



Rescuers make their way along the trail.
VIA JUAN DE FUCA SEARCH AND RESCUE

Over four hours, rescuers carry injured student from Juan de Fuca Trail

JEFF BELL
Times Colonist

This week's rescue of a student who fell on a school hike on the Juan de Fuca Trail and had to be carried out on a stretcher for about four hours is a reminder of the trail's dangers, says a search and rescue co-ordinator. Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue was notified of the incident about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday after a 911 cellphone call was passed along by the B.C. Ambulance Service.

Co-ordinator Victoria Clarke said 13 Juan de Fuca team members responded and were joined by four people from Metchosin Search and Rescue.

"Metchosin helps us a lot," she said. "When we need extra people, they're always at the ready for us."

Clarke said initial responders got to the student within an hour, but it was difficult to get her to the trailhead on a stretcher, as the terrain is rough and rugged. "We had to use ropes on a couple of occasions to secure the stretcher, and that takes time."

The operation wasn't wrapped up until the early-morning hours Thursday.

Clarke said the trail doesn't always get the respect it deserves as a wilderness experience, in part because it's only about an hour's drive from Victoria.

It's also shorter than the West Coast Trail — 47 kilometres long, versus 75 for the West Coast Trail.

"I think what happens is because it's so close to Victoria and it's shorter, some people underestimate the challenges," she said. "It's really easy to go out not prepared, if you don't have the proper footwear, etc."

That's not to say the school group wasn't ready for the trail, because accidents can come up

at any time, Clarke said.

"It's got a lot of tripping hazards, a lot of steep sections, there's roots on the steep sections," she said. "I think even if you have all the right gear and you're fit, things can happen. That's just the nature of it."

When conditions allow, the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue can be contacted for a boat rescue or a helicopter can be used, but that wasn't the case in this instance, Clarke said.

"As a team, we know we can't rely on a helicopter or boat — we have to be able to perform this kind of rescue and that's what we train for."

There are 42 active members in the Juan de Fuca group who put in a combined 12,000 hours last year — an increase from 2022 — for callouts, training and other activities, Clarke said.

She said she always stresses the need for people to be prepared, and routinely sends them to the website adventuresmart.ca/programs/ for advice on getting ready for the outdoors.

The site features the Juan de Fuca Trail in one of its 11 trail-specific safety videos. jbell@timescolonist.com

It's your neighbourhood

PUBLIC NOTICE

The application will be considered by City Council on Thursday, May 16, 2024 after the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Where:
Council Chambers
Victoria City Hall
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC

Get involved:
Outlined below are the ways in which you can participate. The meeting may be viewed and heard via the City's live stream webcast at www.victoria.ca

What is being proposed?

A. Rezoning Application No. 00864 for the Property Known as 1661 and 1663 Richardson Street:

Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1334) - No. 24-026:

To rezone the land known as 1661/1663 Richardson Street from the R1-G Zone, Gonzales Single Family Dwelling District to the R-2 Zone, Two Family Dwelling District, for an existing non-conforming two-family dwelling to be stratified.

New Zone:	R-2 Zone, Two Family Dwelling District
Legal description:	PID: 005-184-053 Lot 55, Section 68 Victoria District, Plan 10250
Existing Zone:	R1-G Zone, Gonzales Single Family Dwelling District



1661 and 1663 Richardson Street
Rezoning No. 00864

The City of Victoria is hereby providing notice pursuant to Section 467 of the Local Government Act that it has waived the holding of a Public Hearing in relation to proposed Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw. Members of the public interested in this matter may provide written submissions to be published on the agenda for consideration at the meeting of Council at which this application will be considered.

How to Participate:

1. Submit written comments:

- Email written comments to LegislativeServices@victoria.ca
- Mail: Legislative Services, #1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6
- Drop off: to the Ambassador in City Hall Lobby (entrance off Pandora Ave)
- Submissions must be received by 12:00 p.m., the Tuesday before the meeting.

2. Watch the meeting live at the following link: victoria.ca/councilmeetings

Please note written correspondence will form part of the public record and will be published on the agenda when this matter is before Council. The City considers your address relevant to this matter and will disclose this personal information, as it informs Council's consideration of your opinion in relation to the subject matter and is authorized under section 26(c) of FOIPPA Act. Your phone number and email will not be disclosed. For more information on the FOIPPA Act please email privacy@victoria.ca.

How to view relevant documents, proposed bylaw and information about the application:

- Council Agenda: available the Friday before the meeting date at: victoria.ca/councilmeetings
- City Development Tracker
- In person: Inspect documents at City Hall by making an appointment by phoning 250.361.0571 or by emailing legislative@victoria.ca.

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Federal budget falls short, says Indigenous language advocate

ANDREW A. DUFFY
Times Colonist

A provincial cultural organization says it expects Indigenous language revitalization programs will have to be cut after funding commitments in this spring's federal budget fell short of expectations.

Carla Lewis, chair of the Brentwood Bay-based First Peoples' Cultural Council, said funding for language programs could be cut in half based on what Ottawa has budgeted for this year.

"There will definitely be less programming at the community level, jobs and projects will have to get scaled back or completely stop," said Lewis. "This could have quite a significant effect."

The federal government has committed \$225 million over the next five years for the "vibrancy of Indigenous cultures and languages," with \$45 million per year going to Canadian Heritage for Indigenous language and cultural programs.

Lewis said that \$45 million will be split between the provinces, and B.C. is likely to get less than half of it based on a funding formula.

Last year, the First Peoples' Cultural Council received \$40.3 million in federal funding, a figure the organization said is still about \$29 million short of what is needed.

"If our main funder cuts (its contribution) in half, we're potentially looking at a lot of the grants out to communities having to be cut back," she said.

That means postponing, scaling back or cancelling community-level programming and cutting jobs for teachers, researchers and program co-ordinators, she said.

In a statement to the Times Colonist, Canadian Heritage noted it had worked over the past year with Indigenous groups to implement new funding models meant to give more control to Indigenous groups.

"This is consistent with the Indigenous Languages Act, which states that Indigenous peoples are best positioned to lead the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strength-

ening their languages," the department said.

The statement did not address suggestions the budget has been trimmed, but pointed out Ottawa has directed \$840.1 million since 2019 to support the community-based efforts of First Nations, Inuit and Métis to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen their languages.

Lewis said the group is frustrated, as previous funding levels had allowed it to scale up, not just doing one-off classes, but starting to address all aspects of revitalizing and sustaining a language.

"Being able to get fluency at a big level back in our communities again is such a challenge, and now we have to cut back."

In the past five years, since the Indigenous Languages Act was introduced and funding for languages increased significantly, B.C. has seen a 20 per cent increase in the numbers of people learning their language, Lewis said.

The work is difficult, as in some communities, there are only a handful — often only one or two — speakers left, she added. "The amount of work that's required to get a language from one or two speakers back to fluency is tremendous, it's generational work."

According to the First Peoples' Cultural Council — a First Nations-led provincial Crown corporation whose mandate is to help First Nations revitalize their languages, arts and culture — B.C. has the greatest diversity of First Nations languages in Canada.

There are 36 languages and more than 95 dialects across B.C.'s 204 First Nations. Half of all Indigenous languages in the country originate in B.C.

Lewis said languages are vitally important to First Nations, as they "hold our culture, history and ways of being."

"We can't over-emphasize the urgency of the situation and we can't wait another five years to get the funding needed to breathe life into our languages that were stolen from us," she said. "We need long-term, sustainable funding now." aduffy@timescolonist.com

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