



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safety Closure of Pedestrian Bridge on Alberni District Secondary School's Property

Port Alberni, BC, December 4, 2025 – The Pacific Rim School District is closing public access to a pedestrian bridge located on Alberni District Secondary School's (ADSS) grounds after an engineering assessment identified significant structural deterioration in one of its main support beams.

Penny Lane bridge, located in the forested area at the corner of 10th Avenue and Roger Street, was acquired several years ago from the City of Port Alberni as part of a land exchange. It is now in the latter half of its service life, with early indications suggesting that a targeted repair or partial replacement may not be cost-effective or practical given the bridge's age, location and current condition.

"Safety is our top priority," said Director of Operations, Alex Taylor. "Having identified the structural issues, we are acting immediately to close the bridge to students, staff, and the public while we review long-term options."

The bridge does not provide essential access to school district property or facilities; however, the District recognizes that it has been used informally by many community members as a walking route through the area and appreciates the impact this closure may have on neighbours and trail users.

The school district has consulted with the City of Port Alberni to ensure that the closure or removal does not adversely affect the City's neighbouring property and has confirmed that the City does not have an ongoing need for the bridge. While long-term options are being reviewed, signage and barriers have been installed at both approaches to restrict access, and the area will remain closed until further notice.

The District appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as it takes these precautionary measures to ensure community safety.

For more information, please contact:

Alex Taylor, Director of Operations

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About Pacific Rim School District

Pacific Rim School District is situated on the ḥaḥuuti of the cišaaʔath and huupačasʔath First Nations. We acknowledge that we also have schools on the ḥaḥuuti of the ʔaʔuukʷiʔath and huuʕiiʔath First Nations and the Yuuʔuʔitʔath Government. The district 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