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**Success of Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Pilot Project Celebrated on Anniversary**

TOFINO/UCLUELET: One year ago, the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (TFN) and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government stepped up to lead the introduction of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District's new waste collection service on the West Coast: A move that has led to the diversion of, on average, 175 kg of waste per household over the past year.

October marked the one-year anniversary of the Sort'nGo Pilot Project that introduced three-stream, roadside collection to the communities of hitaču, Esowista, and Ty-histanis. For all three, it was the first introduction of roadside collection – moving away from central collection points in the community. It also added organics separation to residents' waste management and helped set up success for the program's roll out through the wider region.

"We're so thankful to Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ for taking the lead on this new service a year ago. We learned a lot from that preliminary roll out that helped the wider region and ultimately has made the program more successful," said Jodie Frank, Solid Waste Project Coordinator for the ACRD.

"We have all worked hard to implement these changes, and we're happy that we were able to help as a leader in creating a healthier, cleaner community for our members and for the rest of the West Coast," said Shawn Quick, Public Works Manager for Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation."

"This has been a big change for everyone on the West Coast – in particular for the residents of hitaču, who have shifted successfully from community dumpsters to three-stream, roadside collection. This is an important part of improving our sustainability, and I congratulate everyone involved," said Spencer Touchie, Acting Joint Director of Operations/ Assets Manager for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government.

In early 2019, the ACRD started a West Coast Solid Waste Working Group that included representatives from Ucluelet, Tofino, Parks Canada, Tla-o-qui-aht, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, and Toquaht. This group assessed the effectiveness of waste management in the region to find opportunities for improvement, including the implementation of organics diversion.

Since the roll out of three-stream collection, Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ have continued to be an important part of the waste management work on the West Coast. This project also fostered new partnership opportunities with TFN for services associated to cart distribution and maintenance services.

For more updates on the Sort'nGo service and to learn more follow along at [letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast](https://letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/ACRD.recycles](https://www.facebook.com/ACRD.recycles).

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