



QATHEN XWEGUS
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation Receives REDIP Funding for Restaurant Redevelopment on Cortes Island

Cortes Island, B.C. – March 24, 2026 — Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation (QXMC) is pleased to announce it was successful in its application to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) in FY2024/25 through the Province of British Columbia. This investment will support the redevelopment of the restaurant at Gorge Harbour Marina Resort, an important tourism and community destination on Cortes Island.

The project will rebuild the restaurant to create a modern dining facility that highlights local food, supports community gatherings, and enhances the visitor experience for travellers who come ashore and stay awhile on Cortes Island. The restaurant will help extend the visitor season, offering an inviting space for guests to enjoy meals and spend time at the harbour.

Since the late 1960s, Gorge Harbour has been known not only as a marina but also as a place where boaters, visitors, and residents could gather to share a meal and spend time together. Rebuilding the restaurant will help restore that sense of place and bring back an important service that has been missed by many in the community.

"As Chief of the Klahoose First Nation, I'm proud to see this project move forward. Rebuilding the restaurant at Gorge Harbour will create local jobs, support tourism in Klahoose Territory, and help make Gorge Harbour Marina Resort and Cortes Island a vibrant destination. Success for us means strengthening our sovereignty, revitalizing our culture, and creating opportunities for the next generation. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Gorge Harbour." Chief Kevin Peacey

"The restaurant is a very important part of the life of Gorge Harbour," said Marco Bedetti, General Manager of Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation. "For decades the harbour has been a gathering place for boaters, travellers, and the local community. Rebuilding the restaurant helps bring that atmosphere and social energy back to the harbour."



The project is being developed by Klahoose First Nation (łaʔamis) through QXMC, the Nation's economic development and business arm. For Klahoose, economic development focuses on creating sustainable businesses that support the community while respecting the lands and waters of Klahoose Territory.

Across British Columbia, Indigenous tourism has become one of the fastest growing sectors in the visitor economy. Projects like the redevelopment of the restaurant at Gorge Harbour Marina Resort support local communities while offering visitors unique experiences on Cortes Island.

“Indigenous tourism in British Columbia is growing rapidly, and projects like the Gorge Harbour restaurant redevelopment support local communities while offering visitors unique experiences on Cortes Island,” said Chris Tait, Tourism Manager at Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation.

“This investment allows us to rebuild the restaurant in a way that reflects the values of Klahoose First Nation, creating economic opportunities while welcoming guests to the territory,” Bedetti said. “It will be a place where locals and visitors can gather over fresh coastal food, live music, and stunning ocean views. While full year-round operations may begin later, the restaurant will help extend the visitor season and offer a warm, inviting environment that highlights the best of the region.”

The redevelopment will provide economic and social benefits for the region. In addition to strengthening Gorge Harbour as a destination, the restaurant will support other local businesses and create a welcoming gathering place for residents and visitors alike.

Restaurants play an important role in coastal communities, often becoming places where stories are shared, friendships are formed, and visitors experience the character of the region.

The project will also create new employment opportunities, particularly during the busy summer season, including positions in kitchen, service, and management roles. These opportunities will help provide valuable hospitality experience for residents and Klahoose members.

The restaurant redevelopment is part of a broader tourism vision to strengthen tourism across Klahoose-owned properties, including Klahoose Wilderness Resort, and to



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establish Gorge Harbour Marina Resort as a year-round destination, while the new restaurant will help extend the visitor season and enhance services for guests.

This project received \$1 million in funding from the Province of British Columbia through REDIP, which supports economic diversification, infrastructure development, and job creation in rural and Indigenous communities across British Columbia.

Learn more and view the full list of funded projects here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-organizations-community-partners/rural-economic-development/redip/2024-25-funded-projects>

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About Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation (QXMC)

QXMC is the economic development arm of the Klahoose First Nation (ł̓aʔam̓is), creating sustainable business opportunities that reflect Klahoose cultural values. Its portfolio includes tourism and hospitality enterprises such as Klahoose Wilderness Resort and Gorge Harbour Marina Resort. Learn more: www.qxmc.org

About Gorge Harbour Marina Resort

Located at Sa'y'ilh, the traditional ł̓aʔam̓is name for Gorge Harbour on Cortes Island, Gorge Harbour Marina Resort offers marina services, accommodations, and camping in a sheltered harbour known as “two waters in one.” Owned by the Klahoose First Nation, the resort runs year-round and will soon expand with a new restaurant to enhance visitor experiences. Learn more: www.gorgeharbour.com