



## Accessibility Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

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

10:00 AM

### Regular Agenda

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Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/12-5-2026/7789/?catid=0>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

[https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_21N4FSIUUSBCUMDGY7YEWlg#/registration](https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_21N4FSIUUSBCUMDGY7YEWlg#/registration)

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#### 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 on Zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*(motion to approve, including late items)*

3. **DECLARATIONS**

*(conflict of interest)*

4. **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **Jim MacDonald, Director of Infrastructure Services, City of Port Alberni regarding the Argyle Street Redevelopment project.**

5. **DELEGATIONS (10 minute maximum)**

6. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. **Accessibility Committee Meeting – February 10, 2026**

3-6

*THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Committee meeting held on February 10, 2026 be adopted.*

**7. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD**

*(15 minutes total. Public will be permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on an agenda item. No video, use of presentations, handouts, or props are permitted. Virtual attendees, raise your hand in Zoom to request to speak. In-person attendees, raise your hand to request to speak.*

**8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

- a. **BC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS**  
Response to ACRD letter re: Accessibility at MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove) **7-9**
- b. **ISLAND HEALTH**  
Response to ACRD letter re: Occupational Therapist shortage **10-11**
- c. **ACRD**
  - Letter to Ministry of Transportation and Transit re: Johnston Rd crosswalks **12-13**
  - Letter to City of Port Alberni re: Johnston Rd crosswalks **14**

*THAT the Accessibility Committee receive items a-c for information.*

**9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

**10. REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS**

**11. REPORTS**

**12. OTHER BUSINESS (including Late Items)**

*Late Items are defined as matters arising after the preparation of the agenda which, if not acted upon in a timely manner, would prejudice or compromise either the Regional District's position or the position of a constituent or group of constituents.*

**13. QUESTION PERIOD**

*(15 minutes total. Public will be permitted to ask questions for up to 3 minutes on an agenda item. No video, use of presentations, handouts, or props are permitted. Virtual attendees, raise your hand in Zoom to request to speak. In-person attendees, raise your hand to request to speak).*

**14. ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM  
Regional District Board Room & Zoom**



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026, 10:00AM

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

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cindy Solda, Chairperson, Councillor, City of Port Alberni  
Vaida Siga, Director, Area C – Long Beach  
Amber Severinson, Member at Large  
Deanna Spencer, Member at Large  
Nicole Uzelman, Member at Large  
Deserray McClary, Member at Large

**REGRETS:** Jamie Tattrie, Member at Large  
Kat Belisle, Member at Large

**STAFF PRESENT:** Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services  
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant  
Serena Manhas, Planner 1  
Jim MacDonald, City of Port Alberni  
Dave Arsenault, City of Port Alberni

**Others Present:** Macie DeWitt, Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:  
<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/10-2-2026/>

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Manager of Administrative Services (MAS) called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

The MAS recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The MAS 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. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & VICE CHAIRPERSON

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2026**

The Administrative Assistant (AA) conducted the election for Chairperson of the Accessibility Committee for 2026

The AA declared Cindy Solda to the position of Chairperson for the Accessibility Committee for 2026.

### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

The AA conducted the election of Vice-Chairperson of the Accessibility Committee for 2026.

The AA declared Nicole Uzelman to the position of Vice-Chairperson for the Accessibility Committee for 2026.

Cindy Solda assumed the Chair.

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*MOVED: N. Uzelman*

*SECONDED: V. Siga*

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### **4. DECLARATIONS**

### **5. MINUTES**

#### **a. Accessibility Committee Minutes – December 9, 2025**

*MOVED: N. Uzelman*

*SECONDED: D. McClary*

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

**CARRIED**

### **6. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- 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

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

*MOVED: N. Uzelman*

*SECONDED: A. Severinson*

*THAT the ACRD Accessibility Committee receive these items for information.*

**CARRIED**

## 8. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

## 9. REPORTS

## 10. LATE BUSINESS

*MOVED: C. Solda*

*SECONDED: V. Siga*

*THAT the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Accessibility Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors contact the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and request improved crosswalk infrastructure on Johnston Road for accessibility purposes including audible crossing signals.*

**CARRIED**

## 11. 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](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca).

## 12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Certified Correct:

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Cindy Solda,  
Chairperson

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Kristin Kerr-Donohue,  
Administrative Assistant



Reference: 419227

*April 7, 2026*

John Jack, Chairperson  
And Directors  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
3008 Fifth Avenue  
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

Sent via email: [jjack@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:jjack@acrd.bc.ca)

Dear Chairperson Jack and Directors:

Thank you for your letter of January 28, 2026, regarding accessibility concerns at MacMillan Park (Cathedral Grove). We appreciate your government's feedback and the thoughtful attention your Accessibility Committee is giving to inclusion in outdoor spaces.

At BC Parks, we are committed to building a provincial parks system that is welcoming and meaningfully accessible to all. We recognize that for many individuals and communities, barriers—both visible and invisible—can limit access to nature. That's why we've developed the [BC Parks Commitment to Inclusion](#), a framework guiding our efforts to remove these barriers and create inclusive environments across the province.

Recent initiatives throughout the province include:

- Upgrading facilities such as washrooms, parking lots, pathways and docks to meet accessibility standards.
- Incorporating universal design principles into all new campground and recreation expansion projects.
- Partnering with community organizations to support adaptive recreation equipment and inclusive programming; and
- Providing training for staff and developing accessible publications and signage that reinforce our values of diversity and inclusion.

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While we are proud of the progress made (over 25 accessibility-related projects were completed last year and more than 20 are underway this year), we also acknowledge that not every park can be made fully accessible immediately. We are actively exploring options and prioritizing upgrades based on need, feasibility and available resources. Your patience and continued collaboration are greatly appreciated as we work toward these goals.

We have reviewed your committee's feedback and understand their frustration with the parking situation at MacMillan Park. While we have worked to explore solutions, initial options like moving the parking barriers forward to create more pathway space are unfortunately not possible when trying to balance highway safety concerns that we recognize the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) are also concerned about. We are exploring other options to possibly expand the pathway behind the parking barriers. We expect this process will take some time and appreciate your patience, as the project will require ecological and structural assessments as well as First Nations consultation before proceeding (pending funding availability).

As you may be aware, I recently had the opportunity to tour MacMillan Park and view the accessible trail network constructed on the park's north side, part of the significant investment in accessible infrastructure there. Further improvements for the south side of the park are being designed and are targeted to begin in 2026. I am confident that your feedback will be considered when planning these upgrades. I had the pleasure of being accompanied on the visit by your local MLA, the Honourable Josie Osborne, who as you know has extensive knowledge of issues surrounding the park. She clearly conveyed the significance of the park as a local destination and the need for ongoing dialogue to explore options to manage visitation.

Repeating an offer made previously to the ACRD's Accessibility Committee—BC Parks is collaborating with community organizations through its Inclusion Steering Committee and would welcome the ACRD's involvement on that initiative. More information can be found on our accessibility [webpage](#). Additionally, we encourage your committee to engage with the [Accessibility Directorate](#) of the B.C. Government, which is leading province-wide efforts to improve accessibility across sectors.

Thank you again for your advocacy and commitment to making B.C.'s natural spaces more inclusive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tamara Davidson  
Minister of Environment and Parks

cc: Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit  
Josie Osborne, MLA, Mid Island – Pacific Rim  
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

**OUR VISION:**

Excellent health and care for everyone,  
everywhere, every time.



February 19, 2026

Ref #22698

Mr. John Jack  
Chairperson  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
3008 Fifth Avenue  
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

Dear Mr. Jack:

Thank you for your letter addressed to Kathy MacNeil, President and CEO of Island Health dated January 19, 2026 regarding Occupational Therapy (OT) in the Port Alberni Region. Your letter was forwarded to my office for response as the Executive Island Health lead for community-based rehabilitation services.

Island Health acknowledges the frustration and stress people may feel when they are waiting to access health care services, and your advocacy on behalf of residents to support access to care is commended. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of Island Health.

Allow me to begin by expressing how grateful Island Health is for the ongoing partnership and collaboration with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District with regards to supporting our shared commitment to deliver sustainable health care services in the Alberni Region.

Health organizations across the province, nationally and internationally are being challenged with a health human resource shortage in both the acute and community care settings, and that includes health care professionals who support rehabilitation services.

Over the past number of years, Island Health made investments in community-based health care services. This is in response to a growing and aging population, and recognition that a robust and accessible range of community programs helps to mitigate the need for acute and other facility-based health care resources. These investments include home care and home support, care giver supports, adult day programs, virtual care and rehabilitation services.

As it relates to OT, including Port Alberni, Island Health is addressing the workforce shortage through a combination of international and local recruitment, targeted job advertising, and community outreach. Interim OT support from neighbouring communities has also been secured through travel based and virtual-service arrangements. To reduce service gaps, we expanded Physiotherapy capacity through specialized seating-clinic training, partnered with First Nations to extend contracted services in remote areas, and collaborated with West Coast General Hospital to increase Acute Care OT involvement in discharge planning.

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**Oceanside Health Centre**

Located at: 498 Alberni Highway | Parksville BC V9P 1J9 Canada

Mailing address: 498 Alberni Highway | Parksville BC V9P 1J9 Canada

Tel: 250-951-9550 | Fax: 250-755-7633

[islandhealth.ca](http://islandhealth.ca)

Access has been further supported through the implementation of referral triage through the Community Health Services (CHS) Community Services Coordinator, establishing an “alternate provider” pathway enabling registered nurses to complete basic assessments and equipment provision, and hiring of a casual OT employee who works in the community several months of each year. For longer-term solutions, we advanced discussions on a mobile seating clinic with the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network and the Community Resource Team (CRT), while maintaining transparent communication with clients about service limitations, timelines, and private OT options. Active recruitment continues, with OT and PT roles identified as priority roles within Island Health’s current recruitment campaign.

We recognize the importance of timely and equitable access to rehabilitation services and understand the impact that delays or service limitations can have on individuals, families, and communities. We remain focused on improving access through recruitment, service innovation, and collaboration with partners. Island Health remains committed to ensuring people receive appropriate, safe, and timely care as close to home as possible.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Director Emma Vanier at [emma.vanier@islandhealth.ca](mailto:emma.vanier@islandhealth.ca).

Thank you again for writing and for your understanding, partnership and collaboration.

Kind regards,



Shelley Gallant  
Executive Director, Clinical Operations  
Regional Community Programs  
Primary & Community Services

pc: The Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health [HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
MLA Anna Kindy, Official Opposition Critic for Health [Anna.Kindy.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Anna.Kindy.MLA@leg.bc.ca)



## ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

April 13, 2026

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Transportation and Transit  
PO Box 9055 Prov Stn Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

E-mail: [TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

### **Re: Accessibility Concerns at Crosswalks on Johnston Road, Port Alberni**

Dear Minister Farnworth,

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors is writing to the Minister of Transportation and Transit to advocate for improved pedestrian safety and accessibility along Johnston Road in Port Alberni.

At the February 10, 2026, meeting of the ACRD/City of Port Alberni Accessibility Committee, concerns were raised regarding the accessibility of existing crosswalk infrastructure along Johnston Road, particularly for individuals with disabilities. Committee members identified barriers that affect the ability of pedestrians, especially those with visual impairments, to cross the roadway safely and independently.

In response, the ACRD Board respectfully requests the installation of enhanced crosswalk infrastructure to improve safety and accessibility along this corridor. Specifically, we ask that consideration be given to the installation of audible pedestrian crossing signals at controlled crossings, as well as any other improvements deemed appropriate by Ministry staff to better meet accessibility standards.

The Board further requests that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit work collaboratively with Ministry staff and local partners to assess current conditions and implement improvements that will enhance accessibility and safety for all road users along Johnston Road.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate the Ministry's ongoing commitment to building inclusive and accessible transportation infrastructure throughout British Columbia.



**ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT  
REGIONAL DISTRICT**

Sincerely,

*John Jack*

John Jack, Chairperson  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District



## ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

April 13, 2026

Mayor and Council  
City of Port Alberni

Email: [corp\\_serv@portalberni.ca](mailto:corp_serv@portalberni.ca)

### **RE: Letter to Minister of Transportation and Transit re Accessibility Concerns at Crosswalks on Johnston Road**

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors at their March 25 meeting, passed the following resolution:

*THAT the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors send a letter to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit requesting improved crosswalk infrastructure on Johnston Road for accessibility purposes including audible crossing signals and request that the City of Port Alberni send a letter as well.*

The accessibility concerns were raised at the February 10, 2026, meeting of the joint ACRD and City of Port Alberni Accessibility Committee.

Attached is our letter where we have requested the installation of improved crosswalk infrastructure for safety and accessibility purposes, including the installation of audible crossing signals at controlled crossings and that the Minister of Transportation and Transit work with Ministry staff to improve the accessibility of the crosswalks along Johnston Road.

Sincerely,

John Jack, Chairperson  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District