



PRESS RELEASE

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Gas Tax Fund Projects 2019 ***Projects made possible thanks to federal Gas Tax Fund***

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors are pleased to recognize the Federal Government's contributions of approximately \$1 million dollars to projects in our region in 2019. This funding was accessed through the Federal Gas Tax Fund, including the Community Works Fund (CWF) and the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF). The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia. The funding allowed the ACRD to undertake many beneficial projects in 2019 including:

- **Asset Management Implementation Project** – a two year project that dedicates staff resources for the development of an asset management program for the ACRD to enhance the asset management culture within the organization and provide staff and elected officials' valuable information that can be used in making sustainable infrastructure decisions. The project was supported by \$122,000 of SPF funding in 2019.
- **Consolidated Strategic Landfill Diversion Program Organics** – this project is to implement the diversion of organics from both the Alberni Valley and West Coast landfills. The project was supported by \$83,000 of SPF funding in 2019 with additional funding secured for future years.
- **Millstream Water System** – \$30,000 of CWF was allocated for upgrades to this small water system located in Electoral Area C (Long Beach) during 2019 to increase water quality.
- **Alberni Valley Regional Airport Expansion and Instrument Approach Implementation** – A \$30,000 contribution of CWF was made to assist with the large expansion project that includes the implementation of a GPS approach at the airport.

The ACRD was also able to allocate the federal funding to several outside organizations who provide great value to the ACRD's rural communities:

- **Cherry Creek Waterworks water main upgrade** – owned by the Cherry Creek Waterworks District, a portion of AC pipe was upgraded to PVC pipe and increased in size along Cherry Creek Rd between Milligan Rd and Horne Lake Rd. The CWF contribution to the project was \$625,000.
- **Sproat Lake Community Hall Upgrade** – owned by the Sproat Lake Community Association, the hall serves as a recreational asset to the community. Upgrades including new windows, kitchen, bathrooms and exterior are currently underway. In 2019, the CWF contribution was \$111,000.
- **Beaver Creek Community Hall** – owned by the Beaver Creek Community Club, the hall serves as a recreational and cultural asset to the community. There were two projects underway in 2019 at the hall. The playground is nearing completion with \$2,000 of CWF assisting with the project. The hall is starting an upgrade with \$3,600 of CWF getting the project started with much more anticipated in 2020.

Quotes

“The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District would like to thank the Government of Canada for their ongoing funding support for infrastructure and capacity building projects within the Regional District,” said John Jack, Chairperson, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

“The design of the federal Gas Tax Fund provides communities with a broad range of options for the use of funds,” said Mayor Maja Tait, Union of B.C Municipalities president. “By providing the funds in advance, communities can ensure the funds go to local priorities, and have greater control over the timing and pace of projects. The work underway within Alberni Clayoquot Regional District demonstrates how the program design provides local governments with flexibility to address diverse local needs.”

“I’m thrilled to know that all of these projects are going forward, because I know they will make a positive impact for people in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. This is a great example of strong partnerships working together for the benefit of people in the community,” said Selina Robinson, BC Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

“The projects being highlighted today will make a difference in the lives of residents in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District,” said the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. “Whether it is cleaner water, or upgrades to the local community hall, or the local airport, the Gas Tax Fund provides long-term funding that helps communities meet their local infrastructure needs year after year. Last month, we also delivered the entire GTF allocation for BC municipalities early as part of our efforts to support local economies during these difficult times. Together with our regional partners, we are delivering concrete results that will help British Columbians now and improve people’s lives for years to come.”

To learn more about the federal Gas Tax Fund visit: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html>.

To learn more about the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District visit: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/>

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