



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Alberni Valley, Ucluelet, and Tofino Chambers Release Highway 4 Disruption and Resiliency Solutions Report**

**Alberni - Clayoquot, BC – March 6, 2025** – The Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce, and Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce have released the *Highway 4 Disruption and Resiliency Solutions Report*, an in-depth analysis of the challenges and economic impacts caused by disruptions along Highway 4. This report, supported by the Island Coastal Economic Trust and Alberni-Clayoquot Community Futures, provides key recommendations to enhance regional resiliency and minimize future disruptions for businesses and residents.

The findings underscore the significant economic strain caused by Highway 4 closures, particularly for the tourism, hospitality, and supply chain sectors. The report outlines strategic solutions, including infrastructure investments, improved emergency response planning, and alternative transportation options to ensure continued connectivity between communities on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

*"Highway 4 is a critical lifeline for our region. The disruptions we've faced highlight the urgent need for long-term solutions that protect businesses, residents, and visitors,"* said Jolleen Dick, Chief Executive Officer of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. *"This report is a call to action for all levels of government to prioritize infrastructure resilience and economic sustainability in our region."*

"When people and businesses across the West Coast and Alberni Valley were cut off from the economy in 2024, it was vital for the Trust to quickly partner on community-led solutions," said Brodie Guy, CEO, Island Coastal Economic Trust. "This new report shares valuable lessons to build resiliency across communities, businesses, and local governments in the event of future emergencies. We applaud local leaders for collaborating to identify future economic development projects to make the region more resilient to transportation, economic, and climate-related disruptions."

*"Our businesses and communities cannot afford to face continued uncertainty each time there is a disruption on Highway 4,"* said Josh Jenkins, Executive Director of the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce. *"This report provides a roadmap for improving regional connectivity, and we are committed to working with all stakeholders to implement practical, long-term solutions."*

*"Collaboration is key to addressing the unique challenges of our remote communities," said Samantha Hackett, Executive Director of the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. "By working together, we can strengthen the connections that tie our region together and support the businesses that sustain our local economy."*

Among the key recommendations are:

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Expanding emergency detour capacity and strengthening key sections of Highway 4.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Developing coordinated response plans to minimize economic losses during closures.
- **Economic Support Strategies:** Ensuring financial assistance and recovery programs for businesses impacted by road disruptions.
- **Alternative Transportation Solutions:** Exploring ferry and air service options to improve regional connectivity.

As a next step, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Transportation Advisory Committee has been re-established to facilitate collaboration between local governments, business organizations, and provincial partners. The three Chambers have a seat at the table and will continue advocating for solutions that support the long-term stability of the region.

To access the full report:  [Highway 4 Disruption and Resiliency Solutions Report](#)

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