

For Immediate Release

Friday, June 6, 2025

## New Indigenous Signage Unveiled on Ucluelet's Wild Pacific Trail

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**Ucluelet, B.C.** — The District of Ucluelet and the Wild Pacific Trail Society, with the valued guidance and collaboration of the Yuułuṭitṭath̓ (Ucluelet First Nation), are proud to unveil a new series of interpretive signs along the Ancient Cedars section of the Wild Pacific Trail. This meaningful initiative honours Indigenous knowledge, language, and the enduring relationship between people and forest ecosystems that has shaped this region for millennia.

The installation includes six interpretive panels featuring Yuułuṭitṭath̓ teachings developed by Carey Cunneyworth and Jeneva Touchie. Visitors are invited to engage with an interactive audio box: powered by a hand crank, that shares Jeneva's voice and guidance on the pronunciation of eight Indigenous names and concepts. These educational materials highlight the ecological and cultural significance of each tree species, blending Indigenous teachings with ecological insight.

A culturally modified tree is now featured with a newly built deck and interpretive signage, offering context on traditional plank harvesting methods that reflect a deep-rooted practice of sustainability and stewardship. Additionally, four new signs illustrate the regenerative power of fallen cedars through mycorrhizal networks, underscoring the forest's intricate interconnectedness and resilience.

This project, three years in development, was made possible through the support of Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) funding, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, Black Rock Oceanfront Resort, the Wild Pacific Trail Society, and the District of Ucluelet. The leadership and contributions of the Yuułuṭitṭath̓ Government were instrumental in bringing this vision to life, providing a legacy of cultural learning for residents and visitors alike. "We're thankful for the collaboration that made this project possible, especially the guidance and contributions of the Yuułuṭitṭath̓. These new interpretive signs offer a meaningful opportunity for both residents and visitors to connect more deeply with the land, its history, and the cultural knowledge that continues to shape it." Said District of Ucluelet Mayor, Marilyn McEwen.

The community is warmly invited to join us for the official opening celebration on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the Ancient Cedars Trailhead. Come walk the trail, engage with these teachings, and experience the wisdom of the land and its first caretakers.

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