



Dr. James Lunney
Member of Parliament-Nanaimo-Alberni

News Release

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PACIFIC COAST UNIVERSITY A GO FOR PORT ALBERNI: FEDERAL FUNDING

PORT ALBERNI, BC - Dr. James Lunney, MP for Nanaimo-Alberni joined with principles from Pacific Coast University (PCU) and Port Alberni in celebrating the good news announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday in Victoria.

Pacific Coast University is a new institution to be established in Port Alberni with a \$1.65 million dollar grant under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP). KIP is an important element of Canada's Economic Action Plan, providing up to \$2 billion in support of infrastructure enhancement at universities and colleges across the country.

The PCU concept is the brainchild of Port Alberni's Wolfgang Zimmerman and the National Institute of Disability Management and Research. This story grew out of an innovative program initiated by MacMillan Bloedel, supported by Weyerhaeuser in a collaborative effort with local unions for the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of injured workers to the workplace.

Pacific Coast University has already been chartered through provincial legislation. This is a boutique university primarily focussed on distant learning, training and certifying human resource managers in disability management. Standards set by PCU have been adopted by 14 nations and are rapidly being accepted as a world standard.

The city of Port Alberni moved quickly to partner with PCU in providing land for the facility. "I am proud of the leadership and vision of PCU in addressing such an important need" said Lunney. This project is a credit to the leadership of Wolfgang Zimmerman and many government, industry and labour executive over many years.

"It is particularly satisfying to me to see this project established on Vancouver Island and in the City of it's origin after years of advocacy. Pacific Coast University will ensure Canada's leadership role is recognized and will be a hub for improving services to injured workers around the world for years to come" concluded Lunney.

Yesterday Prime Minister Harper announced an investment of \$35 million in 15 projects at post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia. The Province of British Columbia and others are providing an additional \$38 million in funding for these projects, bringing the total value of projects supported by the second-round of funding to \$73 million.

Over \$202 million was provided for British Columbia's post-secondary institutions under the first round of the KIP, leveraging an additional \$253 million from the province and other sources.

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