

December 6th I attended the Island Women Society evening to raise awareness about the issue of violence against women. The film *Polytechnique* was shown commemorating the killing of 14 female engineering students at the University of Montreal Engineering School. We then went outside to have a candle light vigil. We were joined by the Fire Department with two vehicles and several members walking with us, escorted by RCMP vehicles at the front and rear, all lit up. We walked from the IWS building down in front of the RCMP around by the hospital and back. Thanks to the Fire Department and RCMP for participating.

December 12th I attended the Committee of the Whole and the Council/staff orientation session.

December 14th to 16th I attended the Newly Elected Officials Workshop. It was a time to network with others in the northwest as well as participate in the various workshops.

There was a half-day session with George Cuff on understanding the dynamics of “effective governance” a session on the legal framework for local government and conflict of interest issues, a session on media relations, and lastly, parliamentary rules. We also had presentations from the UBCM, Northern Development Initiative and the Prince Rupert Port Authority.

Tom McDonald from the Local Government Management Association did a very informative session on the top ten issues facing local government in 2012 (and beyond). They are as follows:

10. Infrastructure Funding Gap: amortizing assets and trying to fund replacement
9. Climate Change: reducing carbon footprint and adaptation, coping with changes already happening (i.e. erosion, extreme weather)
8. Provincial changes coming within two years to Fire&Rescue Services (training standards, public building inspections, liability issues,)
7. Special Interest Groups working against municipalities (i.e. Cdn Federation of Independent Business and Cdn Taxpayers Association). Always check facts and numbers first.
6. Municipal Auditor General: UBCM will work with province to implement a system that seems at first glance to be duplication.
5. Retirements and Successions: the need to recruit qualified people in local government service.
4. RCMP provincial policing will remain for communities under 5,000.
3. Social Issues: homelessness, poverty, addictions, food banks, domestic violence.
2. Federal Wastewater Restrictions: new regulations coming.
1. Our local communities issues.