



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Funding comes to Regional District for Greenhouse Propagation and Production course  
in partnership with Hupačasath and NIC**

Port Alberni – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD), Hupačasath First Nation, and North Island College (NIC) are excited to partner to deliver a Greenhouse Propagation and Production course from February 18 to March 27, 2025.

Discussions between the ACRD and Hupačasath First Nation resulted in the prioritization of food production skills for both Nation members and greenhouse workers across the Alberni Valley.

Together, the ACRD, Hupačasath, and NIC began to work toward delivering a training program that could supply the labour market with skilled workers for entry-level positions in greenhouse growing. The result is a comprehensive program, delivered in the Alberni Valley, through which graduates will gain the knowledge they need to secure employment at local greenhouse businesses or even start a greenhouse business themselves.

The program was made possible thanks to a Community Workforce Response Grant supported by the Province of British Columbia.

“Once we learned there was a need in the community, we decided to work with Hupačasath and NIC to solve that issue,” explains ACRD Board Chair John Jack. “This will help. By expanding local food and job training opportunities, we will improve access to markets for farmers and build the productivity of our land base.”

NIC will administer the in-class portion and Hupačasath will host the hands-on portion at their Community Farm greenhouse. They will also recruit members of their nation to participate in the course. The remaining fully funded course spots will be available for community members that are unemployed or underemployed to help them gain valuable job skills.

The six-week training program will run from February 18 to March 27, 2025. It will offer a variety of lectures, class discussions, and hands-on experience. In addition to comprehensive training in greenhouse systems, it offers theoretical knowledge and practical skills in plant physiology, hydroponics, and sustainable agriculture. The program prepares successful participants for entry-level careers as aspiring horticulturists, farmers, and agricultural enthusiasts working to master the principles and practices of modern greenhouse systems.

- 30 -

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