



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Rim School District and c̓šaaʔath̓ (Tseshah First Nation) Announce Completion of Property Sale

Port Alberni, BC February 14, 2025 - The Pacific Rim School District and the c̓šaaʔath̓ (Tseshah First Nation) are pleased to announce the successful completion of the Craig Road property sale, following an extensive public consultation process and approval from the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

In recognition of the importance of prioritizing the return of lands to Indigenous rightsholders, the school district sought ministerial approval to grant c̓šaaʔath̓ (Tseshah First Nation) the right of first refusal to purchase the property, and to sell the property slightly below market value. Land is central to Indigenous identity, culture, and self-determination, so ensuring that surplus public land is made available to Indigenous peoples is an essential step in advancing true reconciliation.

The c̓šaaʔath̓ (Tseshah First Nation) plans to use the property to develop housing units in the Alberni Valley, supporting economic growth and the growing needs of the community. This aligns with the school district's goals of fostering positive partnerships that benefit both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members alike, while ensuring responsible stewardship of school district assets.

“We are more than delighted to make this announcement today. The Board of Education is dedicated to ensuring that any properties not currently serving an essential purpose for the school district are repurposed in a way that benefits the broader community,” said Board Chair, Pam Craig. “By working with c̓šaaʔath̓ (Tseshah First Nation), we are supporting much-needed housing development, while continuing to reinforce a strong and respectful partnership with the Nation. The sale of this property allows us to reinvest proceeds into priority projects that directly support student learning.”

“Tseshah believes one of the strongest acts of Reconciliation is Land Back. Thanks to our previous announcement regarding our funding from the Province of BC, and to the Pacific Rim School District, we are now seeing action. Tseshah has a goal of not only creating housing for Tseshah members, but for many in the Valley,” said Elected Chief Councillor Wahmeesh (Ken Watts). “We look forward to developing these lands in collaboration with partners; to help fill the huge need in our community, with a housing development that enhances the area and provides pride to the Alberni Valley. ʔuušʔakšileʔicuu (to appreciate a gift or deed) to everyone who made this possible.”



Both the Pacific Rim School District and the c̓šaaʔath (Tseshah First Nation) look forward to continuing their strong relationship and working together on future initiatives that benefit students, families, and the broader community.

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About Pacific Rim School District

The Pacific Rim School District, situated on the ɥaɥuuti of the c̓šaaʔath, Hupačasath, Tla-o-qui-aht, Yuuʔuʔitʔath and Huu-ay-aht First Nations, serves a regional population of approximately 31,000 people, including 4,000 students from across Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, Bamfield and other remote communities. www.sd70.bc.ca

About c̓šaaʔath (Tseshah First Nation)

c̓šaaʔath (Tseshah First Nation) has over 1300 registered members whose ɥaɥuuti includes from the Somass watershed including the entire Alberni Valley, the western portions of both Horne Lake and Cameron Lake, the Alberni Inlet and surrounding lands and watersheds to the Broken Group Islands of central Barkley Sound, and out to the Pacific Ocean. Tseshah possesses Aboriginal Rights within the ɥaɥuuti [ha-houl-thee] (traditional territory) owned by our tayii ɥawit [ty-ee ha-wil-th] (hereditary chief), including Aboriginal Title. For more information, please visit Tseshah.com