

Ride N Share

A community-owned rideshare, boat ride, and car-rental platform built for Haida Gwaii.

Land Acknowledgement. Ride N Share is being built on the ancestral, unceded territory of the **Haida Nation**, stewards of Haida Gwaii since time immemorial. The platform is committed to supporting the revival of **Skidegate Haida (X̱aayda Kil)** and **Old Massett Haida (X̱aad Kil)**, alongside English and French, so that every menu, button, and notification can be read in the language of this land.

The Opportunity

Haida Gwaii is home to roughly 5,000 permanent residents and welcomes more than 40,000 visitors each year, yet the islands have no Uber, no Lyft, and only a handful of taxis and rental vehicles. Elders often struggle to reach medical appointments. Visitors regularly find themselves stranded at ferry terminals. Hitchhiking remains common, but it is neither safe nor reliable. There is no public transit between communities, and private boat charters are expensive and difficult to arrange.

Ride N Share is the first community-owned rideshare platform designed specifically for remote coastal communities. It connects residents with local drivers, private boat captains, and peer-to-peer vehicle rentals through a single mobile application, establishing year-round transportation between Daajing Giids, Old Massett, Skidegate, Tlell, Port Clements, and Sandspit.

Why Now

- The founder lives on Graham Island and experiences the transportation gap first-hand every day.
- Core software is being developed during a focused 60-day build window (April–May 2026), with a public launch scheduled for late May.
- Existing local vehicles and boats are significantly under-utilised, so no new fleet investment is required.
- Tourism to Haida Gwaii is recovering, and residents are actively requesting a better way to move between communities.

One-Line Summary

Ride N Share is a community-owned transportation cooperative delivered as a mobile application — turning the existing cars, boats, and skills of Haida Gwaii into a single network that serves residents, welcomes visitors, supports the revival of the Haida language, and returns 10% of platform revenue to charity every month.

The Solution

Ride N Share combines six connected services inside a single mobile application, all sharing one identity, wallet, and trust layer:

Rideshare	On-demand and scheduled car rides, real-time GPS tracking, driver ratings, and an emergency button that shares a rider's live location with 911.
Boat Share	Verified private boat captains handle island-to-island crossings (for example Skidegate to Sandspit). Booking is weather-aware.
Community Car Rental	Peer-to-peer vehicle rental, open to any vehicle year. Tiered fees of 19–33% make it the lowest-fee platform in its category.
Skill Share	Riders may pay with professional skills instead of money. Trades are held in escrow by a Solidity smart contract on Arbitrum.
Rewards	Every ride earns points (3 for riders, 6 for drivers, 9 for vehicle hosts) redeemable at local sponsor businesses.
Haida Language	Interface available in X̱aayda Kil and X̱aad Kil alongside English and French, sourced from Haida knowledge keepers rather than machine translation.

Social Impact

The social mission of Ride N Share is woven into the core mechanics of the platform rather than added on afterwards:

- **Ten percent of monthly platform revenue** is automatically donated to nonprofits, beginning with Islamic Relief Worldwide. A public dashboard displays total donated, current recipient, and full history.
- **Direct donations pass through in full** with zero platform cut.
- **Haida language revitalisation** is built into daily use of the app, with an elder review workflow for refining translations over time.
- **A carbon tracker** displays CO₂ saved, fuel saved, and trees-equivalent of every shared ride.
- **A sponsor rewards loop** returns rider and driver points to local businesses, keeping dollars circulating inside the island economy.
- **Community-trust verification** uses documentation review rather than extractive third-party background checks.

Current Progress

Ride N Share is being developed during a focused 60-day build window with a discipline of tangible daily progress. As of April 2026 the following components are complete and in active use:

- A six-page marketing website is live at ridenshare.ca.
- A Node.js and Express backend provides JWT authentication plus routes for rides, rentals, payments, smart contracts, donations, sponsors, and administration.
- A React Native (Expo) mobile application has been scaffolded with five-tab navigation and core screens.
- The SkillShareEscrow.sol Solidity contract on Arbitrum One implements the full propose-accept-sign-settle-dispute lifecycle.
- A Haida language stewards sign-up endpoint and peer-review translation workflow are in place.
- A downloadable launch poster and 60-day build plan are published on the public website.

Business Model

Rideshare and Boat rides	A 17% platform fee is taken from driver and captain earnings — the lowest fee in the industry.
Community Car Rental	A tiered host fee of 19–33% applies (older vehicles incur the lowest fee), plus a 10% guest service fee.
Skill Share	The lower of a \$3 flat fee or 3% of the USDC escrow value is charged to both parties.
Direct Donations	Zero platform cut is applied — 100% of the donation is passed through to the charity.

Proposed Use of Grant Funds

Grant funding would accelerate Ride N Share from a working prototype to a fully launched, insured, and community-supported platform. A representative allocation is shown below:

Category	Allocation	What it covers
Platform and Infrastructure	20%	Backend hosting, mapping, SMS, push, storage, monitoring
Legal, Insurance and Compliance	20%	Liability insurance, incorporation, terms, privacy review
Haida Language and Community	15%	Paid Haida knowledge keepers, translation review, events
Driver and Captain Onboarding	15%	Verification, outreach, training, referral incentives
Marketing and Outreach	15%	Printed posters, ferry-terminal advertising, tourism partnerships
Operations and Founder Support	10%	Founder cost-of-living during the launch period
Contingency Reserve	5%	Unforeseen costs, dispute escrow seed, bug bounty

Percentages are indicative; dollar allocations are tailored to each funder.

Growth Projections

The projections below are conservative and assume that Ride N Share remains the only purpose-built rideshare on Haida Gwaii during the forecast window. The platform is expected to reach operating sustainability once monthly gross rides exceed approximately 400 — a threshold well within reach of Graham Island's population combined with typical tourist volumes.

	Year 1 (2026)	Year 2 (2027)	Year 3 (2028)
Active riders	200	1,000+	3,500+
Registered drivers and captains	50	150	400
Monthly rides (blended)	250 → 500	≈ 1,500	≈ 4,000
Geographic footprint	Graham Island	All of Haida Gwaii	Remote BC coastal
Monthly 10% charity donation	Seeded	Scaling	Recurring
Language support	EN / FR / 2x Haida	Expanded glossary	Voice and menus

Founder

Phong Lu (Sorriso) is a Graham Island resident, a content creator on TikTok and X, and the sole developer building Ride N Share end-to-end — mobile application, backend, smart contract, website, and community outreach. Phong lives the transportation gap this platform is being built to close. Ride N Share is a long-horizon, community-oriented project, designed to be handed over responsibly when the time is right.

The Ask

Ride N Share is seeking grant partners whose mandates align with Indigenous-territory community infrastructure, rural transit, small-business innovation, and language revitalisation. Funds will be deployed against the categories outlined on page 3 and measured against the growth milestones on page 4. The founder welcomes a conversation with any funder who wishes to review the working prototype, examine the source code, or visit Graham Island in person.

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Launch target	End of May 2026

"Ride N Share is good for you, good for me, and good for the trees. Every ride is a small act of reciprocity with this land and the people who have always cared for it."