

# **COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM**

**District of Tofino  
Ahousaht First Nation  
Hesquiaht First Nation**

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

# COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM

**Welcoming by Mayor Allen Anderson, District of Tofino**

**Introduction of Attendees**

**Vision of the Day**

**Common Issues**

**Goals**

**Next Steps**

**Present:**

Allen Anderson, Mayor District of Tofino  
Peter Ayres, District of Tofino  
Vera Webb, District of Tofino  
Michael Tilitzky, District of Tofino  
Derek Shaw, District of Tofino

Roman Frank, Ahousaht First Nation  
Anne Atleo, Ahousaht First Nation  
Violet Clark, Ahousaht First Nation  
Mark Jack, Ahousaht First Nation

Joseph Tom, Hesquiaht First Nation

**Regrets:**

Francis Frank, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

## **Welcoming by Mayor Allen Anderson, District of Tofino**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and thanked the First Nations for allowing us to come together in their traditional territory.

An opening prayer was given by Joseph Tom.

The Mayor explained our vision of a better understanding of each other and our communities through the forum. We wish to gain knowledge, insight and respect as we move forward as community leaders working through common issues towards common goals.

## **Personal Introductions**

Personal introductions were given by each of the attendees, including a brief biography of history and personal and professional information.

## **Visions of the Day**

We are working to expand our resources and positively network for the sake of our children and their futures. These are the first steps for the Councils to work collectively to share experiences and education.

The First Nations representatives noted some of their joys and challenges working with grass roots people and their lack of independence from the Federal government in some decision making. They expressed that it's not about what the government and residential schools did to them, but what stops them from moving on. They are solutions orientated and there is no right or wrong, there is only a learning experience.

## **COMMON ISSUES**

- Parking
- They noted the 80-90% unemployment rate
- Tourism
  - Challenges/ Impact
  - Capturing the business that maybe available
- IMEA renegotiating
- RCMP
  - Consolidating Admin
- Wharf Street Dock
- Coastal Zone Planning
  - Determining Suitability Aquaculture and Water & Shore lands
- Provincial Licensing
- Community School
- Long Beach Arena
- Hospital/West Coast General (Pt. Alberni), VIHA
  - Community Health Committee, Long term health care
- Solid Waste Disposal management
- Emergency Plans
- Highways
- Wickaninnish Elementary School and School District 70
- Brad Band Access
- Parks Provincial and Federal
- Electric Service - BC Hydro
- Paramedic Training and Sharing support

## **PRIORITY ISSUES**

### **Hospital**

- Currently re-assessing services
- Unfortunate re-structuring/learning with VIHA under new management
- Tofino and the rest of West Coast needs to be included in statistics (currently seems to be some lacking)

### **By-Law**

- Sharing of by-law officers (ie. Animal control)
- Traffic and parking issues

## Tourism

- Tourism planning strategies
- Managing the Growth
  - tourists, respect from tourist to Clayoquot Sound
  - impacts on Clayoquot Sound
  - protecting our areas
- Band/Council approval for visitors to First Nations areas
  - increased communication
- Changes in historical/cultural dings
- Exposure at Regional Visitor Centre
- Business Licenses to be issued by District of Tofino with authorization from First Nations for use in their areas
- Proper information to visitors on various levels
- Draw people into intimate visitor information centres to relay important information opportunities to guide and educate about Clayoquot Sound and its people
- Options to distribute information at centres and on wharfs
- Operations in Clayoquot Sound from out of town businesses should be joint effort and approvals for users and licenses that are issued should be referred to all parties.
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
  - collect fees
  - protection and education
  - Application for use must be accepted and authorized by all groups affected
  - Monies collected would be utilized for natural preservation, trails etc
  - formula should be established for funds
- Synergy of people and land should be a celebration of cultures, wealth of history and holistic aspects
- Integrating cultural experience with natural area
- Questions of who determines capacity for this area?
- Central Region Board's role
  - land use
  - management review
  - improved communications with external parties
- Possibility of reviving Clayoquot Days and involving all Councils and Communities

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- Ahousaht key contact for emergency services is Curtis Dick
- Joint training efforts
  - paramedic
  - first responders, etc.
- Integrating plans and services
- PEP - Provincial Emergency Program, combining training and planning efforts
- Understanding role of various agencies (ie. Coast Guard)
- Water evacuation option - 4 boats with auxiliary status
- MOU's
- Information sharing
- Ambulance service on water
  - funding issues

## **HEALTH AND WELFARE**

- Unemployment in most local First Nations is 80-90%
- Drugs and Alcohol
  - Tofino is the channel to the outer reserve areas
- Hospitals
  - Tofino General and West Coast General
  - VIHA relationships
- Buildings
  - ~61 new buildings in Ahousaht this year
  - Mold and mildew
  - building codes
  - sharing of Building inspector

## **FIRST STREET WHARF**

District of Tofino (DOT) has a 2 year option to opt out of Wharf management

- Foreshore lease pending with potential commercial rate to be applied
- possible contract management to Tofino Harbour Authority
- outside operator could privately manage the dock for profit if no other agreement can be arranged between local government and agencies
- if no agreement can be made, Transport Canada could remove the dock
- ~ \$500,000 was given to DOT to upgrade to low maintenance facility
- commercial usage with fees = commercial rates on foreshore lease
- Ahousaht noted fees are already paid to Transport Canada

## **Parking**

- Large issue is supply of available lots in high season
- Hesquiaht owns lot near wharf, and the Band has discussed building a parking garage with tour charter
- Option of "valet" parking to designated parking areas within the District
- Frees up congested downtown parking
- Valet would work if local enforcement of parking is initiated
- Towing companies can be hard on all wheel drive vehicles
- Liability concerns - new ramp on the wharf could be inadequate, better access but maybe too lightweight
- Vehicle tags for off shore residences is ~ 252 permits (Ahousaht claimed ~ 100 permits)
- Possible fees to user groups ? Annual fees ?
- Positive enforcement of parking standards and zones

## **GOALS**

Moving forward, all Councils expressed an interest to pursue a joint framework of all Councils and their common concerns.

We identified the need for a common voice to work through our concerns, and the need to meet on a regular basis.

With open communication and dialogue, we look forward to a more effective and positive relay of information.

To raise our families to grow together with respect for generations past, present and future, and celebration of why we are unique and why we are one in Clayoquot Sound.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- All attendees are looking forward to the opportunity of new meetings
- Council buddies system between Councillors
  - Email, phone, coffee
  - Information Exchange
- Sub Regional government
  - Explore options beneath the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD)
- Lack of representation by First Nations Groups at ACRD
- Future meeting dates need to be firmed up moving forward
- New generations working together
- Re-establishing connections
- Consistency of Ahousaht and other First Nations Councils
- Pro-Active planning
- Sharing between Council members
- Upcoming elections within First Nations
- Best methods of contact established
  - Ahousaht - fax and email
  - Hesquiaht - email - Band Manager (Nancy VanHeest)

*Next scheduled meeting will be September 2004*

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Tofino Community Hall was donated by the District of Tofino

Mayor Allen Anderson was our host/facilitator

District staff time approximately 30 hours (~\$600.00)



**Total food and refreshments \$490.00**

Ladies Auxiliary for 22 persons at \$18.00 per person (+ gratuity)

Miscellaneous refreshments

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