



## ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2023

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### **Alternate route established for essential travel around Cameron Bluffs wildfire**

PORT ALBERNI – The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has established a safe alternate route in and out of the Alberni Valley. The detour will allow for delivery of supplies to Port Alberni and West Coast communities via legal highway traffic.

The route takes traffic from Port Alberni through to Lake Cowichan via Bamfield using forest-service and privately owned industrial roads. The gravel detour route has narrow sections, sharp curves, single-lane bridges, and challenging terrain. There is no cell service, gas stations, or washroom facilities on the detour route.

Regular passenger vehicles, such as cars, vans, and commercial vehicles weighing less than 65,500 kilograms, can travel through the detour corridor. No over-height or over-weight vehicles will be permitted.

The detour route extends travel by four hours and includes difficult driving conditions. It is strongly encouraged to wait to travel if possible. More information on the route can be found [HERE](#). Drivers should fuel up, bring extra supplies, food and water to be prepared for the high temperatures at this time of year, and note that conditions can change quickly. Drivers are encouraged to plan trips during daylight hours and to drive with caution. Detour signage and traffic-control personnel will be available along the route.

Given the establishment of an alternate route, the ACRD will be closing the reception centre at Echo Centre in Port Alberni (4255 Wallace Street) later this afternoon. A Level 1 EOC will remain operational.

Highway 4, between Cathedral Grove/MacMillan Provincial Park and Koen Road (approximately seven kilometres), remains closed in both directions. The wildfire has grown to 140 hectares and is still rated as out of control. It is anticipated that Highway 4 will be closed for several days due to the wildfire and geotechnical assessments that are required.

For up-to-date information go to [www.acrd.bc.ca](http://www.acrd.bc.ca) or [www.facebook.com/AVEmergencyprogram](https://www.facebook.com/AVEmergencyprogram) or [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca) , <https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> or [www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo](https://www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo)

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For more information, please contact:  
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Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District - 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC - 250-720-2700 - [www.acrd.bc.ca](http://www.acrd.bc.ca)  
Serving Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, Treaty First Nations: Huu-ay-aht, Yuufu?if?ath, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and Toquaht Nation and six electoral areas: "A" (Bamfield), "B" (Beaufort), "C" (Long Beach), "D" (Sproat Lake), "E" (Beaver Creek) and "F" (Cherry Creek).



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### Backgrounder

A [detour route](#) is established by way of industrial forest roads. Only essential travel is recommended.

- Drivers are reminded to obey all signage and traffic-control personnel as crews respond to the changing situation
- Expect that any detour will take about 4 hours with potentially slow-moving traffic and no passing
- Could involve rough gravel patches
- No cell phone network coverage
- No amenities for fuel, food, washrooms, and limited access for emergency services
- the next few days will be hot and dusty – be prepared for a difficult drive

