2021 We are reviewing the Community Vision, guided by interviews with representatives from 13 sectors of island life.

**Mission Statement** To take leadership in developing and implementing solutions to social and economic issues facing the citizens of Hornby Island. For a full description of HICEEC’s purpose, strategic vision, and goals, click on “HICEEC Mission Statement” at <http://www.hiceec.org/about.html>

**How HICEEC works** Comox Valley Regional District bylaws require that a portion of our taxes allocated for economic development be returned to Hornby. HICEEC delivers services based on the Annual Work Plan and budget. Most of HICEEC’s budget is raised through grant applications and other income sources. <http://www.hiceec.org/about.html>

**Projects** HICEEC’s recent work includes:

- COVID: Helping the community and local businesses cope with COVID by using Zoom and social media to share Provincial Health Office guidelines and information on government programs and grants for small businesses.
- Internet: After 3 years’ work, this multimillion-dollar initiative for delivery of fiber-optic high-speed internet has advanced to the stage of CVRD funding for installation of local landing sites for Connected Coast cables.
- Communication: Upgrading our community website to provide more user-friendly listings of island events and information about local businesses, amenities, and services. This is a self-funded project and is not dependent on any tax revenue. [www.hornbyisland.com](http://www.hornbyisland.com)
- Hornby Denman Visitors Guide: Publicizing 100 local small businesses’ services through a self-funded brochure.
- Community Bus: Reducing our environmental footprint by providing public transportation during the summer, with plans to expand service to facilitate car-free travel to Denman and Courtenay year round. [www.hornbybus.com](http://www.hornbybus.com)
- Municipal Regional District Taxation: Helping to bring in a visitor-funded “pillow tax” to raise monies for worker housing and tourist impact remediation. Implementation planned for 2022.

**Support for local groups** HICEEC provides financial aid, administrative assistance, and coordination services:

- Affordable Housing: Island Secure Lands Association
- Food sustainability: Hornby Island Farmland Trust
- Arts: Grants to Arts Council, capital investment in new arts centre, complimentary profiles of artists on our Hornby website, support for summer Festival and many art and music events and social media collaborations
- Small businesses/services: A networking mixer is held twice a year to promote collaboration and sharing
- Education: A number of courses have been offered/sponsored: carpenter training course in collaboration with NIC; septic maintenance workshop with the CVRD; grant-writing seminar for local non-profits; commercial drivers’ training program; health assistant training with HDHS
- Community organizations: Grants given to support societies’ work in agriculture, historic preservation, trail building, emergency preparedness, recycling, theatre productions, recreational programs, radio station, natural history museum, maker space, water stewardship, health care, seniors center, and pre-school

**Organizational profile** HICEEC has a volunteer Board of Directors, two part-time employees, and a contract bookkeeper. Information on our board, bylaws, work, and programs, including our monthly First Edition report, is on [www.hiceec.org](http://www.hiceec.org)

**Contact Info** Have an idea for more or better HICEEC actions? Let us know!

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