

**COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM – NAZKO
MARCH 16, 2005**

AGENDA

5:00 PM **Opening Prayer Nazko Elder – Elsie Paul**

Welcome by Mayor Bello

Introduction of invited guests

5:15 PM **Supper**

FORUM TOPICS

5:45 PM

1. Education

**Speakers: Blana Shorcht - UNBC
Garry Menelaws
Beverlene Alec**

Open for discussion

2. Health

**Speakers: Janet Paul , Student Homecare worker
Jamie Wilson – Child Protection
Deb Peterson – Long Name Society**

Open for discussion

3. Poverty to Employment

**Speaker: Christine Miller – Ministry of Human Resources
Arlene Jimmie
Adelea Alec
Grace Clement – Social Assistance Worker for Nazko**

Open for discussion

Conclusion and Final Remarks – Laura Boyd and Mayor Bello

FROM : CITY OF QUESNEL

FAX NO. : 2509927132

May. 02 2005 01:03PM P1

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM

MARCH 16, 2005

LOCATION - CITY HALL

Present from Council: Mayor Nate Bello, Councillor Sushil Thapar, regrets from other councillors; CRD Chair Ted Armstrong, Directors Mary Glassford, Andy Motherwell, Rhonda Wilkins and staff and general public. In total 33 people attending.

INTRODUCTION

The objective....solutions. The March 16th session that took place at City Hall began with a delicious meal and then moved to council chambers where participants sat in a large circle. It began with a prayer. Laura Boyd of Nazko Band acted as a facilitator. The objective of the Forum is to raise awareness concerning the everyday difficulties experienced by First Nations people of Nazko. The three topics discussed were considered essential if there is to be a healthy future, for aboriginal children and adolescents. In initiating this process we are able to share information and by working together find long term solutions, to current challenges.

I EDUCATION

- First Nations population is on the rise but federal education dollars are stagnating.
- Band member sponsorship for education is lacking.
- Some First Nations people would like to see a school operating in Nazko so the long bus ride to Quesnel would not be necessary.
- UNBC will be expanding the Carrier Language Program
- UNBC also looking at offering programs that fit into aboriginal peoples interests and needs.
- Industrial training is essential.

II HEALTH

- Diabetes is at epidemic portions among the Elders.
- Poverty is to the point that money is not available for essentials (food, health care) for those living off the reserve.
- Parental child rearing skills need improving and taught.
- Foster parenting on the reserve would be an asset.
- The health of the complete family is of the up most importance.
- Nazko people would like to bring their standards up to the mainstream. How do they initiate this process? Human Resources representative Jamie Wilson reassured band members that removing children from their homes was a last resort. "Family Development Response" instead of investigations has always been their intentions. Human Resources are interested in keeping all avenues of communication open and listening to suggestions that could improve government programs.

III. POVERTY TO EMPLOYMENT

- Fewer employment opportunities available due to lack of education.
- Child care for working mothers or students is too expensive or not obtainable.
- Testimonials from two young mothers emphasized the hardships they have experienced trying to raise a family and receive an education that will enable them to support their family completely without the need of financial aid.

SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSION

- a) Community Centre in Nazko could be used for more activities e.g.) child care, educational programs or computer classes.
- b) UNBC representative would be interested in having a more active approach with band members in expanding programs.
- c) Deb Peterson manager of the North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Program Society ("Long Name Society") announced they just received a three-year operational grant. North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Program Society is located on Elliott St. They provide daycare services and a number of other services as well. Deb Peterson will do a follow-up and co-ordinate a meeting with Nazko representatives.
- d) CRD representative Mary Glassford will approach School District #28 for possible future assistance.

NOTE: Nazko has applied for NDI funding to complete their Community Centre, which will address some of these issues.

2005 Chuntezni'ai Spring Gathering

10:00 a.m. -

Opening Prayer: Nazko Elder

Welcoming by Chief Delores Alec

Introduction of invited guests

10:15 a.m.

Education

Speakers: Laura Boyd

Keith Spencer: Native Education Centre

Open Discussion

Health

Speakers: Holly Nelson

Report of Nazko Health

Open Discussion

11:15 a.m

Community Justice System/Community Police Program

Speakers:

Open Discussion

12:00 noon

Lunch Provided

1:00 P.M.

North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Program Society

Speakers: Debbie Tedersen

Darlyn Alec, Family Support Worker

Open Discussion

1:30 p.m.

Chuntezni'ai Community Activities

Speakers: Chief Delores Alec & Council

Open Discussion

2:00 p.m.

Nazko Treaty Progress Report

Speaker: Laurell Crocker

2:30 p.m.

Chuntezni'ai Community Concerns

Speakers: Chief Delores Alec

Laura Boyd, Director of Operations

3:30 p.m.

Games & Treats for the young @ heart

4:30 p.m.

Easter Feast

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COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM**MARCH 24, 2005
LOCATION - NAZKO**

The second session took place at Nazko Community Centre

Present from council: Mayor Nate Bello and present from Cariboo Region District: Director Mary Glassford, RCMP representative Jerry Baragar (Community Policing) and Cst. Brad Reed (Aboriginal Liaison).

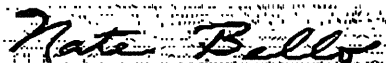
There were about 40 band members and approximately 6 people from Quesnel including representatives of the "Long Name" Society, Child Development Centre, and Ministry for Children and Families.

A luncheon began the second part of the day with the first part devoted band members regarding their internal matters. Justice was the main theme. Jerry first emphasized the need for relationship building. Then he moved on to the need to work together and develop an action plan. The other Quesnel community organization discussed their programs and their willingness to work with the band to customize them. As mayor, I said how much I would like to renew a working relationship from my days as SD 28's First Nations coordinator. Then I discussed how we need to work together on various issues that had been brought up at the March 16th meeting. A tour of the community centre was then given.

CONCLUSION

Councillor Doyle began the process of opening up to the First Nations communities in a meaningful way. This community to community forum is just one step in the road to appreciating the first Nations society within the larger community. Other initiatives include having a First Nations representative on the Quesnel Community Economic Development Board (Chief Clifford Lebrun), working with Lhtako Band on municipal infrastructure issues, working with Quesnel Tillicum Society regarding safety issues and cultural point of interest for tourists. As a symbol of this new relationship, we will be receiving as a gift a 2 metre by 1 metre Dreamcatcher created by a wonderful artist presently taking a course at the Friendship Centre. It is time our community embraced the Aboriginal culture and society as we make Quesnel a place where all feel a part. I look forward to more discussions with the Aboriginal community in the months and years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



Nate Bello
Mayor

Proposal For Community to Community to- Relationship Building Report:

Caribou Regional District

City of Quesnel

Nazko First Nation

.Description and Objectives

This Forum was planned to be an informal way of raising awareness to the every day difficulties experienced by the First Nations people of Nazko.

Forum #1

Participants:

Location - City Hall: March 16 2005

Present From the City of Quesnel:

The Mayor Nate Bello, Councillors Sushil Thapare.

Caribou Regional District Chair Ted Armstrong

Directors Mary Glassford, Andy Motherwell, Rhonda Wilkins.

Nazko: Laura Boyd Director of Operations, Bernice Cremo

Treaty Community Liaison, Laurell Crocker Treaty Manager.

Nazko Community Members

Guest Speakers:

Education: Garry Menelaws and Beverlene Alec

Health: Janet Paul

Poverty to Employment: Arlene Jimmie Adelea Alec

Community Members from the City Of Quesnel

Guest Speakers

Education: Blanca Shorcht Regional Director UNBC.

Health: Jamie Wilson - Child Protection

Deb Wilson - Long Name Society

❖ **Over all attendance: 33**

Forum #2

Location: Nazko

Participants:

Present from the City of Quesnel: Major Nate Bello
Caribou Regional District: Director Mary Glassford
RCMP Representative Jerry Barager - Community Policing
Constable - Brad Reed- -Aboriginal Liaison

Representatives from:

The Long Name Society
Child Development Centre
Ministry Of Children and Families

- ❖ **Overall attendance 40 Nazko band members 6 representatives from Quesnel.**

Issues Discussed at both Forums:

Education: I

- **First Nations population does not correlate to the federal education funding dollars**
- There needs to be more education and capacity building for Nazko Band membership.
- Industrial training is essential
- The long bus from Nazko to Quesnel is taking its toll on the Nazko students.
- Nazko needs a High School on reserve.
- UNBC will be expanding the Carrier Language Program.
- UNBC wants to offer literacy education on reserve.
- UNBC wants to work with the Nazko First Nation to accommodate their learning needs.

Health

- Diabetes is at Epidemic Proportions in First Nations Communities. Community awareness must be raised to promote healthy lifestyle and exercise.
- The youth and children also need to participate and be educated to the hazards of an unhealthy lifestyle It was felt that poverty is at and all time high and it is impossible to make the money stretch and it is hard to buy nutritional food.
- Nazko Community is lacking Parenting skills.

- Nazko would like to have more support from the MCF recruiting foster parents from the Nazko community.
- They would also like to see a resource house on reserve to help support the children so they do not have to be under the care of the ministry.

Poverty to Employment

- o These issues set off a cyclical pattern as fewer employment opportunities are available if you lack education.
- o Several of the Nazko young women spoke of the obstacles they must overcome to be employable.
- o Lack of education and in - adequate childcare was the biggest issues they felt that held them back from reaching their goals.
- o Funding for education was another hindrance to becoming successful.

Alternative Justice

- ❖ The main focus of the second Forum was Alternative Justice. Nazko has many issues pertaining to policing and justice.
- ❖ There is a great need for relationship building in this area.
- ❖ Nazko would like to move toward an Alternative Justice system.

Recommendations

- A) It was suggested that the Nazko Community Centre could be more proactive and supportive of the community by assessing the communities needs and offer more activities such as child care, educational programs, life skills parenting, and computer courses.
- B) More support could be in place from the North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Program Society. As part of their mandate is to deliver their programs to the reserve and this is not happening.
- C) CDR representative Mary Glassford will better assist and be involved with Nazko educating them as to the scope of what the district is capable of assisting Nazko.
- D) UNBC thought they would like to be more proactive in assessing the community and enabling them to improve the literacy and education issues for Nazko.
- E) The Police presented the new policing guidelines that would in fact allow the four local First

Nations to share a full time aboriginal police officer that would split their time between the four reserves. About 10 Nazko members have taken alternative justice training and they would like to have assistance in bringing a model into the community.

- F) The Major Nate Bello recommended a closer working relationship with S.D.# 28 to better accommodate the First Nation community. The long bus ride is a huge contributing factor in the poor grades of the students.

Over view

These Forums were a huge success. We did not anticipate the huge participation from the Nazko community, Regional District and City of Quesnel. In my proposal I had anticipated 26 individuals would participate infact there was 73+ participants. It was a real coming together to try and change past patterns of communication and distrust. This was real time of moving forward for all concerned. I could not have been more pleased at the outcome, far more than I had anticipated. This project has set the stage for solidifying good relationship building in the future.

Mileage rate \$.42/km	2454
Dinner for 60 people	1500
Administration	500
Meeting Facilities	300
Facilitation Services coffee/snacks	200
Photo Display and Video Presentations	200
Audio Visual Equipment Rental	200
Final Report Production	300
Contingency	150
Total Expenses	5604.00

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District Palliative Care
concerned at the resurfacing
assisted suicide or euthana-
the Canadian Hospice
Association and the B.C.
ve Care Association in
not euthanasia.
at when palliative care is
citizens of our country the
ia will not be a viable
rain and symptom manage-
ty can be preserved and a
occur. With that, families
nity to say goodbye and

d that in countries where
chised, the elderly may
lose euthanasia, whether
ot. The frail and disabled
will be made for them.
— Jim Weldon, president
rol Weremy vice president
dy Monych, past president
& District Palliative Care
Association

LETTERS

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First Nations community brings issues to City Hall

EDUCATION, POVERTY, HEALTH AND employment for local First Nations were discussed March 16 at City Hall, at the Community to Community Forum. From left, Bernice Cerno, Nazko social services; Laurell Crocker, Laura Boyd, Nazko education representative; Ted Armstrong, Nazko treaty representative; and Mayor Nate Bello helped organize the event, attended by 30 people and catered by River Rock Restaurant. Public discussion of justice issues is planned March 24 at Nazko Community Hall, with food provided.

Photo: Leonard Starr

crews' driving and work called unsafe