

Jan.27, 2018

Dear Premier Horgan and Mr. MacGregor MP,

This past week's Tsunami warning from EMBC exposed a serious weakness in the evacuation and notification plan for the residents and visitors in the Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht area. I hope you will consider two initiatives which will, in my estimation dramatically reduce the risk.


Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht Nation have a combined population of a few hundred residents but host thousands of campers, tourists and Circle Route travellers on any given summer day. Due to the community's low elevation, a major Tsunami event in Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht would be potentially catastrophic. The worst case scenario would involve a mega thrust earthquake in the Cascadian Subduction Zone. Experts from the Institute of Ocean Sciences have predicted giving Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht evacuees as little as 30 minutes to move to higher ground.

Thanks to the Provincial Government, Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht have recently acquired a sophisticated Tsunami siren alert system. Unfortunately due to our small tax base, we are unable to afford the annual maintenance costs on our own.

In addition to our residents, the Province and Federal governments have a vested interest in our area. The Province owns and operates Botanical Beach Park, San Juan Bridge, Deering Bridge and the Pacheedaht and Port Renfrew beaches which host hundreds of tourists daily.

The Federal Government operates their West Coast Trail office and reception center, Parks' Canada staff house and are in the process of establishing a life boat station complete with staff, office and vessel.

On behalf of the residents of Pacheedaht Nation and Port Renfrew , I would request that the Federal and Provincial Governments partner with Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht and share in the Tsunami Siren Alert System annual maintenance costs , estimated to be \$ 12,000 per year. This could be accomplished with a grant in lieu of taxes to our Port Renfrew Fire department which is paying for the system and is financed by Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht residents.



The events of last week have also exposed a need for a uniform warning and communication system for those communities exposed to Tsunami damage. Regional discussions are taking place with EMBC which will undoubtedly result in the need for a communication system directly to those residents at risk. Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht Nation, unlike Tofino, Ucluelet and Port Alberni do not have cell service and will be unable to receive notifications from the Province or Federal Government during a Tsunami event.

On behalf of the residents of Pacheedaht Nation and Port Renfrew residents, I would request that the Provincial and Federal governments partner with a cellular phone provider to provide cellular phone coverage in the Port Renfrew and Pacheedaht Nation area.

I realize that these are not small requests, involve many departments in your respective governments and will require a great deal of discussion and co-operation between many Ministries. I hope, as our Provincial and Federal representatives you could forward this to the appropriate Ministers and hopefully work with our CRD manager CAO Bob Lapham, to move these two requests further.

Thank you so much for your help.

Sincerely,



Mike Hicks
Regional Director
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

