



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ lead with new Sort'nGo Waste Collection Service

TOFINO/UCLUELET – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government will lead the way in introducing the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District's (ACRD) residential Sort'nGo roadside waste collection service on the West Coast this fall.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation in Tofino and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government in hitaču (near Ucluelet) have signed on to receive the three-stream roadside collection service for organic (food/yard) waste, recycling, and garbage, with plans to launch in October, ahead of the full West Coast roll out in November.

"Innovation and collaboration are essential to building clean, vibrant communities," said the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. "Led by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, the introduction of organics collection and diversion in the Alberni-Clayoquot region helps us to protect the environment and support a greener future."

"It's exciting to see the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government lead the way on the West Coast with the expansion of the ACRD's three-stream Sort'nGo program," said Josie Osborne, MLA for Mid-Island-Pacific Rim. "This service gives families another tool to reduce impacts on the environment and makes our West Coast communities a healthier place to work, live, and play."

"The ACRD is really excited about this partnership opportunity," said ACRD Board Chair John Jack. "Organic waste diversion is a huge priority for all of us, and we'll be working together over the coming months on logistics, education, and engagement to ensure a successful pilot program."

"Tla-o-qui-aht is excited to partner with the ACRD in implementing the three-stream solid waste removal, which includes the recycling and organic diversion from our communities of Esowista and Tyhistanis. This will be for our Nation's first time, and we look forward to creating a cleaner, healthier community through this service," said Shawn Quick, Public Works Manager for Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

"The Sort'nGo Service will be a large change for the residents of hitaču – for decades we've relied on community dumpsters that many are used to using for discarding waste at leisure," said Spencer Touchie, Assets Manager for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government. "This new change in providing a weekly service, offering organics, recycling, and waste removal, will help us move forward in a more sustainable way. As we near the launch of the Sort'nGo service, we are working with the ACRD to provide information sessions and packages to the residents of hitaču."

In early 2019, the ACRD started a West Coast Solid Waste Working Group that included representatives from Ucluelet, Tofino, Parks Canada, Tla-o-qui-aht, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, and Toquaht. This group assessed the



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effectiveness of waste management in the region to find opportunities for improvement. The result is an introduction of organics to residential waste collection service, which will divert food and yard waste from landfills, where it takes up space and creates harmful methane gasses. Instead, it will transform it into reusable, nutrient-rich compost.

With full support from Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ to see this waste collection service roll out within their communities, residents can expect new collection carts for organics, recycling, and garbage distributed to homes ahead of launch, along with further information, resources, and support.

In 2020, the ACRD received a \$6-million grant provided through the Canada Community Building Fund to introduce organics collection within the Regional District. The Sort'nGo service was launched in Port Alberni in September 2021. The Canada Community-Building Fund is administered in British Columbia by the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

Learn more about Sort'nGo West Coast service at: letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast

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