

# **Kaien Trails Completes First Kilometre of the Cloudberry Trail Multi-Use Pathway**

**August 2024**

## ***For Immediate Release***

After a busy fall and winter construction period, the Kaien Island Trail Enhancement and Recreation Society (Kaien Trails) completes construction on the first kilometre of the Cloudberry Trail multi-use pathway in the City of Prince Rupert. Planned as an active transportation corridor, the Cloudberry Trail will connect the Prince Rupert Civic Centre and Galloway Rapids, aligning with the Kaien Trails' Master Plan, the *Prince Rupert 2030 Vision*, the *Prince Rupert Transportation Plan* and the *Prince Rupert Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

The Cloudberry Trail will provide a key linkage with existing and future outdoor recreation activities, including the Butze Rapids Trail and Tall Trees Trail, Oliver Lake Park, and the future North Coast Mountain Biking Association's (NCMBA) park. As the Cloudberry Trail is built out, it will also serve as a vital connection between Prince Rupert and the Ridley Island Road, providing a safe and accessible commuting option for those working at the expanding port facilities on Ridley Island – helping Prince Rupert achieve its climate goals.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 marked the opening of the new pathway, coinciding with *#WorldTrailsDay* and *#BCTrailsDay* – a fitting start to this new community asset. That day, it welcomed over 30 runners as part of the Skeena River Relay, an annual running race organized and hosted by Rupert Runners between Prince Rupert and Terrace, an immediate demonstration of its value brought to the community.

This phase of the Cloudberry Trail project was completed through a competitively awarded design-build contract. Axis Mountain Technical and their engineering, environmental and archeological team were responsible for the overall execution of the project with Kaien Trails functioning as the project owner. The contract value for the project was \$1 million and was equally funded by the Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan) and the BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

The official grand opening ceremony is planned for Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in conjunction with Kaien Trails' annual TrailBlazer fundraising and community event. Further information on the ceremony and opening day celebrations will be available at [www.kaientrails.ca](http://www.kaientrails.ca) and through our social media pages.

### **Kaien Island Trail Enhancement and Recreation Society**

“The completion of the first phase of the Cloudberry Trail is the culmination of over seven years of dedication and grit by the Board of Kaien Trails,” says Kaien Trails Board President Steve Milum. “This project started with a vision to create safe and accessible access to outdoor recreation, regardless of abilities, income or status. As a multi-use pathway, the Cloudberry Trail will allow people of all ages and abilities, and those with and without access to a private vehicle the opportunity to experience one of Prince Rupert’s greatest assets – our natural surroundings. And how we’ve already witnessed with the Skeena River Relay, it will allow other community organizations, like Rupert Runners and the NCMBA the chance to add additional outdoor recreation amenities to the trail network established by Kaien Trails.”

- Steve Milum, President for Kaien Trails

### **City of Prince Rupert**

“Kaien Trails is a prime example of what dedicated volunteers can get done in our community. This first phase of the Cloudberry Trail, along with their completion of the Rushbrook Trail a few years back, are significant projects they’ve led that benefit all Rupertites. While we are focused on water pipes and housing, they have given the community expanded amenities for which we are all so grateful.”

- Mayor Herb Pond for the City of Prince Rupert

### **Pacific Economic Development Canada**

“Community spaces like Cloudberry Trail are the backbone of our neighbourhoods. They bring together people of all ages and abilities and provide opportunities to be active and spend time outdoors. PacifiCan is proud to help communities like the City of Prince Rupert enhance public spaces, support local businesses, promote sustainable transportation, and create places for both residents and visitors to enjoy.”

- The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan)

### **Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports**

"B.C. has an abundance of natural beauty, and projects like the Cloudberry Trail are vital in bringing our communities together and providing safe, accessible outdoor spaces for everyone," said Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. "Our government is delighted to support the Kaien Trails project, which will enhance active transportation, promote rural development, and enhance Prince Rupert's overall tourism offerings."

- The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport