



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and First Nations partners successful in grant for West Coast Evacuation Route Plan

PORT ALBERNI – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD), Uchucklesaht Tribe, Toquaht Nation, and Huu-ay-aht First Nations are pleased to announce their success in receiving the Union of BC Municipalities grant for the West Coast Region Evacuation Route Plan.

These communities make up the West Coast region of the ACRD. All three are small and isolated communities that rely on each other for support during emergencies. Creating this plan will allow the communities an opportunity to work as a whole in the case of an emergency of any size. This evacuation plan will benefit all West Coast communities, including Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government which will participate but is not partnering.

"Having just concluded the evacuation route planning for the Alberni Valley, the importance of planning and sharing a common set of tools and terms will be vital in preparing for emergencies that would require evacuation," explains John Jack, Chair of the ACRD and elected councillor for Huu-ay-aht First Nations. "While the specifics of an incident may change what is needed, the work being done will create the plan that will enable timely and effective adaptation. I look forward to seeing sets of West Coast plans come together so we can have a region-wide set of tools to help enable our preparedness."

The West Coast Evacuation Route Plan will identify alternative evacuation routes and transportation methods. It will also outline resources required for effective evacuation in small and large emergencies, taking into consideration vulnerable populations, choke points, and key locations. It will include evacuation maps compatible with the ACRD's system and identify major and secondary evacuation routes for different scenarios.

"Our communities are unique in many ways as remote villages along the West Coast of Vancouver Island. This presents many potential challenges should an emergency occur," says Toquaht Chief Anne Mack. "We are excited to receive support from UBCM and look forward to working together with the ACRD, Huu-ay-aht, and Uchucklesaht to ensure our members and communities are safer for generations to come."

The evacuation route is essential for these remote communities and working together will help create a plan that will keep the communities safe.

"The remoteness of our community poses many unique and complex challenges when facing evacuation due to the different hazards that could occur in our territory," explains Moses Towell, Resource and



Alberni-Clayoquot
Regional District



Development Manager for Uchucklesaht Tribe. “It is essential that we all work together to create a solid plan so that when it is needed there is a well-defined support structure that will help to save lives. We are very thankful to be receiving the UBCM funding to facilitate the evacuation route planning that will safeguard all our communities in the regional district.”

The ACRD will be soliciting proposals this spring from contractors to develop the Evacuation Plan, with the project completion expected in March 2023

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