

First Nations Summit

NEWS RELEASE

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FNS joins call for Provincial government to address dangerous road conditions

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – The First Nations Summit is joining Huu-ay-aht First Nation in calling on the provincial government to immediately address the dangerous road conditions and the lack of emergency communications infrastructure on the road between Port Alberni and Bamfield.

The call for improved road conditions comes following the tragic bus accident that claimed the lives of two University of Victoria students who perished after the bus they were travelling on went off the road and down an embankment. Accident survivors and passersby were hampered in contacting emergency services due to the lack of cellular communications along the 80km gravel logging road.

“We are saddened by the passing of the two students in last week’s horrific crash. The challenging road conditions, combined with the lack of communications infrastructure, once again proved a recipe for disaster in this major accident,” said Robert Phillips of the First Nations Summit political executive. “We must learn from this terrible accident and work together to create a safer roadway and an improved communications system for the residents and workers in Bamfield and Anacala, as well as the many tourists who use the road to travel to the southern portion of Barclay Sound and the West Coast Trail.”

The First Nations Summit will be encouraging the Hon. Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation to meet with the Huu-ay-aht First Nation and regional District of Alberni Clayquot on a priority basis to discuss options for addressing the transportation and communications issues along the Port Alberni-Bamfield corridor.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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