

## Chair report up to & including October 15/24

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and got to spend some valuable time with friends and family. I would like to thank Director Neufeld for standing in for me at the Woodlot AGM held in Quesnel, and Director Pare for attending the BC Cattlemen's meeting and dinner in Williams lake. Unfortunately due to the trip to Atlin for NDIT, I was unable to attend these events.

I do feel that I have to chat about the inequities in Atlin. It is the only community in BC that is not part of a Regional District or a municipality, and as such does not receive any CWF, or surprisingly enough – the northern allowance! Many of the grants that the village would be eligible for, need to be supported by local Government – which they don't have! The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is trying to help with some funding through NDIT for grants with softer rules, and with some of these funds, NDIT has sourced and hired a community economic development person that lives in Atlin to filter the applications for these special grant funds. Much of my 5 days in the village was spent meeting with local residents along side representatives from Municipal Affairs, trying to ensure that this unique community has the funding available to them to survive. Their OCP has not been updated since 1968, and unfortunately this has led to some shoreline development that has not been very beneficial to the whole community.

Whilst I am on the subject of NDIT, it has now become public that our CEO, Joel McKay has accepted a CAO position with the City of Quesnel. It is a big loss for the Trust, but a great move for Joel as his in-laws live in Quesnel, and he was looking for a new challenge. I am sure that all of the local Governments that have developed a relationship with Joel over his 8 years as CEO, wish him nothing but the best in his new endeavour.

On Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> along with Director Forseth, I attended the all candidates forum in 100 Mile House. There were approximately 100 people in attendance, with some thought provoking questions put forward for both candidates. It was great to see so many come out to listen to both candidates, with this apparently being a close race.

The next few weeks will be interesting as the newly elected Government gets to work and appoints Ministers to their various portfolios, and local Governments work to develop relationships with these Ministers to forward and advocate for the business of the CRD.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo A. Wagner