



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2024

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and ACRD sign historic MOU for Long Beach Airport

TOFINO – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations (TFN) and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) announced today the successful completion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties for the Long Beach Airport.

An act of true reconciliation, the Long Beach Airport ḥaḥuuli (ha-houlth-ee) MOU between the ACRD and Tla-o-qui-aht will support partnering efforts that will provide mutual benefits to both parties.

“The airport is on the traditional unceded territory of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, and the nation originally supported the development of the airport lands by the federal government with the understanding that these lands and assets would be returned to the Nation at the end of the Second World War,” explained Saya Masso, lands and resources manager with TFN. “The Federal government continued to operate the airport until it was handed over to the ACRD in 2000. This agreement addresses this grievance and advances the relationship between Tla-o-qui-aht and the ACRD and makes efforts towards reconciliation.”

The three-year MOU was officially signed in June 2024, and the two parties held a celebration today (Nov. 21, 2024). The objective is for the two parties to work together on several items, including:

- The development of a long-term protocol agreement
- Review and approval of long-term and short-term lease applications at the site
- Development of a communications and signage plan to identify traditional territory and provide other cultural interpretative information. This may include road and terminal signage, website information and other communication mediums.

“This is an exciting step forward after years of hard work on everyone’s behalf,” explained John Jack, chair of the ACRD and elected Chief of Huu-ay-aht First Nations. “This is the start of true partnership between the ACRD and Tla-o-qui-aht that will point us in the right direction to get it right this time around.”

A celebration was held today at Long Beach Airport to mark this important partnership. Together, Tla-o-qui-aht and the ACRD hung a banner welcoming people to the Tla-o-qui-aht ḥaḥuuli.

- 30 -

For more information,
Heather Thomson, Communications Coordinator
250-206-5162 or hthomson@acrd.bc.ca