



## ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

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December 1, 2020

### **RE: Letter of support for the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation**

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to affirm the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Agricultural Development Committee's support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, established in 2000.

The Agricultural Development Committee (ADC) is a multi-disciplinary team that reviews and discusses matters relating to agriculture and food security and helps to guide the implementation of the Agricultural Plans in the region. The ADC meets regularly and provides policy recommendations to the ACRD Board of Directors.

The Coastal Agricultural Roundtable (CAR) is a newly established ACRD Committee that serves a similar purpose within the coastal communities. It is co-facilitated with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, with the intent of grounding the food policy and advocacy work strongly within the coastal communities on the west coast. The CAR helps to realize the goals and objectives identified in the Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agricultural Plan, which was adopted by the ACRD in 2018.

In partnership and collaboration with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, our organization has been able to contribute to achieving the objectives of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and reconciliation, through education, research, collaboration, and projects such as:

- Co-hosting a Coastal Agricultural Roundtable to bring together community leaders in support of sustainable and culturally-relevant local agricultural development and food security initiatives;
- Supporting a project which provides education in grant writing, support with project development processes, and seed funding to sustainable community food production initiatives;
- Working with Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Institute of Sustainable Food Systems to convene a Coastal Food Policy event and draft a report outlining opportunities and recommendations for applicable, culturally-relevant, and environmentally-sound food-related policy;
- Developing a Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan (2018) which includes strategies for supporting important marine and traditional Indigenous food sources;

- Receiving education in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as well as supporting the consideration of how they may be adapted at the local level;
- Integrating Biosphere considerations in coastal agricultural planning;
- Reaching out to coastal partners (including Indigenous communities), developing stronger community networks, and enhancing communication channels; and
- Contributing to the local achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We are proud to support the continuation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation, and look forward to participating in the next ten years of activities in our region.

Sincerely,



Alex Dyer, Planner

On behalf of the ACRD Agricultural Development Committee