



January 26, 2015 Report to City Council
Work From November 24, 2014 to January 21, 2015

The last two months have been invested primarily in the initiatives identified below. In each instance the EDM has participated in meetings, made phone calls, written emails and assisted with briefing notes, letters and correspondence related to that project. Additional information deemed important to Council is bulleted. The organization that is serving as the champion for the event is identified in parentheses; ACRD is Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District; CPA is City of Port Alberni; WCA is West Coast Aquatics; PS is Private Sector.

1. Alberni Valley Regional Airport (ACRD)
 - Immediate Goal is to obtain funding for runway improvements and lighting
 - Business Case is near completion
 - Build Canada application is due February 18, 2015
2. Commercial Fishing (Processing Industry) workshop Jan 27 & 28 (CPA)
 - Ultimate Goal is for additional trades training locally through North Island College
 - Workshop focus is seafood processing training and recruitment issues
 - Speakers from Alaska, Maritimes & Oregon here
3. Fisheries Stewardship Centre (WCA)
 - Goal is to establish an education centre and tourist attraction at Harbour Quay
 - Have started process for request of text amendment to zoning at Quay
 - Preparing Stage 2 application to ICET
4. Two (unrelated) wood-biomass high-value products companies (PS)
 - Goal is to land both companies in Port Alberni
 - Currently assisting one company with environmental approval process
 - Currently assisting one company with location issues
5. Attraction of Young People/Young Families to Alberni Valley (CPA)
 - Goal is to increase population and utilize existing facilities
 - Began targeting young people through Heart of Vancouver Island in November
 - Asking Young Professionals for assistance with best medium and message
6. Islands Agriculture Show (ACRD)
 - Goal is to showcase Alberni Valley at Feb 13th & 14th event in Courtenay
7. Website (CPA)
 - Goal is to attract new residents, businesses and visitors
 - Website team is addressing issues on mobile devices

Some other matters of note:

- We are coordinating a visit of the Society of Economic Development of BC for their Economusee initiative January 27; they will go to McLean's Mill, Pete's Mountain Meats and Martin van Humbeck's studio

- Two foreign investors who have purchased local businesses have not yet been approved by the BC Provincial Nominee Program so we are intervening on their behalf
- A few young people in our community have been nominated for the Top 20 Under 40 Business & Community Achievement Awards; four of our citizens (Sharie Minions, Britt Coulson, Gord Groves and Mike Lange) have landed in the Top 20 in this very competitive Vancouver Island event in the last two years
- The organizers of the Sproat Lake Regatta are making it a 10-day event this year and are looking for more volunteers in several capacities; the contact person is Joe Van Bergan at 250.723.6159

One measure of activity is provided below:

It is the approximate percentage of my time occupied by that general category in this reporting period

✓ Business Retention, Expansion, Attraction	55%
✓ Transportation Infrastructure	18%
✓ Advertising/Marketing/New Resident Recruitment	17%
✓ Assisting 2015 Events including Conferences	8%
✓ Other (Budget, Webinars, etc.)	2%

Pat Deakin
Economic Development Manager