



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2024

Emergency Support Services received provincial funding

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) received \$60,000 for the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program through the Community Emergency Preparedness Program Fund (CEPF), provided by the Union of BC Municipalities.

The ACRD and the City of Port Alberni applied in partnership and together were successful in receiving this regional funding.

The funding will help support the ESS program for the electoral areas of Sproat Lake (Electoral Area "D"), Beaver Creek (Electoral Area "E"), Cherry Creek (Electoral Area "F"), Beaufort (Electoral Area "B"), Bamfield (Electoral Area "A"), Long Beach (Electoral Area "C") and residents in the City of Port Alberni. ESS is a volunteer-based, community emergency response program that provides for the short-term needs of evacuees in the event of a disaster or emergency.

The grant will be used to purchase supplies and equipment to support receptions centres and group lodging and provide training opportunities, including two planned tabletop exercises. The grant will also help with the recruitment of volunteers and retention activities to strengthen the depth and commitment of the local team.

“Last summer we saw firsthand when Highway 4 closed due to a wildfire why it is essential to be prepared to host people when emergency strikes,” explains John Jack, chair for the ACRD Board of Directors. “These grants provide funding to enhance the resiliency of local government and First Nations in responding to emergencies. By working together, we maximize funding opportunities and build relationships.”

The ESS grant will enhance program capacity, improve responder recruitment, retention, and training activities, and will increase community resources by procuring equipment. These funding opportunities will help strengthen emergency response in the region and will further enhance the development of staff, volunteers, community networking and existing programs.

The CEPF is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies. For more information, go to [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund | Union of BC Municipalities \(ubcm.ca\)](https://www.ubcm.ca).

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For more information, please contact:

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Serving Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, Treaty First Nations: Huu-ay-aht, Yuuufu?if?ath, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and Toquaht Nation and six electoral areas: "A" (Bamfield), "B" (Beaufort), "C" (Long Beach), "D" (Sproat Lake), "E" (Beaver Creek) and "F" (Cherry Creek).