



## ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **ACRD receives BC Active Transport funding for trails**

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) has received a \$500,000 grant from the BC Active Transportation Grant Program (formerly Bike BC) to support the West Coast Multi-Use Path.

Once complete, the path will close the 1.2-kilometre missing link between the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve ʔapsčiiik ʔašii Trail and the ACRD Multi-Use Path that begins at the Junction and connects to the District of Ucluelet's MUP.

“The ACRD has been working on this project for more than five years, through many grant applications, and we are pleased the missing link will finally be closed,” explains ACRD Director Marilyn McEwen, District of Ucluelet. “With the completion of the ʔapsčiiik ʔašii trail in the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, traversing the trail through Ucluelet, Tofino, ACRD, and the Park has become another popular tourist activity.”

This grant makes up the missing portion of funding needed for this project. It is added to the already committed \$200,000 from Island Coastal Economic Trust Grant funding in 2020 and more than \$700,000 Canada Community Building Funds (formerly Community Works Funding) committed by the ACRD Board. The design phase of the ACRD Multi-Use Path is almost complete, which will allow the ACRD to move forward with construction of the path, with a completion date of March 31, 2024.

Completing this section of trail will address the many safety concerns raised by residents who are looking to use a separated path to bike, walk, or skate to and from any of the communities on the West Coast. The missing link has raised safety concerns as people use the shoulder of the highway to traverse the section not yet constructed.

The ACRD also received notice that the Sproat Lake Active Transportation Plan will receive \$25,000 from the BC Active Transportation Grant Program. This project will consist of community engagement to identify potential pathway and trail locations within the Sproat Lake Electoral Area and engage with the public, First Nations, and other community partners to prioritize future development and projects.

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## ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

About the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District:

*Established in 1966, the Alberni–Clayoquot Regional District is in the heart of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It encompasses more than 6,500 square kilometres, with a population of approximately 31,000. The ACRD consists of member municipalities Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, as well as Bamfield, Beaufort, Long Beach, Sproat Lake, Beaver Creek and Cherry Creek. It was also the first regional district to welcome full participation on the board from the Treaty First Nations of Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and Toquaht Nation. The ACRD is within the territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations. The ACRD is governed by a fourteen-member Board of Directors that represent the member jurisdictions. The regional district offices are in Port Alberni.*