



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Pacific Rim School District Appoints New Superintendent/CEO**

**Port Alberni, BC, May 22, 2026** - The Board of Education of Pacific Rim School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Jaslene Atwal as the district's new Superintendent/CEO, effective September 1, 2026.

Dr. Atwal brings a strong background in educational leadership, human resources, organizational development, and student-centered administration. She currently serves as Director of Instruction – Human Resources and Health and Safety with Pacific Rim School District, where she has played an important leadership role in supporting staff, strengthening systems, and advancing district-wide priorities.

Prior to joining Pacific Rim School District, Dr. Atwal served in several leadership positions within School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay), including District Vice-Principal of Human Resources & Health & Safety and K-12 Administrator. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for her collaborative leadership style, commitment to inclusive learning environments, and focus on supporting the well-being and success of students and staff.

Holding a Doctor of Education in Transformative Leadership, Dr. Atwal combines extensive leadership experience with a strong academic background in organizational leadership, educational systems, and effective change management.

As both an educational leader and active community volunteer, Dr. Atwal has demonstrated a strong commitment to service within the Alberni Valley. Her volunteer involvement includes supporting local non-profit and community organizations, assisting newcomers to Port Alberni through translation and vocational support services, and contributing to initiatives that promote inclusion, wellness, and community connection.

Board Chair Orr stated, "The Board is very excited to welcome Ms. Atwal into the role of Superintendent/CEO. She is a relationship-focused leader who brings professionalism, stability, and a genuine commitment to students, staff, families, and communities. Her understanding of the district, combined with her leadership experience and community involvement, will be a tremendous asset as we continue moving forward together." Furthermore, the Board of Education also recognizes Dr. Atwal's understanding of the diverse communities served by Pacific Rim School District and her commitment to respectful engagement, collaboration, and ongoing relationship-building across the region.

Dr. Atwal has emphasized the importance of listening, relationship-building, and collaborative leadership as she begins her new role. Over the coming months, she looks forward to working closely with school administrators, staff, Indigenous partners, employee groups, students, families, and community members across the district to continue supporting strong schools and positive outcomes for all learners.

As Superintendent, Dr. Atwal will serve as the district's Chief Executive Officer and educational leader, responsible for overseeing the operation of the school district and supporting the Board's strategic direction

in service of student learning and well-being.

The Board extends its sincere appreciation to all applicants and members of the selection committee who supported the recruitment process. Pacific Rim School District looks forward to welcoming Dr. Atwal into her new role and supporting a successful leadership transition this Fall.

The Board also extends its heartfelt appreciation to the current Superintendent Peter Klaver, for his extraordinary 29 years of dedicated service to Pacific Rim School District. Throughout nearly three decades with the district, he has served students, staff, families, and school communities in many different capacities, always with a deep commitment to public education and the well-being of children.

His leadership, care for people, and unwavering dedication to the district have left a lasting impact across the Alberni Valley and West Coast communities. As he prepares for retirement following many years of service, most recently as Superintendent/CEO, the Board thanks him for the relationships he has built, the lives he has influenced, and the legacy he leaves behind. The Board wishes him and his family all the very best in retirement and in the years ahead.

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### **About Pacific Rim School District**

The Pacific Rim School District is situated on the ɥaɥuuti of the c̓šaaʔath (Tseshaht) and Hupačasath First Nations. With schools also located on the ɥaɥaɥuuti of the Huu-ay-aht (Huu-ay-aht), and ɥaʔuukʷiʔath (Tla-o-qui-aht), First Nations and the Yuuʔuʔiʔath (Yuu-cluth-aht) 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](http://www.sd70.bc.ca)