



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 \$60,000 for its Emergency Support Services (ESS) program through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), and funded by the Province of BC's Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

In partnership with 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 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, group lodging sites, and the registration process, giving people the support they need during emergencies. In addition, the funding will support training opportunities for ESS volunteers, helping ensure they are prepared, capable, and equipped to respond effectively during emergencies.

“We approach emergency response with a regional lens because disasters and emergencies do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries,” says John Jack, Chair of the ACRD Board of Directors. “This grant will help us recruit volunteers and retain the strong team we already have at the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. By giving them the tools they need, we strengthen the readiness and resilience of our ESS teams, which will bolster our ability to support our communities when we are called on.”

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).

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