



Accessibility Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

10:00 am

Regular Agenda

Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/10-2-2026/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RZi_FN1AQ5mUslwfK2LZA

PAGE

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Recognition of Territories.

Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & VICE CHAIRPERSON**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)

4. **DECLARATIONS**

(conflict of interest)

5. **MINUTES**

a. **Accessibility Committee Meeting held December 9, 2025**

3-6

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Committee meeting held on December 9, 2025 be adopted.

6. **DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (10-minute maximum)**

a. **Dave Arsenault, Manager of Engineering, City of Port Alberni regarding Master Plan Updates**

- b. **Serena Manhas, Planner 1, ACRD regarding Official Community Plans**
- c. **Rebecca Dixon, Senior Client Services Assistant, National Institute for Disability Management and Research, Reducing Poverty Initiative**

7. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- a. **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH**
 - Reducing Poverty Initiative Brochure **7-8**
 - Return to work assistance **9-10**
- b. **ACRD**
 - Letter to Island Health re: Occupational Therapist shortage **11**
 - Letter to Minister of Environment and Parks re: accessibility at MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove) **12**
- c. **CITY OF PORT ALBERNI**
 - Response to question regarding the integration of audible signals **13**

THAT the ACRD Accessibility Committee receive these items for information.

8. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

9. REPORTS

10. LATE BUSINESS

11. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public:

- Participating in Person in the Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- Emailed to the ACRD at responses@acrd.bc.ca

12. ADJOURN



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2025, 10:00 AM

Hybrid - Zoom/Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Cindy Solda, Chairperson, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
Amber Severinson, Member at Large
Deanna Spencer, Member at Large
Nicole Uzelman, Member at Large
Jamie Tattrie, Member at Large
Kat Belisle, Member at Large
Deserray McClary, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Vaida Siga, Director, Area C – Long Beach

STAFF PRESENT:

Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant
Sara Darling, City of Port Alberni

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:
<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/9-12-2025/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuuchahnulth territories.

The Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: J. Tattrie

SECONDED: D. McClary

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS

4. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Sam Turcott, Assistant Deputy Minister, Accessibility Directorate, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction**
- b. **Alex Hunter, Constituency Assistant, Office of Gord Johns, MP for Courtenay-Alberni regarding the Disability Tax Credit**
- c. **David Calver, Founder, Society for Inclusion and Participation regarding Occupational Therapy and Accessibility in the ACRD**

D. Spencer left the meeting at 11:27 am

D. McClary left the meeting at 11:29 am

5. MINUTES

- a. **Accessibility Committee Minutes – May 13, 2025**

MOVED: J. Tattrie

SECONDED: K. Belisle

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Committee meeting held on May 13, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

- b. **Accessibility Committee Minutes – September 9, 2025**

MOVED: K. Belisle

SECONDED: J. Tattrie

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Committee meeting held on September 9, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **BC Parks response to letter re: Accessibility Issues at MacMillan Provincial Park**
- b. **BC Accessibility Hub E-Learning Opportunities**

MOVED: J. Tattrie

SECONDED: K. Belisle

THAT this correspondence be received.

CARRIED

MOVED: K. Belisle

SECONDED: J. Tattrie

THAT the Accessibility Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors advocate to the Ministry of Environment and Parks by requesting improvements to address accessibility barriers at MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove), specifically related to the parking area and washroom facilities.

CARRIED

*MOVED: C. Solda
SECONDED: K. Belisle*

THAT the Accessibility Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors request Island Health to maintain and provide ongoing funding for the use of contract Occupational Therapists during periods when a full complement of staff is not available, ensuring continuity of services and support for individuals requiring occupational therapy.

CARRIED

7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

8. REPORTS

9. LATE BUSINESS

10. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in Person in the ACRD Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

14. ADJOURN

*MOVED: J. Tattrie
SECONDED: N. Uzelman*

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:39 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Cindy Solda,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant

About the Initiative

The Reducing Poverty through Early Intervention and Occupational Rehabilitation Initiative aims to support individuals who have acquired a physical or mental health impairment and their employers in the return-to-work journey.

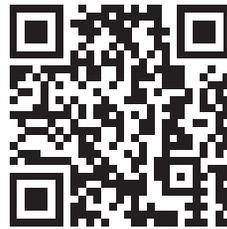
The program is completely voluntary meaning an individual can withdraw at any time.



For more information
or to apply please
visit us:

online at our website

www.reducingpoverty.nidmar.ca



or contact us:

by phone

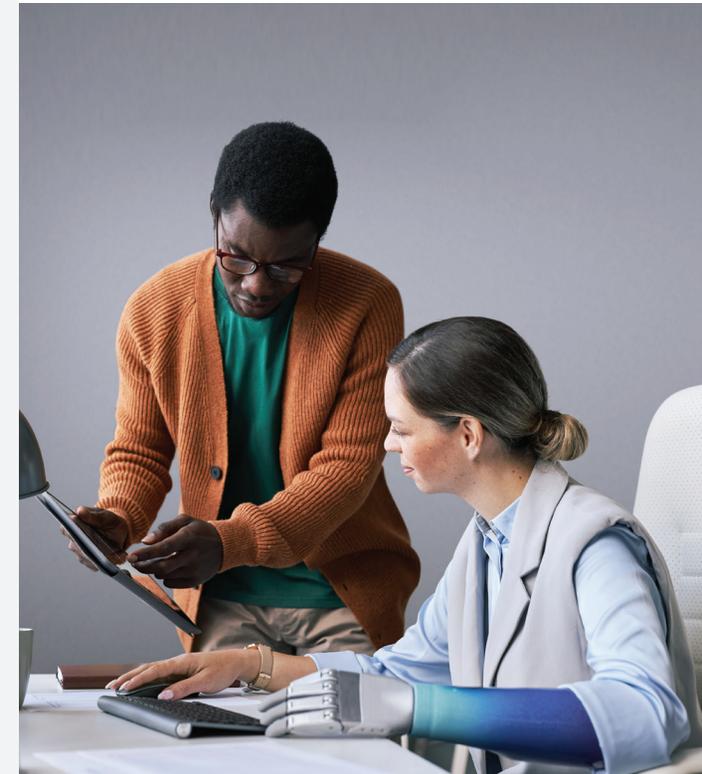
778-421-0821 ext. 214

by email

reducingpoverty@nidmar.ca



This program is funded by the Government of
Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



Who can access the program?

Individuals

Individuals who have little or no support from other resources and are off work due to injury or illness.

Employers

Employers seeking practical solutions for an accommodation for disabled employees to return to work.

Where can the program be accessed?

The pilot program will initially be offered in 4 British Columbia communities:

- Prince George
- Kelowna
- Nanaimo
- Vancouver



What should I expect from the program?

Once confirmed as eligible, an individual will be referred to a Certified Disability Management Professional (CDMP) for ongoing return-to-work support.

The CDMP will facilitate access to supports which may include:

- Health treatments
- On-the-job aids or adaptations
- Assistive technology
- Training and education
- And many more creative and practical solutions!

How to get started:

If you think the program may be a fit for you, please take a few moments to complete the brief application form which can be accessed on our website by clicking on **“Apply”**.



www.reducingpoverty.nidmar.ca

Upon submitting your application, you can expect to hear back from us within 2 working days.





DISABILITY ASSISTANCE THROUGH EARLY INTERVENTION

RETURN-TO-WORK HELP

Support for employers & employees who don't have disability insurance

Struggling to return to work due to physical or mental health reasons?



Work with our specialists (CDMPs)

to develop a personalized return-to-work plan



Return to work with ongoing support

Feel confident in your return to work



Contact us:

778-421-0821 ext. 214 or reducingpoverty@nidmar.ca

GET FREE SUPPORT TODAY

www.reducingpoverty.nidmar.ca



Referral Crib Sheet – Reducing Poverty Initiative

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Reducing Poverty Initiative, an individual must meet **all** the criteria:

- Be between **18 and 65 years old**
 - Be **unable to work** due to physical or mental health reasons
 - Be **currently employed** with a job to return to
 - Have been **off work for less than one year**
 - **Live in one of the pilot communities** (and surrounding areas)
 - o Prince George
 - o Nanaimo
 - o Kelowna
 - o Vancouver
 - Be legally allowed to work in British Columbia,
 - **Not** be receiving insured benefits such as:
 - o WorkSafe BC
 - o ICBC
 - o Short- or Long-Term Disability coverage through your employer.
-

Straightforward case:

A person **under 65 currently receiving Medical EI** living in a **pilot community** is eligible.

How to Apply:

1. Online Application

- Submit through the website
- o [Home - Reducing Poverty Initiative](#)

2. Fillable PDF Form

- Download the application form and submit by mail, email, or fax
(using the contact information listed in the who to contact section below):
- o [Application-Form-RPI-Fillable.pdf](#)

3. By Phone

- o 778-421-0821 ext. 214
-

Complex case:

In some situations, an individual who does **not meet all standard eligibility criteria** may *still* qualify for the Reducing Poverty Initiative. Before making a referral in these cases, please contact the Reducing Poverty Initiative team to discuss eligibility.

- When their **primary employer is no longer a viable option**
- When they are **no longer workplace-attached**, have been out of work for around a year, but are **motivated to return to employment** and meet the rest of the eligibility criteria

*These cases require discussion and approval **before proceeding** with the application.*

Contact the Reducing Poverty Team for more info:

Senior Client Services Assistant

- o 778-421-0821 ext. 214
- o reducingpoverty@nidmar.ca

Director – Bill Dyer

- o 778-421-0821 ext. 217
- o bill.dyer@nidmar.ca



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

January 19, 2026

Kathy MacNeil, President and Chief Executive Officer
C/O Joanne Horne, Executive Assistant
Island Health
1952 Bay Street
Victoria, BC
V8R 1J8

E-mail: joanne.horn@islandhealth.ca

Re: Occupational Therapy services in Alberni-Clayoquot region

Dear Kathy MacNeil,

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors are writing to Island Health to advocate for better access to Occupational Therapy services in the Alberni-Clayoquot region after concerns were raised at the December 9, 2025, ACRD Accessibility Committee Meeting.

The members of the committee expressed that they have experienced significant delays in getting assessed and fitted for a wheelchair due to the continued lack of Occupational Therapists in the region.

The ACRD Board of Directors request that Island Health provide ongoing funding for the use of contract Occupational Therapists during staff shortages, to ensure continuity of services and support for those requiring occupational therapy.

Sincerely,

John Jack, Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

CC: Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Health
HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

MLA Anna Kindy, Official Opposition Critic for Health
Anna.Kindy.MLA@leg.bc.ca



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

January 28, 2026

The Honourable Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

E-mail: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Accessibility Concerns at MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove)

Dear Minister Davidson,

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors are writing to the Minister of Environment and Parks to advocate for improved accessibility at Cathedral Grove after concerns were raised at the December 9, 2025, ACRD Accessibility Committee Meeting.

The areas of concern that were identified at Cathedral Grove are as follows:

- Washrooms are impeded by parking blocks, making them inaccessible for wheelchair users.
- The pathways to the forested area become inaccessible for people using mobility aides when vehicles park against the concrete parking barriers.

We ask the Minister of Environment and Parks work with Ministry staff to improve the accessibility concerns raised.

Sincerely,

John Jack, Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

CC: MLA Sheldon Clare,
Official Opposition Critic for Environment, Parks, Emergency Management & Climate Readiness
Sheldon.Clare.MLA@leg.bc.ca

From: Sara Darling
Sent: February 2, 2026 8:40 AM
To: Heather Zenner
Cc: Kristin Kerr-Donohue
Subject: Re: Accessibility Committee Agenda - February 10th

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Good morning,

I can confirm Dave will attend to provide a MP update and will have the PowerPoint presentation to me by Tuesday day end and I will send along to you both.

Also, please find the response to inquiry from previous meeting below:

Discussion Point: During the recent Accessibility Committee meeting, a question was raised concerning the implementation of audible crosswalks within our community. Specifically, the committee sought to understand if there are cost-effective options available for integrating audible signals, akin to the recently installed pedestrian-activated crosswalks.

Staff Response:

The query regarding audible crosswalks encompasses a variety of factors that complicate a straightforward answer. The feasibility and cost of installing audible equipment largely depend on the existing signal infrastructure at each intersection.

Currently, many signaled intersections throughout the City lack the necessary compatibility for the addition of audio equipment without extensive upgrades, which can be costly, ranging from \$30,000 to over \$40,000. Conversely, when establishing new pedestrian-activated signals at locations that are not currently signaled, the additional expenditure for audio capabilities is significantly reduced, typically amounting to just a few thousand dollars.

It is important to recognize that our current budget is limited, directing our focus towards maintaining existing equipment and operations at this time. Additionally, we do not have a formal policy in place regarding the use of audible signals. As a result, identifying priorities and suitable locations for implementation will require thoughtful consideration and resources.

Thanks,

Sara