

Final Report of the March 21, 2006 Community to Community Forum hosted by the Town of Smithers at the Multiplex in Moricetown, British Columbia.

As the final requirement for funding assistance for the March 21, 2006 Community to Community Forum, the Town of Smithers has prepared this report to address the successes, recommendations, and financial expenditures of the event.

Forum Objectives Achieved: In the funding assistance application, we identified the following objectives to be achieved as a result of hosting the forum:

- Educating and informing the participating governments about current issues in relationships between the First Nations and local governments;
- Providing a forum for dialogue on a specific concern or topical issue;
- Strengthening relationships and fostering future cooperative action, by building stronger links between First Nations and local governments at the political and administrative / staff level; and
- Determining economic opportunities for future consideration and joint action.

Hosting the event in Moricetown proved to be successful in bringing together a large number of participants from both the Moricetown Band Council and local governments. Based on the dialogue, presentations, questions generated, and follow-up items identified, we can positively state the objectives were met for this forum. The Office of the Wet'suwet'en provided an update to the First Nation Incremental Treaty Agreements process and advised of their new public body status which is the first in Canada. The Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development identified potential areas for future partnerships including trades and training, mining, pipelines, Prince Rupert container port, and the Olympics. A partnership currently in progress is the Bulkley Valley Community Forest.

Event Delegates: The following people were in attendance representing their organizations:

Participant	Organization
Pieter Weeber, Mayor	District of New Hazelton
Gerald Ewald, Mayor	Village of Granisle
Flo Ewald, Community Member	Village of Granisle
Rick Braam, Regional Manager	Ministry of Economic Development
Sharon Robertson, Assistant Manager	CFCD Nadina
Debbie Pierre, Executive Director	Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Lucy Gagnon, Manager	Moricetown Band Council
Warner William, Chief	Moricetown Band Council
Sandra George	Moricetown Band Council
Mark John	Moricetown Band Council
Lillian Lewis	Moricetown Band Council
Desmond McKinnon	Moricetown Band Council
Duane Mitchell	Moricetown Band Council
Ron Mitchell	Moricetown Band Council
Lorena Morris	Moricetown Band Council
Jim Davidson, Mayor	Town of Smithers
Cathryn Bucher, Councillor	Town of Smithers
Cress Farrow, Councillor	Town of Smithers
Bill Goodacre, Councillor	Town of Smithers
Jo Ann Groves, Councillor	Town of Smithers
Wallace Mah, CAO	Town of Smithers
Deborah Sargent, DCAO	Town of Smithers
Clair Lee, CAA	Town of Smithers
Jan Mckay, Recording Secretary	Town of Smithers

Major Issues Discussed: The major issues that were discussed included: the status of the Wet'suwet'en Incremental Treaty Agreements (ITA); the role of the Ministry of Economic Development in assisting businesses, local governments, and First Nations to develop opportunities for partnerships and to encourage growth within the region; various services available through Community Futures Development Corporation of Nadina including Community Broadband, technical training opportunities, business startups; and identifying specific areas of potential partnerships within each participants' community.

Recommendations: One of the overarching recommendations that came from this event is the need to go beyond meeting annually at Community to Community Forums in order to facilitate building relationships between First Nations and Local Governments. We have all enjoyed meeting and socializing at previous Community to Community Forums; however the benefits of communicating more regularly seems appropriate at this time.

Financial Summary: The event expenditures for the March 21, 2006 Community to Community Forum are as follows:

Buffet Dinner	\$680
Communication and printing costs	425
Staff time at Forum includes travel (recording secretary)	250
Final Report production	<u>300</u>
TOTAL	1655

Written Material: Attached to this report are the agenda and the draft notes from the Community to Community Forum.

To conclude, the overall impression of this event was positive and, as always, the event was a good opportunity to reconnect with neighbours and fellow civic leaders. At this juncture, forward movement on creating concrete opportunities for partnership(s) between First Nations and Local Governments will facilitate relationships moving to the next level as recommended by the group.

Wallace Mah
Chief Administrative Officer