



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



January 29, 2019

## **Tseshaht First Nation and Port Alberni Port Authority Sign Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication Accord**

**PORT ALBERNI** – The Tseshaht First Nation (TFN) and Port Alberni Port Authority (PAPA) are pleased to jointly announce the signing of a Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication Accord (the Accord), effective immediately.

The shared desire for both TFN and PAPA for the Accord is to formally establish a cooperative and collaborative relationship between TFN and PAPA. The purpose of the Accord is to enter into a more formal arrangement between the Tseshaht First Nation and the Port with respect to establishing and maintaining a long-term cooperative and collaborative relationship through effective communications.

Both organizations agree that their relationship has improved over recent years as an emphasis on joint communication and mutual respect has been forged. Both the Tseshaht First Nation and PAPA share the common goals of enhancing the community's economic well-being in a manner that respects the environment, history, social and cultural fabric. The parties have a number of joint interests that includes such examples as marine use; fisheries; tourism; skills, training and employment; and transportation infrastructure to name but a few.

"PAPA's respect for our First Nation is displayed through their agreement 'when applicable, to attempt to gain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent' of our First Nation on items that may impact our Title and Rights. In my opinion, although the Crown ultimately has this duty, PAPA's willingness to at least attempt to gain our consent is ground-breaking," states Tseshaht First Nation elected councillor, Ken Watts.

By formalizing this Accord, PAPA Chair of the Board of Directors, Ron Crema echoes Mr. Watts' sentiments: "PAPA agrees, when applicable, to attempt to gain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of the Tseshaht First Nation on major projects, those that an interest may have been expressed or those that may impact their Aboriginal Title and Rights."

The Accord helps to formalize a process for the Port and Tseshaht First Nation to effectively collaborate, cooperate and communicate towards positively advancing their relationship and projects of a mutual interest. Both organizations look forward to working together in the new spirit of the Accord towards achieving their shared goals of a vibrant, diversified, and healthy community for all residents and future generations.

-30-

For more information please contact:

Ron Crema, Chair of the Board of Directors  
Port Alberni Port Authority  
Ph: 250-723-5312

Ken Watts, Elected Councillor  
Tseshaht First Nation  
Ph: 250-724-1225

---