



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2023

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### **ACRD hosts interactive event to gather input on aquatics in the Valley**

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT – The ACRD is conducting a first phase of community engagement for the Alberni Valley Aquatics Outreach project. This is an opportunity for residents to *Dive into the Future* and provide input on future visioning, financing, and governance options regarding the feasibility of a replacement for our aging Echo Aquatic Centre (Echo Pool).

The project is divided into three phases. The current phase, Phase 1, focuses on needs and benefits assessments, and it is expected to conclude in August 2023. Phase 2 (September 2023-February 2024) involves conducting outreach on options that came out of Phase 1 input as well as discussions regarding location, possible financing models, and future governance alternatives. Phase 3 will be guided by the first two phases and will focus on advancing a preferred vision (this may include a referendum and/or new fee structures). The process is expected to conclude by January 2025.

On April 21, the ACRD officially launched its outreach project with the first of two public surveys. Community members have until June 1 to fill out the first survey. A second survey will be issued as part of Phase 2 this fall.

The next opportunity for the public to engage is on May 31, when the ACRD will host two open house and workshop meetings, one in Port Alberni and the other in Cherry Creek. These will be interactive, offering people in attendance an opportunity to share their feedback, as well as take part in small group discussions if they chose to stay for the workshop. The open house takes place from 4-7 pm, with the workshop portions starting at 5 pm. Both meetings will run at the same time. People can choose the location that works for them as the input from both sessions will be weighed equally. They will take place at Echo Centre's Cedar Room and the Cherry Creek Community Hall.

More information and other ways to engage can be found at [www.letsconnectacrd.ca](http://www.letsconnectacrd.ca) or email [aquatics@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:aquatics@acrd.bc.ca).

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For more information, please contact:  
Heather Thomson, ACRD Communications Coordinator  
250-206-5162 or [hthomson@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:hthomson@acrd.bc.ca)