

Councillor Martin October 17, UBCM 2011

- Participated in a workshop with Coastal Community Network, led by CEO Patrick Marshall. This group is a forum for BC coastal communities to share information and lobby government regarding economic and environmental issues around fisheries, resource management, transportation and other marine matters. There was considerable discussion around BC Ferries, especially about the impact of high transportation costs on the cost of living for families in coastal communities.
- Attended a session on the forest economy which centered on current trends, especially the tremendous growth of BC's wood exports to China and how those have reduced our reliance on the US market and the endless trade barriers erected by American timber interests. I was interviewed by a Chinese language television station about my reaction to China buying raw logs instead of finished wood products from BC.
- Bill Beamish and I attended a meeting with Glen Brown of Community Services to discuss our progress on the Stanley Lake project and explain, complete with photos, the high rainfall events that were delaying completion.
- I attended two separate panel sessions that focused on jobs, innovation and the BC economy. Growth in the provincial economy is projected to be dampened in the near future because of the negative impact of the European and American debt crises on the global economy, as well as the provincial budget deficit and the demise of the HST. Kevin Falcon, Minister of Finance, said that the bad news was that operating budgets would be cut, but that the capital budget of \$11.3b. would not. I hope that this will bring good news soon about our hospital replacement!