



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District adopts 2026-2030 Financial Plan

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors, at the regular meeting on March 25, 2026, adopted the 2026-2030 Financial Plan.

The plan is the result of significant discussion and includes financial increases aligned with the ACRD's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, emphasizing community resilience, service excellence, and sustainable development. It also addresses emerging issues including:

- Recruitment and retention of medical professionals in the region, recognizing that while healthcare delivery is a provincial responsibility, insufficient resources are creating real and immediate impacts. The ACRD is committed to supporting solutions and advocating for strengthened provincial systems, acknowledging that the current healthcare framework needs additional help to meet community needs.
- Advocacy for a secondary access route, a priority for emergency response, public safety, and long-term community planning.

The newly adopted financial plan outlines a strategic approach to managing rising operational costs and enhancing service levels, many of which are driven by increasing legislative, regulatory and community requirements.

The development of this plan included multiple community meetings across the region to gather community feedback. The insights gained from these engagement sessions assist in better understanding the priorities of our residents, and we appreciate all those that took time to be engaged.

The total 2026 operating budget is approximately \$38.8 million. The taxation component of the plan is \$13.6 million, \$7.3 million is collected via user fees and/or service-related cost charges, and the anticipated grant revenue of \$18.3 million, reflecting the Regional District's success in leveraging external funding to reduce local tax impacts while advancing key projects. Overall, the financial plan includes a tax increase of 7.38 per cent, including the Regional Hospital District Annual Budget. The increases are different in each service and within the jurisdictions in the region as areas participate in different services.

“The ACRD is committed to a financial plan that respects what we heard from our taxpayers and supports the services our communities need to remain strong and resilient in these changing times,” explains ACRD Board Chair John Jack. “We must work together to keep our budget responsible while offering the services residents of the Region rely upon, including ensuring transportation needs are met, investing in emergency preparedness and fire prevention, advocating for a secondary route, and supporting efforts to bring more medical professionals the Region.”



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Some of the key drivers that have been included in this five-year financial plan include:

- First full year of the BC Transit led West Coast Transit service that was implemented in March 2025 and the beginning of the construction of bus shelters along the route
- Enhanced emergency preparedness efforts, including improved communication processes and culturally informed approaches, reflecting what the region learned during the 2025 Mount Underwood wildfire and ongoing work to better support all residents in emergencies
- Continued Official Community Plan (OCP) engagement and updates for Electoral Area C – Long Beach and D – Sproat Lake as well as the beginning of the process for B – Beaufort
- Advancing fire protection and community infrastructure in Bamfield with the addition of a part-time Fire Chief position, evaluation of replacement options for the West Side Fire Hall, acquisition of a mini-pumper fire apparatus, and a feasibility review of the Bamfield federal dock the Government of Canada is seeking to divest
- Supporting better fire service for Sproat Lake, with renewed efforts to get the long-awaited Fire Hall #3 – Harold Bishop expansion underway and the purchase of a fire boat to strengthen service capacity and emergency readiness
- Preparation for the 2026 local government elections that will occur in October 2026.

The estimated impact of the ACRD component of property taxation on the average residential household in each area is as follows:

Jurisdiction	Estimated Increase on Average Household from Prior Year	Estimated ACRD Portion of Property Tax 2026
Area A - Bamfield	\$40	\$1,307
Area B - Beaufort	\$7	\$569
Area C - Long Beach (not including Salmon Beach)	\$51	\$632
Area C – Salmon Beach area of Long Beach	\$79	\$1,833
Area D - Sproat Lake	\$101	\$1,365
Area E - Beaver Creek	\$71	\$1,401
Area F - Cherry Creek	\$19	\$569
City of Port Alberni	\$20	\$284
District of Tofino	\$59	\$1,006
District of Ucluelet	\$23	\$522

The Financial Plan document summarizes each area, including potential increases in costs and taxation. The summary identifies the cost to each jurisdiction according to the services provided and the total overall requisition changes from the prior year. It also includes details on each of the service budgets. You can view this on the ACRD's website at: [2026-2030 Financial Plan](#). If you have any questions, please email budget@acrd.bc.ca.



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About the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District:

Established in 1966, the Alberni–Clayoquot Regional District is in the heart of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It encompasses more than 6,500 square kilometres, with a population of approximately 31,000. The ACRD consists of member municipalities Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, as well as Bamfield, Beaufort, Long Beach, Sproat Lake, Beaver Creek and Cherry Creek. It was also the first regional district to welcome full participation on the board from the Treaty First Nations of Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Yuuʔuʔiʔaʔ Government, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and Toquaht Nation. The ACRD is within the territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations. The ACRD is governed by a fourteen-member Board of Directors that represent the member jurisdictions. The regional district offices are in Port Alberni.