

Community to Community Forum – Final Report

Applicant: High Bar First Nation
Co-Participant: Village of Clinton

Forum Objectives

The main objective of the forum was to open lines of communication between the two parties - an opportunity to share concerns in the community and discuss ideas re joint venture opportunities and cooperation in Tourism and other areas of business.

As the meeting was in the form of an introductory luncheon, there were no formal minutes taken and the agenda was ad hoc – depending on the flow of discussion. What were discussed were the concerns of the two parties as related to the area in and around the Village of Clinton and the concerns of the High Bar Indian Band within the Municipality. Many issues were discussed in the short time frame of the meeting. Each party left in good spirits with a clearer understanding of the concerns of the other.

At the end of the meeting, lines of communication were opened, i.e. exchanging of e-mail addresses and business cards. The broader community was assured of being informed about the meeting, as one of the Village Councillors was also a reporter for the Clinton Lariat – the only community-based periodical.

Chief and Council were invited to Council Chambers on the night of May 16, 2005, to a brainstorming session to discuss a Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw for the purpose of downtown revitalization. An invitation into Village Council business can only mean the start of a positive relationship between peers.

The forum can be viewed as a success. The next meeting will be at the instigation of the Village of Clinton. They are aware of the UBCM Community to Community Forum grant.

Participants

In attendance were:

High Bar First Nation

Chief Lenora Fletcher
Councillor Roy Fletcher
Councillor Dorothy Jepp
Councillor Larry Fletcher
Band Administrator Bill Moore

Village of Clinton

Mayor Roland Stanke
Councillor Lee Schapansky
Councillor Karen Perry
Councillor Don McLaughlin
Councillor Betty Jones
Village Administrator Val Bissat

Issues Discussed

Since the forum was an informal luncheon, the issues discussed were ad hoc, open discussion topics. Issues discussed included:

- ☛ Boundary expansion for the Village of Clinton
- ☛ Downtown revitalization
- ☛ Ministry of Highways proposed road construction, by-passing downtown Clinton
- ☛ Need for a Medical Centre in Clinton with possible INAC involvement
- ☛ Land base for High Bar First Nation (HBFN), i.e. Addition-to-Reserve (ATR)
- ☛ Infrastructure for an ATR, e.g. water, power, etc., and how they satisfy INAC criteria
- ☛ HBFN feasibility study which identified 35 houses (minimum) asked for by Band Members
- ☛ Availability of Crown Land immediately adjacent to Village of Clinton boundaries
- ☛ Clinton's water purification system (cost: \$500,000) – can serve up to 1700 people
- ☛ Alternate water supplies, e.g. artesian wells
- ☛ Excess water usage in Clinton, compared to the average water use in BC municipalities: possible cause is people leaving taps on in winter to prevent pipes freezing – cause is, most likely, out-dated insulation
- ☛ Village of Clinton plans to issue water-saver kits to the community
- ☛ Sewage lagoons: can serve up to 2500 people – population of Clinton is under 700
- ☛ Cost to put in water pipes (\$100 per metre for individuals): economies of scale for multi-home installation
- ☛ Possible lot (Crown Land) for HBFN to purchase for an ATR: approximately 2 hectares
- ☛ South-end property looked at for an ATR is too costly for water use
- ☛ Clinton's need for more housing for planned expansion: matches HBFN members' commitment to housing, i.e. 35 units
- ☛ Economic development
 - ✓ Fibre study done by former HBFN Band Administrator
 - ✓ Eco-tour training opportunity
 - ✓ Re-man study done for Village years ago
 - ✓ Compost recycling
 - ✓ Plastic recycling
 - ✓ Tourism
 - ✓ Dumping for RVs
 - ✓ Destination lodges
 - ✓ Rocky Mountain tours: June 8, 2005, 2:00 p.m. in Clinton: looking for tourism operators
 - ✓ Tourism loop for Cariboo with Clinton and Williams Lake at either end: need road improvement through Canoe Creek, Dog Creek, Alkali Lake
- ☛ Fisheries
- ☛ Existing HBFN Reserve lands, i.e. IRs, development: Ginseng talked about in the past
- ☛ Wildlife protection
- ☛ Need to involve and educate youth: trades, apprenticeships

- ☛ Filming through Thompson-Nicola Regional District: lack of rooms for a big-production crew – billeting an option
- ☛ Canim Lake Unity Ride: Village of Clinton interested in being involved
- ☛ Ancestral bones
 - ✓ Being returned to HBFN: Village of Clinton to be invited to ceremony on Reserve lands
 - ✓ Desecration of graveyards and pilfering of bones from caskets on Reserve in past
- ☛ Tourism: river raft outfits stopping on HBFN lands is an issue – pollution, desecration of archaeological sights
- ☛ Shuswap Gathering on Bonaparte Reserve: Village of Clinton could go – relationship building
- ☛ First Nation Organizational Structures and Issues
 - ✓ Information for Village of Clinton Council
 - ✓ First Nation Summit
 - ✓ Union of BC Indian Chiefs
 - ✓ Tribal Councils
 - ✓ Treaties
 - ✓ Need for a bigger voice for a small Band such as High Bar
 - ✓ Overlapping Traditional Territories
 - ✓ Fishing: salmon runs; shared resource; rights
 - ✓ Natural resources: encroachment by industry
- ☛ Inform the general public about the meeting via the Clinton Lariat (free publication): one Village Councillor is a reporter for the paper
- ☛ James Tait and the Department of Fisheries: old record
- ☛ Invitation to HBFN to be involved in Volunteer Night on October 22
- ☛ Query as to Village of Clinton receipt of Community to Community Forum Application Kit: Village Administrator has vague recollection, but will look into this
- ☛ Exchange of business cards and e-mail addresses
- ☛ Pictures of both Councils outside the High Bar offices

Recommendations/Outcomes

The meeting was not only a seminal step in a closer relationship between High Bar and the Village of Clinton, but also an invitation to the Village to build closer relations with other First Nations. Specific next steps mentioned at the meeting include:

- ☛ Canim Lake Unity Ride: Village of Clinton interested in being involved
- ☛ Shuswap Gathering on Bonaparte Reserve: Village of Clinton could go – relationship building
- ☛ Invitation to HBFN to be involved in Volunteer Night on October 22
- ☛ Invitation to HBFN Council to attend Village of Clinton Council on Monday, May 16

The next step in relationship-building should be at the instigation of the Village.

Financial Summary

See attached Excel spreadsheet