

Mayor's report June 6 2011

Gwaii Trust Public consultation

The message was: Though there is a decrease in the monies available for disbursements, there is also a decrease in the number of applications received for certain types of funding pockets. It had been a long time since the business plan had been reviewed and an update is needed. This is a consensus board and they have brought forward the pieces that they all agreed on but these pieces are not "filled in". The 2 pieces agreed to were youth and economic development. Their definitions need yet to be determined and the parameters of the funding as well. There was push back from those at the meeting on the process (why are some programs being deleted such as culture as tourism without discussion from the public, more meetings and discussions are needed) and the lack of emphasis on Haida culture (this became a focal point of distress and the GT reps stated that Haida culture will remain a pillar of responsibility). The participants also wanted core funding for 3 years for new projects.

I suggested that they

- Fund Communities directly on a yearly basis by population formula. The communities themselves know what they need, could plan for matching funds, could save the monies towards larger projects, and it would minimize administration costs if monies are directly deposited (as in the gas tax funds) with a yearly report on how it was spent or saved. They could require guidelines for use, have aims and goals but leave it to the councils and boards to figure out how to expend it. This would be part of the funding and the board could continue with special programs.

BC Ferries

I called Gordon Macatee the BC Ferry commissioner and invited him to visit Haida Gwaii and see what we as ferry users face. He was already planning on visiting us. He said that he asked the province to extend his review time and that is why they passed a price cap of 4.25% for this year and extended the deadline for one year. Though the date is not yet confirmed he is considering late summer/early fall and will be back in touch.

The NWRHD met in Terrace and were very displeased with the lack of provincial response on a date to fund the next phase of our hospital. Having met with MLA's in Prince Rupert during NCLGA, they decided to send an info package to all the Ministers and the NDP MLAs who were kind enough to meet with us. Our MLA and the NDP health critic Mike Farnsworth brought the issue to the legislative floor which was picked up by Global news. I had sympathetic interviews from Toronto, CBC Vancouver, Victoria, Prince George and a search would give you over 20 stories. Northern Health has promised the province a completed business case by August and the Minister of Health said that he would follow our process through treasury. We still have no promise of immediate funding but without doubt the ministry is now aware of our need.

SQCRD will meet next June 17 in Sandspit. OCP hearing is June 16, Tripartite meetings=Evan Putteril appointed and I am his alternate-and recreation committee will change its name to Haida Gwaii