



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT



CITY OF
PORT ALBERNI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2024

Emergency Operations Centre funding with improve capacity in Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

PORT ALBERNI – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) and the City of Port Alberni are pleased to announce they have received grant funding to support efforts to improve regional emergency operations centre (EOC) capacity.

The ACRD Emergency Program coordinates emergency services, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery measures for Bamfield (Electoral Area A), Beaufort (Electoral Area B), Long Beach (Electoral Area C), Sproat Lake (Electoral Area D), Beaver Creek (Electoral Area E), Cherry Creek (Electoral Area F), and the City of Port Alberni.

The Province of British Columbia provides grant funding through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), which is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. The funding provides \$60,000 to help local governments build capacity by purchasing EOC equipment and supplies and enhancing readiness through training and exercises.

“When the Cameron Bluffs fire started in June of last year and it was clear Highway 4 would be affected, an Emergency Operations Centre was set up immediately to ensure the Alberni Valley had the support it needed,” explains John Jack, Chair of the ACRD Board of Directors. “We are thankful this funding provides us with an opportunity to purchase supplies and build capacity so that next time we will be ready to address the needs of the community, just like we did in 2023.”

With the funding, the ACRD and the City of Port Alberni will be able to focus on building capacity within the region and ensuring they are prepared for an emergency that requires an EOC. The funds will be used for:

- Training and exercise for local government, partner organizations, and emergency agencies
- EOC equipment and operational supplies (ie communication system, information technology, work station items) required to maintain or improve the operations centre.
- Accessible emergency storage units

Emergencies are rarely restricted to just one community and often cross jurisdictional boundaries. This funding will strengthen the working relationships with partner agencies, local governments, and partner organizations in an Emergency Operations Centre exercise to share knowledge and develop best practices.



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“We saw during the closure of Highway 4 last year how essential pre-existing relationships with other organizations and government agencies are when it comes to our ability to respond nimbly,” says Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions. “With this funding from UBCM, we are able to continue to train and practice together so when a real emergency happens, we will be prepared.”

More information on the emergency services through the ACRD can be found at www.acrd.bc.ca/emergency-services.

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