Yuutuʔiłʔatḥ Tla-o-qui-aht FIRST NATION Toquaht Nation DISTRICT OF UCLUELET DISTRICT OF Tofino Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Parks Canada Parcs Canada

TOURISM UCLUELET tourism Tofino

Joint Regional News Release

May 12th/2022

Communities on the West Coast of Vancouver Island to Create a Dispersed Camping Strategy

Pacific Rim, BC - On February 25, 2022, a Summit on Dispersed/Un-Authorized Camping was held via Zoom. In attendance were representatives from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Toquaht Nation, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ – Ucluelet First Nation, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD), District of Ucluelet, District of Tofino, Tourism Ucluelet, Tourism Tofino, Parks Canada (Pacific Rim National Park Reserve), RCMP, and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development -- creating a unified *West Coast Task Force*.

The Summit was hosted by the ACRD and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation with support from WCS Engagement and Planning. The event discussed the challenges our communities face due to dispersed/unauthorized camping along backroads, with focus on, but not limited to, camping along the West Main Forest Service Road, within BC Parks, Parks Canada, Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ lands/territories and within municipal boundaries The group shared re-occurring challenges, current priorities, how prior strategies affected further dispersion of campers, and steps to navigating another potentially busy season of backroad campers.

As part of the Task Force, key actions consisted of short-term and long-term goal planning, including communications planning, environmental protection, options for short-term overflow camping, seasonal housing, backroad patrolling, enforcement within municipalities, clean up, and visitor education.

The Task Force will be moving forward with local community and visitor experience in mind, working with Tourism Ucluelet and Tourism Tofino and community stakeholders. Pre-trip visitor messaging will include how to comply with the rules and local expectations, including addressing the need for reservations and the requirement to camp at designated sites. Finally, an official dispersed camping strategy will be formed, with the help of WCS Engagement and Planning.

All organizations look forward to working together to implement the collective management and responsibility of regulating dispersed and backroad camping, instituting strategies, and establishing communications in the months ahead.

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Community Contacts for Media

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District of Ucluelet

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District of Tofino

Karen Haugen
Superintendent, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

Kel Roberts
Area "C" Director, ACRD

Denise Stys-Norman (she/her)
Executive Director, Tourism Ucluelet

Nancy Cameron
Executive Director, Tourism Tofino

Note to area residents:

You can help with this work. If you see unauthorized camping or other activities on the West Coast or in your community please contact the relevant community organization below:

Crown Land/Backroads: If you witness or are aware of a natural resource violation (such as unauthorized use of Crown Land): Fill out a violation report form or call the natural resource violation reporting line at 1 877-952-7277 toll-free (or #7277 on a cellphone). Then, depending on what you have witnessed, you may choose to report either to a natural resource officer or a conservation officer.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (Parks Canada): 250-726-3604 or 1-877-852-3100

BC Parks: parkinfo@gov.bc.ca

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (Esowista/Tyhistanis): Terry Dorward 250-726-3736

Toquaht First Nation: 250 726 4230, and email general@toquaht.ca

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ First Nation: Lands and Resources - zoltan.schafer@ufn.ca

District of Ucluelet: bylaw@ucluelet.ca, 250-726-7744

District of Tofino: Bylaw 250-725-3229 ext.706, bylaw@tofino.ca