



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Collaboration strengthens food security and emergency management

Port Alberni – Two years of hard work and extensive collaboration led by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) has culminated in four reports focused on food security and emergency management.

“Hupacasath First Nation is proud to work with the ACRD on these projects,” says Brandy Lauder, Elected Chief Councillor Hupacasath First Nation. “Planning for the future for everyone is extremely important work, and we are happy to contribute to it.”

This week, the ACRD Board of Directors received four reports – the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan, the Alberni Valley Livestock Emergency Plan, the West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan and the Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan – that brought together area First Nations, neighbouring municipalities, emergency networks, and agricultural groups and roundtables.

“Food security and emergency management are two of the most significant challenges we face. We must start addressing them now, not later,” explained ACRD Chairperson John Jack. “The completion of these four studies should give people in the Alberni Valley some peace of mind that the ACRD is taking the subject seriously and is working collaboratively to be part of the solution.”

All four reports and the work that led up to them were fully grant funded. Funding came from the Food Security Emergency Planning and Preparedness Fund and the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Fund from the Province of BC through the Investment Agriculture Foundation, and the Local Government Climate Action Program grant.

“Yuufuʔiʔath Government is pleased to partner with the ACRD on the West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan. West Coast communities face many challenges when it comes to food security, due to our remote location,” says Charles McCarthy, Yuufuʔiʔath Government President. “We hope this project will go a long way towards addressing some of those vulnerabilities.”

The Alberni Valley and West Coast Food Security Emergency Plans outline recommended actions for food security emergency management planning and preparedness, increased food system resiliency, and First Nations’ food sovereignty.

“Tseshaht First Nation is proud to work with the ACRD within the ʔaʔuuʔi (chief’s territory) of our ʔawiih (chiefs) here in the Alberni Valley, as much of this important work not only impacts our community, but all within the region.” explains Wahmeesh (Ken Watts), Elected Chief Councillor for Tseshaht First Nation.

The Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan includes a dedicated Agricultural Water Demand Model for the Alberni Valley, outlines the feasibility of several agricultural water supply options and gives recommendations for farm water storage.



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Alberni Valley Livestock Emergency Plan will help the ACRD and livestock producers consider the safety and care of livestock during emergencies such as wildfires or floods.

ACRD staff will explore grant opportunities and community partnerships to implement all recommendations.

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