



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2026

CUPE 118 and ACRD ratify Collective Agreement

PORT ALBERNI – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) has successfully ratified a three-year collective agreement with CUPE Local 118. The agreement includes a wage increase and improvements to employee supports and benefits.

The agreement was ratified on June 4, following extensive negotiations between representatives from both parties from May 19-21. These discussions remained respectful even when dealing with difficult conversations. The three-year contract is effective from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029.

“It is a very positive sign when the negotiation team experiences productive and respectful discussions that lead to a new collective agreement that the staff at the ACRD support,” says John Jack, chair of the ACRD, speaking on behalf of the Board. “Thanks to the negotiating team and the staff for the smooth ratification of a new three-year collective agreement. This means we will continue to have a strong, stable team that will focus on working hard to achieve what is best for our Region.”

The agreement includes a wage increase of five per cent in the first year, four per cent in the second, and three-and-a-half per cent in year three. The agreement reflects the rising cost of health services with an improvement in the benefits package. This includes the addition of clinical counsellors to the benefits package.

Updates to the agreement also included language changes that reflect changing realities of the work environment.

"I am pleased with the respectful conversations at the bargaining table with an efficient use of time and resources for the Regional District," says Stacy Watton, President of CUPE local 118, representing the Alberni Valley and West Coast municipal workers. "Our members work effectively and diligently for the District and this shows in the good working relations between the Union and employer."

The ACRD provides an array of services including regional park maintenance, fire protection, land-use planning, emergency preparedness, airports, and solid waste management. CUPE 118 represents approximately 40 workers in the District. Of the members present on Thursday, June 4, 89 per cent voted in favour.

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