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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Port Alberni Port Authority Releases Connector Highway Studies

**PORT ALBERNI** – The Port Alberni Port Authority (PAPA) is actively investigating initiatives to capture the economic opportunities that may be available to the community through leveraging the port's capacity and natural geographic advantages. Based on early industry feedback PAPA recognizes that increasing its economic activities and contributions to the community will realistically result in new trucking traffic.

In order for such growth to be most effective and efficient while having as low as possible safety, environmental and social impacts there must be investments made to improve our regional and local transportation infrastructure. Therefore, as part of its due diligence and in addition to its participation in the Regional Transportation Committee PAPA commissioned R.F. Binnie & Associates Ltd to study alternate transportation connections from Port Alberni and Highway 4 to the Inland Island Highway 19. Attached for public review are the two, respective, Final Reports:

1. Highway 19 Connector to Highway 4 via Horne & Lacey Lake Route Study and;
2. Highway 19 Connector to Highway 4 Haggard Route Coupled with Lacey Lake Route Study

Each of these studies provides a conceptual design and cost estimate for their routes. The Port Alberni Port Authority invested in these studies for consideration by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the City of Port Alberni as each examines various options and opportunities for investment in a community industrial "ring road" and new Harbour Road, respectively. Such investments would, ultimately, provide effective and efficient industrial transportation linkages in and out of Port Alberni.

The Port Alberni Port Authority will continue to champion the community's efforts to develop a comprehensive Transportation Infrastructure Strategy with senior levels of government in collaboration with local and regional government partners.

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