



September 28th, 2015 Report to City Council

Brief Update on Selected Current Initiatives

1. District Energy RFP
 - A site visit and briefing was held for proponents September 1st. Proponents who did not attend the site visit participated in a briefing by teleconference September 24th. The RFP closes November 3rd, 2015.
2. Re-Branding
 - The Re-Branding Team is currently doing an inventory of assets for a water-based economic development brand direction.
3. Tourism survey and research
 - The visitor survey will close September 30th, 2015. The results from the survey are anticipated in November.
4. Cantimber Biotech
 - Most of the company's equipment has been installed and they anticipate starting operations in late October or early November.
5. Business Walks
 - A one-day 'blitz' of the business community is being organized for Small Business Week in October. Small teams of people will canvass businesses in every business 'district' and ask 4 or 5 questions which could assist in determining economic development priorities in 2016.
6. Revitalizing and Enhancing Cities Through Culture and Cultural Mapping
 - A Simon Fraser PhD student is partnering with Vancouver Island University to try and secure funding for a 6 month project which would explore the role culture and cultural facilities have in revitalizing the economy of small communities.
 - Nanaimo, Courtenay and Port Alberni have been asked to participate in this project and on behalf of the community, the Economic Development office has said 'yes'.

Pat Deakin, Economic Development Manager