



Frequently Asked Questions about The Galiano Restorative Learning Centre

1. How exactly will the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre benefit youth in need?

Most youth get to “go to camp” of some sort repeatedly throughout their adolescent years, where they “*learn to take responsibility, work in teams, and accept the consequences of their own actions. This makes them more confident, capable, stable and self reliant than other young people who lack the same experience.*”¹ Under-privileged youth and the service providers who work with them cannot afford to pay for the opportunity of such experiences. We will fully subsidize such groups to benefit from a multi-day outdoor education program tailored to their needs. Dr. James Neill has shown the “*considerable therapeutic and remedial potential for carefully designed and facilitated outdoor education programs.*”² **For More Information:** see “The Benefits of Restorative Retreats for Youth” in our Outreach Folder.

2. Aren't there cheaper, better ways to help these youth?

Not really. Law enforcement, psychologists and healthcare providers cannot be replaced by Restorative Retreats. However, by improving community groups' ability to support their youth, we will reduce the need for such expensive professional interventions. Neill's research on multi-day outdoor programs “*found robust evidence... [of] impacts on life effectiveness, with approximately 80% of short-term benefits retained after six months.*”² The 2008 BC Adolescent Health Survey “*showed that building protective factors... can assist even the most vulnerable youth to overcome negative experiences [and] make healthier choices.*”³ **More Info:** “Executive Summary” & “Market Niche” in our Business Case

3. Is this piece of land necessary? Can't you run Restorative Retreats somewhere else?

We've tried. Other possible venues have been explored but we've found that a permanent base site is needed for participants to feel pride in their contribution to a larger restoration plan. District Lot 57 is the only property on Galiano with the security, recreational amenities, agricultural land, proximity to our established restoration learning sites and the likelihood of gaining zoning approval needed for an operation like the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre. The Gulf Islands are unequalled in their desirability as a retreat location, as they are easily accessed from urban centers and their natural beauty is protected by the Islands Trust Act. Yet teachers and youth workers find our only option currently available (camping at Montague Provincial Park) unsuitable as other campers are loud and consume alcohol, which is not conducive for at-risk youth to undertake personal growth. **More Info:** see “Location” in our Business Case.

4. What difference will my money make? Am I going to be asked for more later?

No. Your contribution is urgently needed and will be matched, dollar for dollar, to leverage up to 2 million in federal funds administered by the Nature Conservancy of Canada to purchase the land from which we can run Restorative Retreats. We will use the many offers of support we have received to cover the Learning Centre's overhead and operating costs, which will also be subsidized through our social enterprise model. While we will keep our supporters informed of the Centre's progress and will by no means refuse further support, we will not need to seek additional funds from our major donors to run effective programs. **More Info:** see “Revenues” and “Financing Options” in our Business Case.

¹ Mackay, G. J. S., & Neill, J. T. (2010). *The effect of “green exercise” on state anxiety and the role of exercise duration, intensity, and greenness.* Psychology of Sport and Exercise, 11(3), 238-245.

² Neill, J. T. (2008). *Enhancing personal effectiveness: Impacts of outdoor education programs.* PhD thesis. Sydney: University of Western Sydney.

³ Smith, A., Stewart D., Peled, M., Poon, C., Saewyc, E. (2009). *A Picture of Health: Highlights from the 2008 BC Adolescent Health Survey.* Vancouver, BC: McCreary Centre

To discuss this opportunity further, please contact Ken Millard, Director (250) 539-2424

Frequently Asked Questions

5. Are any conditions being set by other funders that will limit the vision of the Centre?

No. The Galiano Conservancy Association will own the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre and will place a covenant on the land allowing for all of the activities and facilities envisioned, while ensuring contributors (such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada) that it won't be used in ways that would decrease its value as a ecologically sound retreat centre, such as private development or subdivision. **More Info:** see "Financing Options" in our Business Case.

6. What if you can't get funding for indoor facilities? Will my money have been wasted?

No. We will be able to run successful, financially sustainable Restorative Retreats for both youth and adults without building the indoor facilities envisioned as the full potential of the Learning Centre. Camping is a vital part of the experience for those who do not face barriers to tenting. Indoor facilities will allow us to run more programs year-round with more diverse groups, such as Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. **More Info:** see "Financials" in our Business Case.

7. What will happen if you don't raise all the funds needed for the land acquisition in time?

Our membership voted overwhelmingly in favour of proceeding with this project at an Extraordinary General Meeting on Oct.10, and we exercised our Option to Purchase on October 15, 2010. We made a non-refundable deposit of \$100,000 in January 2011, \$75,000 of which was raised by our membership in less than 10 days. Our closing date gives us a reasonable amount of time to complete raising the funds needed for the acquisition.

8. Does the Galiano Conservancy have the experience and capacity needed to pull this off?

Yes. The Conservancy has a strong management team including a capable board, experienced staff and a proven track record of financing the purchase and responsibly managing multiple properties on Galiano. Our education programs and award-winning restoration projects are robust and innovative, drawing in the ongoing participation of a wide range of school and community groups, top academics, interns from around the world and leading professionals from the public, private and non-profit sectors. **More Info:** see "Management" in our Business Case; the Galiano Conservancy's "Annual Report 2009" and "Restoration of a Young Coastal Douglas-fir Plantation" brochure in our Outreach Folder.

9. How do I know my money will be spent wisely, and the project will proceed on schedule?

For those investing in the first and most important phase of creating the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre, you can rest easy knowing the Conservancy has demonstrated its ongoing ability to efficiently use of variety of resources to follow through on its management plans. Our phase-based construction plan will allow for participants to engage in visioning and work on site. **More Info:** "Governance" in our Business Case; "Five Year Plan" in our Outreach Folder.

10. Will I have any influence over the project? Is there a naming opportunity?

Yes. We are willing to be quite flexible in forming relationships with potential contributors in a manner that is mutually beneficial and does credit to the reputation of all parties involved. We are open to discussing and fulfilling our donors' needs, whether they take the form of naming opportunities, advisory roles, donor anonymity and/or arm's length involvement. However, we will also ensure none of our partners' interests undermine the overarching purpose of the Restorative Learning Centre, and therefore those of our other contributors. **More Info:** see "Progress to Date" in our Business Case.

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