



## GWAII TRUST YOUTH BOARD: TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Our Youth Board is looking forward to a busy and productive 2018. We have some big news: after a long search, we have welcomed four new members to our team! Kiya Bergstrom is the new alternate director for Graham Island Central; Avery Robson is the new alternate director for CHN-Skidegate; Isaac Bowey is the new alternate director for Graham Island South; and Haana Edenshaw is the new alternate director for CHN-Old Massett. We extend a huge thank you to all the excellent candidates who applied for these positions. Meanwhile, we are still looking for an alternate director for Area E (Moresby Island). If you're interested in this position, or know someone who is, you can find more information including criteria and how to apply at [gwaitrust.com/news](http://gwaitrust.com/news).

Like our regular board of directors, the Youth Board represents all areas of Haida Gwaii, and we have given the directors full responsibility for making decisions on applications for Youth Grants. Through this program, the Youth

Board distributes funds to local organizations providing education and/or recreational services aimed at young people. We have funded school trips to Limestone Island, island-wide youth conferences and a song-writing workshop for teens, among other projects. In general, the Youth Board is interested in applications that build relationships, support opportunities for youth in sports, culture, arts and outdoor activities, reduce barriers to participation, and promote youth leadership.

In January, the youth directors will be attending a strategic planning session in Tlell. One of the key items on the agenda will be developing criteria to support the additional funding provided to them by the Gwaii Trust board of directors back in October, which was earmarked to be used for youth initiatives and youth centres in each community. This additional funding was set at \$10,000 per community, for a total of \$70,000 in 2018.

The Youth Board held its last meeting of the year on Dec. 11, and awarded \$2,000 to the Gwaii Storm Basketball Team for new uniforms. Gwaii Storm is made up of 15 players aged 13 to 17, headed by team captains Sarah Edenshaw and Paige Setso. The Massett-based team is looking forward to wearing their new uniforms when they compete at the Junior All-Native Tournament in March 2018. Very exciting! This marked the final grant through our 30 Under 30 program, which is now complete. The funds that would have been allotted to the 30 Under 30 program in 2018 are now going to the Youth Grant, bringing our total Youth Grant budget for the coming year to \$170,000.

We've also made a small change to the deadlines for the Youth Grant program. The new deadlines for grant applications will be Feb. 15, April 15 and Oct. 15. Check out our website at [gwaitrust.com](http://gwaitrust.com) for full information about our Youth Grants and how to apply.