



**reciprocity.trusts.**

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**2025** **Reciprocity**  
**Report**



# A Note From Our Leadership

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the growing community of people choosing to live in reciprocity. Many high-profile news stories this past year remind us that reconciliation is not a destination, but an ongoing relationship—one that requires care, deep-listening, creativity and compassion.

Across British Columbia, conversations about Indigenous rights and responsibilities have become more visible. Court decisions, public dialogue, and government responses have brought long-standing Indigenous legal principles into broader awareness, inviting many people to learn more deeply about the lands they call home and the Nations who have cared for them since time immemorial.

At Reciprocity Trusts, we see this moment as an opportunity. An opportunity to listen to and take guidance from Indigenous leadership, to strengthen relationships grounded in respect, and to support Indigenous self-determination in tangible ways. Reciprocity payments are one way people are choosing to step into this opportunity—not out of obligation or guilt, but out of an inherent responsibility and desire to be in good relations.

The leadership of Reciprocity's Indigenous Trustees continues to guide our work. Reciprocity payments from homes, small businesses and events are stewarded by these



**Reciprocity Trustees & Staff**

*The South Island Trust is governed by leadership from local First Nation communities.*

Indigenous leaders and directed by Beneficiary Nations towards community projects and initiatives that reflect their priorities and values. This trust-based approach remains at the heart of everything we do.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed in 2025, and to the Indigenous leaders whose guidance continues to shape this work. Together, we are learning what it looks like to move forward with care, generosity, shared responsibility and reciprocity.

With gratitude,

*Naomi Devine,*  
Chair, Reciprocity Trusts Society

&

*SMOQEET, Chief Abraham Pelkey,*  
South Island Reciprocity Trustee appointed by the STÁUTW (Tsaowut) Nation



1-2 year property



3-10 year property



10+ year property



Reciprocity Business



Rental Property



Pledges

## South Island Trust



Hundreds of homes, businesses, organizations and events are choosing to recognize the Indigenous lands we call home.

**JOIN US: [reciprocitytrusts.ca](https://reciprocitytrusts.ca)**

**2025**  
at a  
**GLANCE**

**2** HOMES,  
**9** BUSINESSES,  
**0** AND EVENTS  
PARTICIPATING

**\$127,824.83**  
RAISED

**10**  
BENEFICIARY  
NATIONS  
RECEIVING  
\$11,504 EACH  
FROM 2025

**357 CONTRIBUTORS**

**\$295,000+**  
CONTRIBUTED  
SINCE INCEPTION

## Our Philosophy

**rec·i·proc·i·ty | noun**

1. the practice of building relationships through exchanging things of value over time for mutual benefit; latin root: moving back and forth.

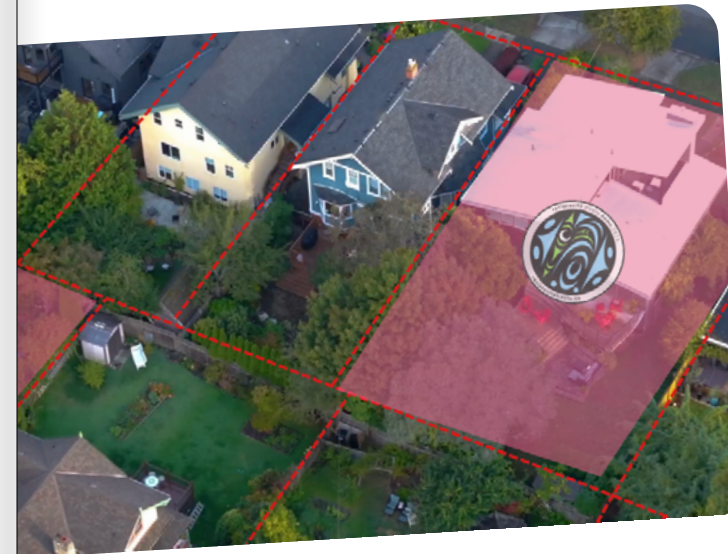
Reciprocity is about being in relationship.

We all benefit from living on Indigenous lands, and this comes with responsibilities. Responsibility, within many Indigenous worldviews, is understood not as a burden, but as symbiotic care for all life.

Reciprocity Trusts makes it easy for homes, businesses, and events to act on this healing principle by making voluntary reciprocity payments to the Indigenous Nations whose lands they live and work on.

Voluntary Reciprocity payments are held in a regional trust and governed by the leadership of participating First Nations, who direct the funds toward community-identified priorities.

Reciprocity payments are not a charity, not a tax, nor are they a replacement for treaties or government responsibilities. They are a practical way for us all to move beyond acknowledgment and participate in respectful, living relationships with the Indigenous stewards of the lands we call home.



*Reciprocity homes and businesses are recognized with a reciprocity window decal, serving as a powerful visual reminder that we are on Indigenous lands.*

It's more than just... giving back for something or showing respect. It really is connection...When I think about reciprocity, it's not just about providing back to those who are with us today, but honoring those who came before, who stewarded the land before, and then also making sure that there's something here for future generations as well."

*~ Sammy Kent, homeowner and board member*

# How Reciprocity Trusts Works

Reciprocity is inspired by the 1% model, which allows for equitable, low-barrier participation from a diversity of individuals and businesses. Here's what recommended payments might look like for each type of contributor, under the 1% model:



### For Homeowners

1% of your property taxes per month (12% annually)



### For Renters

1% of your monthly rent



### For Business Owners

1% of profits, shares, time and/or product



### For Event Producers

1% of ticket sales or venue rental



### For Non-profit Organizations

1% of operating budget or space rental

If you live on the South Island, you can get started with calculating your recommended reciprocity payment at [reciprocitytrusts.ca](http://reciprocitytrusts.ca).



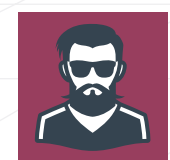
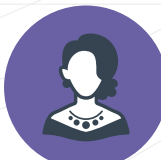
1

Type your address into the Reciprocity Calculator Tool.



2

The tool informs you of your Trust area, your recommended Reciprocity payment, and which First Nation(s) will receive your payments.



3

The tool calculates your recommended Reciprocity payment amount based on the latest assessment value of your home. You can choose to pay monthly or for one or more years at a time

4

Your home will be recognized as an r. home based on the number of years you've contributed.

# Why Reciprocity Matters

Reciprocity is rooted in Indigenous legal and cultural traditions that emphasize mutual responsibility and respect. Long before colonial legal systems, Indigenous Nations upheld laws that recognized the interconnectedness of people, land, and community wellbeing. We understand these laws to be continually evolving and influencing the ways Nations conduct themselves in relationship with others.

For example, on Coast Salish lands, we are guided by the principle of Naut'sa mawt, meaning "working together, with one heart and one mind."

Today, reciprocity payments offer a simple, accessible way for homes, businesses, and events to act on the Indigenous principles that shaped and were shaped by the lands and waters we love and rely on. They are voluntary, ongoing contributions that move beyond symbolic acknowledgment toward meaningful action and meaningful relationships.

In times when Indigenous rights are receiving increased attention and widely ranging public discourse, reciprocity offers a steady, relationship-based alternative to division and fear. With more people speaking publicly about Reciprocity Trusts as a method of demonstrating material respect towards Nations and fulfilling our responsibilities as guests on Indigenous lands, we aim to expand our offerings and invite people into meaningful action.

"The moral covenant of reciprocity calls us to honor our responsibilities for all we have been given, for all that we have taken."

~ Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

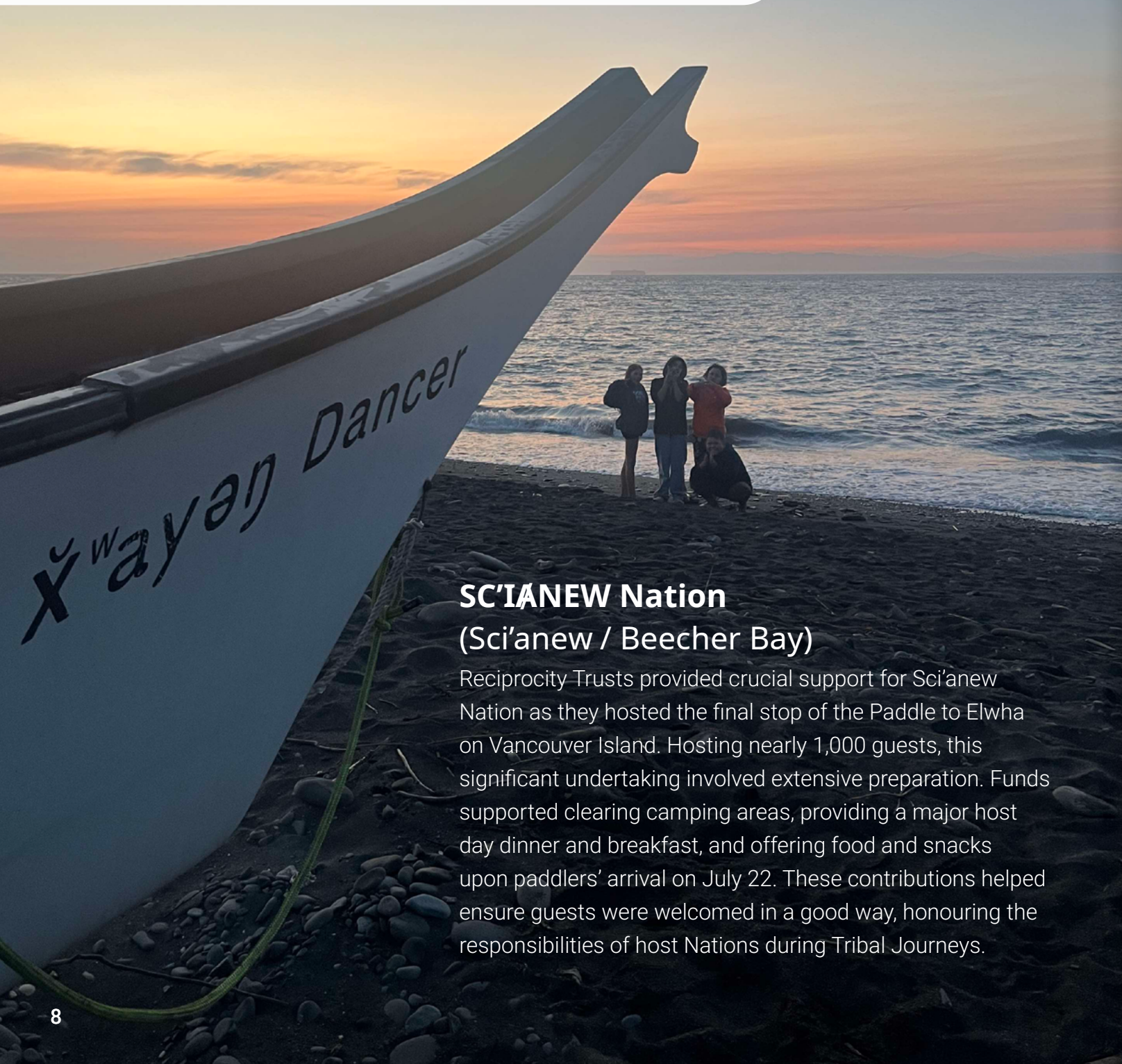
\*Folks in other geographies are encouraged to explore the reciprocity calculator tool and pledge to join once a regional reciprocity trust is up and running in your area.

\*Funds collected into the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust are annually distributed to participating Beneficiary Nations, who have control over where they accept payments from and what priorities they are put towards.

Just 1%  
contributed by  
many, amounts to  
real change.

# Land, Language & Nation Building

In 2025, reciprocity contributions supported Nation-led initiatives across the South Island. Each project reflects decisions made by the communities themselves, responding to local priorities, cultural responsibilities, and opportunities for connection.



## SC'IANEW Nation (Sci'aneu / Beecher Bay)

Reciprocity Trusts provided crucial support for Sci'aneu Nation as they hosted the final stop of the Paddle to Elwha on Vancouver Island. Hosting nearly 1,000 guests, this significant undertaking involved extensive preparation. Funds supported clearing camping areas, providing a major host day dinner and breakfast, and offering food and snacks upon paddlers' arrival on July 22. These contributions helped ensure guests were welcomed in a good way, honouring the responsibilities of host Nations during Tribal Journeys.

## BO KÉĆEN Nation (Pauquachin)

Pauquachin Nation used reciprocity funds to host the annual Pauquachin Spirit Days, strengthening community relationships and supporting cultural practices that bring people together in celebration and shared responsibility.



## STÁUTW Nation (Tsawout)

Funding helped facilitate Tsawout members' participation in Tribal Journeys and supported the joint "Paddle Together" event, held in partnership with the RCMP. Tsawout Nation welcomed paddlers to their beach and longhouse, creating space for cultural exchange, ceremony, and relationship-building.



## MÁLEXEŁ Nation (Malahat)

Reciprocity contributions supported essential longhouse repairs and materials, helping maintain vital cultural infrastructure that supports gatherings, ceremonies, and the sharing of teachings across generations.





# Slow Growth, Real Impact

**"I will say to the donors, thank you so much... it's not a handout, it's a hand up and it's really helping our people... It's a good relationship because... you're uplifting a people, you're adhering to a greater governance... and giving us that respect as the first peoples of the land."**

*- Abraham Pelkey SMOŁEFET  
Chief of STÁ,UTW First Nation*

In 2025, the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust continued to grow as a community-driven model for recognizing Indigenous lands through voluntary, material contributions.

Over the course of the year, 290 homes, small businesses, and events contributed \$127,824.83 in voluntary reciprocity payments.

Since inception, 357 homes, small businesses, and events have contributed over \$295,000 to the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust – demonstrating the collective impact of many people contributing what they can, consistently and in good faith.

# Looking Ahead

We often get the question:  
*"what are your plans for expansion?"*

It's amazing that this idea and desire to be in good relationship with host Nations is held by so many across BC, and even across Canada. And let's be clear: this is why we exist. We know that there are thousands of people who are looking for a meaningful way to say 'thank you' to First Nations that carries material impact, and we are working every day to reach those people and let them know that this opportunity exists.

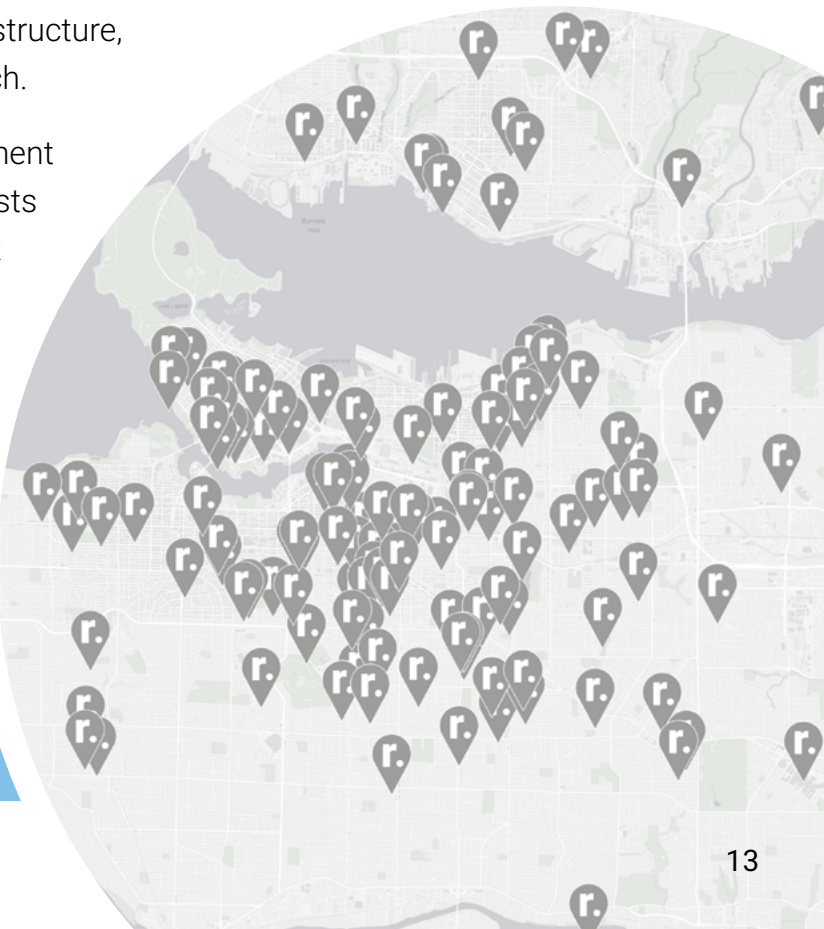
Even while we look towards setting up new Trust areas, there is still a long way to go on the South Island before we are self-sustaining. We know that there are many motivated people we haven't reached yet, as well as many motivated people who want to contribute, but haven't made the leap. At the same time, every day, people are pledging from other regions that have yet to be set up to take and distribute payments. New regional Reciprocity Trusts are designed and launched at the pace of trusting relationships with local beneficiary Nations. There are lots of considerations that inform this background collaborative work before a new Trust area goes public: defining regional Trust boundaries, supporting existing relationships between Nations, finding balance with other economic development agreements, refining data management and payment processing infrastructure, and feeling out the right political moment to launch.

We deeply appreciate your patience and commitment as we work to grow awareness of Reciprocity Trusts and to launch new regional Trust areas. This work would not be possible without your support. We do envision a future where Reciprocity Trusts is present on the lower mainland and across BC – will you continue to stand by us while we make our way there?

Help increase the impact of this work by telling your community about Reciprocity Trusts.  
**Get a Reciprocity Trusts T for every new contributor you refer!**



**Vancouver Coastal Trust** |  Pledges





A detailed botanical illustration in a light grey tone, featuring various stages of a plant's life cycle. It includes large, textured, spherical seed pods or fruits with root-like structures at the base, several open flowers with multiple petals and prominent stamens, and long, slender seed pods or stems. The background is filled with these elements, creating a dense, naturalistic pattern.

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Learn more about how you can make  
reciprocity a part of your daily life!

[reciprocitytrusts.ca](https://reciprocitytrusts.ca)

[hello@reciprocitytrusts.ca](mailto:hello@reciprocitytrusts.ca)



[@reciprocitytrusts](https://www.instagram.com/reciprocitytrusts)