



Yuutu?it?ath



Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

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NEWS RELEASE

## 25 KM MULTI-USE TRAIL IN PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK GIVEN THE NAME: ?apsčiiik ʔašii

On Tuesday October 24, 2017 at Cixʷatin Centre in Hitacu, members of, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Yuuʔuʔitʔath – Ucluelet First Nation, and Parks Canada came together to share a meal and unveil the new name of the 25 kilometre multi-use trail in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

?apsčiiik ʔašii (pronounced *ups-cheek ta-shee*) is located in the traditional territories of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuuluʔilʔath – Ucluelet First Nation, will extend approximately 25 km from the southern to the northern boundary of the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Most of the multi-use trail will be located near the highway, but with a forested buffer between trail users and vehicles, and with a short loop to connect the Kʷisitis Visitor Centre to the highway. The trail will be open to the public in 2020.

The literal translation of the name ?apsčiiik ʔašii is *going in the right direction on the trail*. However the meaning has many layers of meaning, depending on how the phrase is used.

Individually, it can refer to our personal journeys in life - going in the right direction. To remember we are on the ʔašii (trail), and going in the right direction refers to being mindful of the environment and all living things.

Collectively, the Elders say, “the land we walk on is made from the dust of our ancestors – in our life journey, we walk it carefully, respectfully, with humility and dignity.”

The name chosen by the Elders of both Nations represents the journey and relationship between the Nations and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. In this context, as a name given by the Elders for this collaborative project with the park reserve, it refers to how we are beginning to go “in the right direction” in this journey and together on this “path.” The multi-use trail is a healing path and an opportunity for First Nations, communities and Parks Canada to work together.

### *General information on the trail:*

In the first phase of the project, a *Detailed Impact Analysis* (DIA) was developed, informing route planning and design of the trail. Additionally, some preparation of the first 7 km of the trail began in February, 2017, between Radar Hill and Incinerator Rock at Long Beach. This work included tree felling and the removal of fallen timber and debris, with work stopping on May 3, 2017 to respect the migratory bird nesting season.

Over the summer, Parks Canada worked with engineers, and environmental, archaeological, amphibian, and wetlands specialists to refine the preliminary route and design of the trail.

In August, clearing of the southern portions of the trail began again, in preparation for the next phase of the project.

Once the southern portions of the trail have been cleared, work will begin to prepare both the northern and southern portions of the trail bed. This work will include building a foundation for the trail, bringing in gravel, installing drainage culverts, and fabricating bridges, as well as ongoing environmental monitoring of the project.

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