



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Support Services receive provincial funding

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) has received \$113,300 for its Emergency Support Services (ESS) program through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

In partnership with the District of Ucluelet and the City of Port Alberni, the ACRD was successful in a regional application under the *Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training* funding stream.

The funding will support the ESS program across the electoral areas of Sproat Lake (Electoral Area "D"), Beaver Creek (Electoral Area "E"), Cherry Creek (Electoral Area "F"), Beaufort (Electoral Area "B"), Bamfield (Electoral Area "A"), Long Beach (Electoral Area "C"), and within the District of Ucluelet and the City of Port Alberni. ESS is a volunteer-driven program that provides short-term support to individuals and families who have been evacuated from their homes during emergencies or disasters.

The grant will be used to purchase essential supplies and equipment to support reception centres and group lodging sites, as well as to deliver training opportunities, including planned tabletop exercises. It will also contribute to volunteer recruitment and retention initiatives aimed at building volunteer capacity and strengthening the readiness and resilience of regional ESS teams.

“Emergency response must be approached regionally, as disasters and emergencies do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries,” says John Jack, Chair of the ACRD Board of Directors. “This grant allows us to work together to strengthen our region’s resilience during emergency response and recovery efforts. By fostering partnerships, we can bolster our capacity and enhance our ability to support staff and volunteers.”

This funding will expand the program’s capabilities, enhance community preparedness, and ensure a more coordinated regional response by investing in critical resources, training, and volunteer development. It will also strengthen emergency response, foster community networking and support the long-term sustainability of the ESS program.

The CEPF is a suite of funding streams designed to improve the emergency preparedness and resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities. For more information, visit: [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund | Union of BC Municipalities \(ubcm.ca\)](https://www.ubcm.ca/community-emergency-preparedness-fund).

-30-

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