

TOWN OF SMITHERS

APR - 4 2005

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March 31, 2005

FILE: 0230-30

Ms. Errin Armstrong
Policy Research Officer
UBCM
Suite 60
10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

RE: March 1, 2005 Community to Community Forum – Final Report

On March 1, 2005 the Town of Smithers successfully hosted a Community to Community Forum at which more than 25 people attended from eight communities and First Nations within our region. Attached to this letter is the final report that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities requires to finalize the financial assistance that UBCM offered to enable us to host this event.

The event was very informative and I would like to thank you for your support on this matter. I look forward to working with UBCM in the future on this and other important topics.

Yours truly,

James Warren
Corporate Administrative Assistant

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Final Report of the March 1, 2005 Community to Community Forum hosted by the Town of Smithers at the Hudson Bay Lodge in Smithers, British Columbia.

As the final requirement for funding assistance for the March 1, 2005 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.

Based on the dialogue, presentations, questions generated, and follow-up items identified, we can positively state the objectives were met for this forum. An update was given regarding the Office of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation Incremental Treaty Agreements process and the group was introduced to a number of new initiatives being explored by the Wet'suwet'en regarding economic development opportunities. An overview of the Wet'suwet'en Territorial Stewardship Plan was also provided and generated some discussion around local community forests and other opportunities.

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

Participant	Organization
Robert E. Sebastian	Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Sharon Robertson	Community Futures Nadina
G. M. Ewald, Mayor	Village of Granisle
Marilyn Stewart, Councillor	Town of Smithers
Butch Morningstar	Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development
Gail Chapman, CAO	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Larry Dockendorff, Councillor	District of Houston
Dan George, Chief Negotiator	Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Dwain Erhardt, Councillor	District of Houston
Wallace Mah, CAO	Town of Smithers
Russell Collier	Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Bill Goodacre, Councillor	Town of Smithers
David G. Belford	Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Bonny Hawley, Councillor	District of Houston
Carlos Felip, DCAO	Town of Smithers
Pete Weeber, Mayor	District of New Hazelton
Susan Schienbein, Councillor	Village of Burns Lake
James Warren, CAA	Town of Smithers
Bernice Magee, Mayor	Village of Burns Lake
Jim Davidson, Mayor	Town of Smithers
Penny Goodacre, Recording Secretary	Town of Smithers

Major Issues Discussed: The major issues that were discussed included: the Wet'suwet'en Incremental Treaty Agreements (ITA) process; the role of the Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development in assisting businesses, local governments, and First Nations to develop opportunities and encourage growth; various opportunities that the Community Futures Development Corporation of Nadina are pursuing including Community Broadband, technical training opportunities, and business startups; and specific issues within each participants' community.

Recommendations: One of the overarching recommendations that came from this event was the importance of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the First Nations and Local Governments. Dan George, Chief Negotiator of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, stated that now would be an opportune time to develop an MOU that includes a workable timeline to further our collective relationships. We have all worked together well in the past, without an MOU, although the benefit to formalize that relationship is appropriate at this time. There were also recommendations to improve the attendance of all communities at the forum, although it was recognized that a funeral coincided on the date of the forum and kept a number of participants from the event.

Financial Summary: The event expenditures for the March 1, 2005 Community to Community Forum are as follows:

Dinner for 25 people @ \$25	\$625
Hudson Bay Lodge Conference Room Rental	100
Communication and printing costs	425
Staff time at Forum (recording secretary) 5 hours @ \$30/hr	150
Event setup and takedown	100
Use of laptop and projection equipment at Forum	75
Final Report production	300
TOTAL	<u>1775</u>

Written Material: Attached to this report are the agenda and minutes 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 developing a Memorandum of Understanding between all of the parties involved in the Community-to-Community Forums would best achieve the recommendations of this group.



Wallace Mah
Chief Administrative Officer

COMMUNITY-TO-COMMUNITY FORUM

Hosted by the Town of Smithers

Tuesday March 1, 2005

3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Ferguson Room, Hudson Bay Lodge, Smithers, B.C.

A G E N D A

- 1. Introduction – Mayor James Davidson** (10 minutes)
- 2. Incremental Treaty Agreement – Progress Update** (20 minutes)
 - a. Chief Negotiator Dan George, Office of the Wet'suwet'en
- 3. Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development** (20 minutes)
 - a. Butch Morningstar – Manager, Regional Economic Services Branch
- 4. Community Futures Development Corporation** (20 minutes)
 - a. Sharon Robertson – CFDC Nadina, examples from Vanderhoof Community Futures
- 5. Opportunities for Cooperation** (90 minutes)
 - a. Each community or agency represented has the opportunity to speak for 15 minutes on recent projects initiated or completed, ongoing activities, and special events. The goal of this portion of the agenda is to identify areas in which Bulkley Valley communities could work together on various initiatives.
 - i. David Belford (Regional Tourism Initiative with Wet'suwet'en, Gitxsan, and Gitanyow); Andrew George Jr. (Wet'suwet'en Territorial Stewardship Plan Update)
- 6. Buffet Dinner Break (6:00 p.m.)**
- 7. Other Business/New Business**
- 8. Adjournment (7:00 p.m.)**

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM

NOTES OF THE COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE WET'SUWET'EN HELD IN THE FERGUSON ROOM AT HUDSON BAY LODGE, SMITHERS, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005.

Local Government Present:

Mayor Jim Davidson, Town of Smithers, Chair
Norm Adomeit, Councillor, Town of Smithers
Bill Goodacre, Councillor, Town of Smithers
Marilyn Stewart, Councillor, Town of Smithers
Wallace Mah, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Smithers
Carlos Felip, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Smithers
James Warren, Corporate Administrative Assistant, Town of Smithers
Bonny Hawley, Councillor, District of Houston
Dwain Erhardt, Councillor, District of Houston
Larry Dockendorff, Councillor, District of Houston
Mayor Pete Weeber, District of New Hazelton
Mayor Gerald Ewald, Village of Granisle
Mayor Bernice Magee, Village of Burns Lake
Susan Schienbein, Councillor, Village of Burns Lake
Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Penny Goodacre, Recording Secretary, Town of Smithers.

Office of the Wet'suwet'en Present:

Dan George, Chief Negotiator, Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Russell Colier, Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Robert Sebastian, Photographer, Office of the Wet'suwet'en
David Belford, Consultant.

Public Present:

Butch Morningstar, Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development
Sharon Robertson, CFDC Nadina.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Davidson, Chair, called the meeting to order (3:56 p.m.).

INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Davidson thanked everyone for attending and introductions were made around the room.

2. **INCREMENTAL TREATY AGREEMENT – PROGRESS UPDATE**

Chief Negotiator Dan George, Office of the Wet'suwet'en:

The Wet'suwet'en Office Chief Negotiator presented major negotiation difficulties being experienced at the tri-partite negotiation table with BC and Canada. Concerns include extinguishment, land selection model, full and final settlement, taxation, allocations, and no compensation.

Question and Answer Period:

Q: Has the Office of the Wet'suwet'en considered developing a policy with Local Governments through the Incremental Treaty Agreements in respect to taxation, terms of reference, service agreements, etc?

A: The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is interested in developing a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments using a useful work plan. Now appears to be a very good time to begin discussions on a document of this type.

Councillor Hawley suggested that a Treaty Advisory Committee be resurrected and Local Governments need the Wet'suwet'en's support in doing so.

Q: Smithers is on the eve of obtaining a community forest between the Wet'suwet'en, Telkwa and Smithers. How do we all work together on this project?

A: The Office of the Wet'suwet'en staff will review the proposal for impacts on us. We need to celebrate this project and all of us working together in harmony over it. Andrew George Jr. is participating on behalf of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and will keep the Chiefs informed.

Q: Is the Office of the Wet'suwet'en interested in working with the District of Houston and their Community Forest?

A: Yes, we are open for any opportunities that will help our members in a positive way.

3. **MINISTRY OF SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Butch Morningstar, Manager, Regional Economic Services Branch for the Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development:

The Ministry sets the framework for business and industry to establish itself through economic development and growth across the province of British Columbia. It also promotes investment and competitiveness with trade relations, marketing and promotions, and studies global impacts of businesses.

The economic development vision includes: Tourism and Small Business Branch; Tourism BC; and Infrastructure Branch (Canada-BC Infrastructure; Olympic Live Sites; and 2010 Olympics). The sub-Ministry's goal is to reduce regulations by as much as thirty seven percent.

The Economic Development Branch works on the following projects: Port Strategy; Infrastructure; Olympic Live Sites; fast tracks projects and works with large industry; Mountain Pine Beetle Task Force; and Tourism Branch.

careers and technical training institute; g) First Nations entrepreneurial training; h) Tachek Forestry and Wood Manufacturing Initiative; i) alternative energy; and j) community economic development.

CFDC in Vanderhoof created the Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to address economic development issues and is based on the premise that there is strength and increased capacity when working together towards common goals. REDI covers the Stuart Nechako area including Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James.

CFDC Nadina mandate is to support the economic vitality, entrepreneurial spirit, cultural vibrancy and environmental integrity that is the foundation for the interweaving of healthy communities in a sustainable region.

5. **OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION**

5.a) i. **Russell Collier, Wet'suwet'en Territorial Stewardship Plan Update:**

The Wet'suwet'en Territorial Stewardship Plan is a territory wide planning tool with many map layers. It is currently in stage two of development – the wrap up stage, stage three would be the implementation of the plan. The Wet'suwet'en Territorial Stewardship Plan identifies, protects and plans.

The Morice LRMP and the Wet'suwet'en Territorial Stewardship Plan have many common interests and a high degree of overlap. They both stress protection of the land and highlight new opportunities. There are three parts to the plan: 1) ecosystem mapping; 2) cultural heritage resources; and 3) traditional ecological knowledge.

Wet'suwet'en Territorial Stewardship Plan provides three opportunities:

- 1) Small hydro generation:
 - Identifying streams to produce power from;
 - Researching partnering with small businesses, lodge owners, municipalities; and
 - Resale of power back to the BC Hydro power grid.
- 2) Commercial Non-Timber Forest Management:
 - Wild huckleberries and blueberries.
- 3) Traditional food production, consumption, distribution:
 - To battle Type 2 Diabetes in the Wet'suwet'en population;
 - Moose, berries, fish, etc.

The Village of Granisle is interested in working on a tourism promotion package that highlights the whole region and suggested that an advertising cooperative on tourism be developed.

The Village of Granisle has been awarded some funding to construct a woolly mammoth; similar to the one that was found during mine excavations; as a tourism tool to attract visitors to their community.

Mayor Davidson agreed that regional promotion should be discussed.

5.a) vi. Mayor Weeber, District of New Hazelton:

The District of New Hazelton now holds joint Council meetings with the Hagwilget Band.

The District of New Hazelton's forest industry is not very good as there are no mills in the Hazeltons remaining open. There is discussion about developing a chip generation plant for energy production.

Mayor Weeber suggested that with the \$50 million funding given to the Northern Development Initiative, they should look into developing regional tourism opportunities. He suggested multi-destination tour packages where you stop and stay at many different communities during your trip.

5.a) vii. Gail Chapman, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is working on its Emergency Preparedness Plan and a 911 service for the region.

5.a) viii. Robert Sebastian, Photographer, Office of the Wet'suwet'en:

R. Sebastian suggested that the Local Governments should try to develop an action plan to work towards a Memo of Understanding in order to have a vehicle with paper in front of us to move forward as D. George commented on.

6. OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

None.