



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **Bamfield Road Improvements**

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is excited to learn about the partnership between Huu-ay-aht First Nation and the Province to make safety improvements to the Bamfield Road. The Huu-ay-aht First Nation, Community of Bamfield, City of Port Alberni, and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District have been long-time advocates for improvements to the road, which has taken the lives of Huu-ay-aht members and University of Victoria students.

Bob Beckett, Director for ACRD Area 'A' Bamfield, has expressed support for the project and condolences to those who lost loved ones last year:

*"While today's announcement is wonderful news for the entire Alberni-Clayoquot Region, on the eve of the first anniversary of the UVic bus crash last September I must also acknowledge that nothing we have done or can do will erase the loss and pain that these families will live with the rest of their lives. I acknowledge and thank Chief Robert Dennis and the entire Huu-ay-aht Nation for their vision, leadership and investment, those from Bamfield and the Regional District for their years of advocacy for improvements to the road, and of course Premier Horgan and Minister Fraser for their support and ultimately approval for the project."*

These improvements are the culmination of years of effort and advocacy between organizations such as Bamfield Road Committee, Bamfield Community Affairs Association, the ACRD Board, and the Bamfield Marine Science Centre and five affiliate universities SFU, UBC, UC, UA, and UVIC.

Hard surfacing and seal coating the road is estimated to span three years, at a cost of \$25.7 million to the Province and \$5 million to Huu-ay-aht. The partnership between Huu-ay-aht is a step towards true reconciliation and greatly improving the safety of Anacla and Bamfield residents, and all those who visit the area.

The ACRD Board was unanimous in their support of road improvements and is very grateful to Premier Horgan, Minister Fraser, and Huu-ay-aht for their efforts.

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