

## Chair report up to & including Monday August 19/19

I hope everyone has enjoyed their smoke free and alert free break since the last Board meeting, and have had a chance to relax and recreate in their own areas. It has been a quiet few weeks for me as well, but below are some of the meetings and events I have attended.

- From July 22 – 26, I was in the Bella Coola valley for NDIT's Board on the Road event. As always we saw several completed projects that the Trust had helped fund, plus I got to connect with the Central Coast RD Chair, Sam Schooner, over supper. We had an enlightening conversation over similar challenges, as well as First Nation engagement post the Truth and Reconciliation report. We did the hike up to the Nuxalk petroglyphs, and did a rafting trip that encountered a mother grizzly with 2 small cubs. As with the CRD, this was a great opportunity to gel as a Board especially as we have 4 new members on a Board of 13. The Board spent quite a bit of time during the Board meeting, discussing ways to expand the Trust's aid to communities impacted by mill closures and curtailments, but remaining within the legislative framework that the Trust operates under.
- On Saturday July 27, I attended the Townhall meeting organised by Horton Ventures and funded by the Province. The turnout from the stakeholders was phenomenal considering it was a weekend, but there were very few affected workers from the mill closures and curtailments, which was really disappointing, especially as a Saturday was the day they had requested.
- That same evening, I attended a dinner sponsored by the Gold Wing motor cycle group from the NW States and Canada, along with Mayor Campsall, Councillor Mingo & MLA Barnett. It was a great evening, but the line up of motor cycles lined up outside the 100 Mile Community hall, was definitely the show stopper.
- On August 1/19, Manager of Protective Services Ms. Masun and myself, met with Agricultural Minister Popham in Quesnel, to discuss the need for ongoing, constant funding for disasters that impact farming, like the floods in the Big Creek area this year. One of the biggest challenges we face during these disasters is the timeline of when we can assure residents that their

losses from flooding or fire will or will not be covered by the Province. Minister Popham and her staff were fully understanding of our dilemma, and have agreed to follow through with our request.

- The Flood & Fire review committee funded through UBCM & the Province continues to engage on a bi-weekly basis. Our work has now been centered around the new Emergency Program Act (EPA) that will be presented to Govt. in the late fall. There will be a session at UBCM on this proposal, with time for feedback from elected officials as a whole, so I would encourage you to attend.

As always, if there are any items you would like to discuss further, please either talk with me in private or bring it up when this item comes up for receipt on the August 23 agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Wagner