

Mayor's report October 17, 2011

UBCM

My job was to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with Ministers and senior staff for our Village, NW Regional Hospital District, Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District, Misty Isles Economic Development Society, H G Higher Education Society and Gwaii Tel.

For the Village and the NWRHD we were granted joint meetings with the Premier and the Minister of Health. We were told that the business case for our hospital/health centre had been received and that the ball was now in the province's court. They were in the midst of developing their budget and a long term capital plan. They hope to tell us where on that capital plan the hospital build will be but that won't be until sometime in January.

At our meeting with Minister McDiarmid, we presented the problems that Gwaii Tel, our broadband provider to the islands ISPs was having with Telus service from the mainland. Telus has found extra bandwidth to provide for us which is an immediate short term solution. We will continue to advocate for cell service island wide and greater bandwidth.

I took part in a roundtable on communities with advanced education; issues, demands, challenges and solutions. HGHEs was definitely the newest and smallest kid on the block but our achievements to date were well received. Minister Bell used HGHEs as an example of economic diversification and innovative education throughout UBCM but no "beef". I was unable to convince government – at this point- for committed funding.

Minister Ida Chong who presided over our inaugural ceremony as a municipality is back in charge of that ministry. I took this opportunity to report the achievements as an incorporated community and thank her ministry for the financial support of our water system, Towns for Tomorrow grant, Spirit Square etc. We also spoke of the economic stimulation of each capital project, money into the community for jobs, rentals and equipment and addressed the long complicated approval process.

Meetings with Min of Agriculture, Energy and Mines, and Forests/Natural Resources were to introduce them to MIED and its future projects.

Unlike previous UBCMs there were very little in the way of financial promises or assistance. Money is obviously very tight

SQCRD Island Directors meeting and land fill tour

Discussion of RD representation on island. There is agreement that there is a need to hold more meetings on island and have our CAO be here more frequently to meet with the unincorporated areas and oversee projects. This will be part of our budget discussions. Recommendations such as this one and a change to the billing cycle for the areas (not municipalities) will be brought to the next RD meeting for endorsement.

The land fill is totally different from a couple of years ago. Reorganized, neat, cleaned up and another phase covered, no garbage blown around and a clean place for workers to have lunch. Very nice. It is less expensive to operate with efficiencies as simple as crushing the tin cans and filling the refrigerators for example with them when shipping off island for crushing.

We are all now back from holidays and family visits and hard at work.

Thank you