

Report to council
Monday, February 2, 2009
Councillor Gladys Noddin

Since we last met, I have been to the following meetings on behalf of the village.

1. Thursday & Friday, January 22 & 23, 2009

I was in Prince George at the BC Economic Summit, Opportunities North: Northern Economic Summit. The speakers included :

Honourable Premier Gordon Campbell,
Honourable Colin Hansen – Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the Olympics,
Honourable Blair Lekstrom – Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum,
Honourable Gary Lunn – Federal Minister of State (Sport),
Honourable Kevin Falcon – Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure,
Honourable Gary Kruger - Minister of Community Development,
Honourable Gordon Hogg – Federal Minister of State for Mining,
Honourable Barry Penner – Minister of the Environment,
Honourable Pat Bell – Minister of Forests and Range,
Honourable Shirley Bond – Minister of Education, Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
& Deputy Premier,
Larry Pedersen – Deputy Minister – Ministry of Agriculture and Lands,
Honourable Murray Coell - Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

The format of the summit was that of plenary sessions with a list of panellists for each of them in the first half of the day and then a choice of concurrent panel sessions for the latter part of the day. Both the plenary sessions and the concurrent panel sessions provided time for a question and answer participation segment. However, due to time constraints, not many questions were taken at either venue.

There were 8 concurrent panel sessions from which to choose.

On Thursday, I chose to attend one called Pacific Gateway and Transportation, chaired by Honourable Kevin Falcon, with panellists Tim McEwan – President and CEO, Initiatives Prince George and Chair, Air Logistics Park Task Force; Don Krusel, President and CEO, Port of Prince Rupert; and Keith Reardon, Vice President, CN and Managing Director, CN WorldWide North America.

On Friday, I attended one called Universities, Colleges and Human Capital, chaired by Honourable Murray Coell, with panellists Kevin Evans – CEO, Industry Training Authority; Jean Valgardson – President, Northern Lights College; and Mark Dale – University of Northern British Columbia.

Later in the day on Friday, along with the other NCMA members present at the summit, I attended a meeting with members of the Northern Caucus. Ministers present at that meeting were Honourable Shirley Bond, Honourable Pat Bell, and chaired by MLA John Rustad.

This is a summary of the summit. My full report of those sessions will be provided for the minutes before our next council meeting.

2. On Monday, January 26, 2009

I accompanied Councillor Martin to the meeting held at the Kaay Centre concerning Seafood Marketing Strategies. Councillor Martin will be reporting about that meeting.

3. Tuesday, January 27, 2009

I attended the information open house of SLUA (Strategic Land Use Agreement) held in the Skidegate Small Hall. Both Mayor Kulesha and Councillor Martin also attended. It is important to keep abreast of the developments of this initiative because it impacts all of the communities and all of the people who are living on our islands.

4. The VIRL AGM was held in Nanaimo on Saturday, January 31, 2009. With a considerable number of new faces around the table, a lot of time was spent in an overview and orientation by the staff for the board members. The orientation manual for 2009 was distributed. If anyone of the public would like to review it, I will be happy to provide access to my copy.

VIRL is in the midst of restructuring its organization and the provincial government is beginning a legislative review of the libraries act. Both of these activities will command a great deal of the board's and the staff's time during the months ahead.

The new chair of the board is Bill Holdom, Nanaimo and the new vice-chair is Ronna-Rae Lenard, Courtney. Members of the various committees will be notified as soon as the executive committee has had a chance to meet and decide who the appointees will be.

This report was prepared by

Councillor Gladys Noddin