



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Emergency Support Services grant funding awarded**

PORT ALBERNI – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District is pleased to announce we have received a 2022 Emergency Support Services (ESS) grant from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The funds awarded will build local capacity through recruitment, training, and retention activities and monies will be allocated to purchase supplies and equipment to support the ESS programs in the Alberni Valley and Bamfield.

“In an emergency, small rural coastal communities like Bamfield need to be self-reliant for an indeterminate period of time,” says Bob Beckett, ACRD Bamfield (Electoral Area “A”) Director. “Consequently, this UBCM grant supporting our dedicated volunteers and enhancing our capacity to handle an emergency with supplies and training is greatly appreciated.”

Group lodging supplies such as cots and emergency food will help support and sustain Bamfield residents during a disaster. The Alberni Valley ESS program will add such items as evacuee comfort kits, blankets, pet care kits, volunteer gear, response equipment, and reception centre supplies to their emergency preparedness kit. These measures will increase response readiness and improve regional capacity.

Additionally, the grant recognizes the great importance of volunteers within the ESS program and emphasizes volunteer development activities such as a tabletop exercise to improve response resiliency, expand scope, and strengthen proficiency.

Unfortunately, disasters are more prevalent than ever before and community readiness is vital for emergency response and recovery. Emergency Support Services is a provincially supported, volunteer-based emergency response program that helps those who have been evacuated from their home due to an emergency such as a house fire, flood, tsunami, or wildfires. ESS provides basic temporary services including food, clothing, and accommodation to help preserve evacuees’ health and well-being.

“Evacuating from your home can be an overwhelming and stressful time, and it is during these moments that the volunteers from the ESS program help with compassion and service”, says City of Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions. “Volunteers are the heart and soul of the ESS program, and I am pleased we have received funding to support their valuable work.”

The grant funds will focus on strengthening the local program, volunteer development, and emergency response preparedness to improve community readiness and increase resiliency.

For more information of the Alberni Valley Emergency Support Services program, visit:

[www.acrd.bc.ca/116](http://www.acrd.bc.ca/116)



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

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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, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and Toquaht Nation. The ACRD is within the territory the Nuuchah-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.*