

MAYOR'S REPORT MAY 19, 2009

NCMA – NCLGA

The north central organization we belong to has changed their name to represent the Nisga'a government who has joined us in preparation for revenue status. They have been attending meetings on governance strategies, newly elected seminars and strategic planning sessions.

NORTHERN HEALTH

Gladys and I met with NH re: QC Hospital and it was restated that when funding for northern hospital projects becomes available for NH from the MofH, we and Burns Lake are at the top of their list. Arranged meeting between our HWAC and Mental Health and Addictions staff and thanked them for our new telephone service at the hospital and health centre and the success of chemo therapy unit.

I met with NH again with Chair Cress Farrow for the NW Regional Hospital District to discuss process and communication procedures.

NEW NORTH FOUNDATION

At the Northern Opportunities Summit in PG that councillor Noddin attended on our behalf, the need for continued development of the north but with the application of both education and research to assist us was brought forward. The New North Foundation was presented and this meeting was on the continued development of what is being called a new "knowledge portal" – connecting communities and industry to researchers and information. Can the north be an emerging centre for bio energy and wood product design? How can UNBC be more involved? The idea was to develop a centre of researchers whose information would be unbiased. Industry, Northern Trust and UNBC have joined together to establish a trust to fund it. If council agrees this is a good idea I would like us to send a letter of support for UNBC and NDI towards this aim; a letter they can use to demonstrate to industry the importance for communities to receive research, funded through a foundation established through a university.

NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAMS TRUST

Incorporated November 27, 2002 in order to enhance the education of physicians in the north. Communities of the north were asked to pledge money based on a formulae of population. We were not incorporated then and did not join though Masset and Port Clements pledged funds. The northern medical program in PG recruits and trains MD's – they graduated their second class this past week. The Society of Rural Physicians has granted them an award as nat'l recognition for their success. To train in the north incurs extra expenses for the students and the trust funds these (such as transportation and living allowance). The trust is now funding these extras for a nurses program and wants to look at physiotherapy and pharmacy next. The Northern Medical Program trains medical personnel for the desperately needed health professionals in the north and it is also a research centre. Its success is that 50% of those in the past class, stayed in the north.

SUSTAINABLE UTILITY FINANCING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

This forum emphasized that we must save for replacing our systems or we leave the burden of financing onto our children and the statistics of future costs were staggering. They spoke of how metering decreases water use and we can concur as our meter installation resulted in a 40% reduction and is as well a method of continuing identification of any new leaks. This helps save machinery but it is the replacement costs, maintenance requirements and upgrades to meet new regulations that we need to include in each budget.

There were other panels and Councillor Noddin can report on some, we also walked through the trade show, met contacts for a variety of municipal and community needs and attended resolutions discussions. The resolutions can be found on the NCMA website and the successful ones forwarded to UBCM in September.

ADVISORY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council and APC met, in order to understand in broad strokes the APC's draft official community plan. Next steps are public meetings.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

Jim Campbell regional director and Beth Anne Dirksen Area Director with Astrid Eagger came to meet HWAC. Housing issues for single men, women with children, transition housing, and treatment facilities were discussed as needs for the area and the community.

SOCIETY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Our contribution to pilot project funding has been very worthwhile. 17 students and their professors had a 3 week course that they rated very high and gave us food for thought re: the next semester. Kaay centre was a hit and so were their interactions with people on island. Our aim is now a full semester in January 2010. An ambitious project and we will be looking for funding.

