



## **Huu-ay-aht First Nations**

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## **John A. Jack, Member of Council**

### **Report for Executive Council Meeting on March 18, 2013**

#### **Portfolios and Objectives**

##### **A. Economic Development / HDC Board of Directors**

1. Economic Development Act Community Rounds
2. Feedback from EcDev Committee on Act
3. Update on EcDev Projects

##### **B. ACRD**

1. Local Government Leadership Academy
2. First Reading of Financial Plan

#### **Progress**

##### **A. Economic Development Committee / HDC**

1. I have given presentations on the Economic Development Act and related documents to Vancouver, Anacla and Nanaimo. It has been suggested that I give this version of the presentation to folk in Port Alberni at a time when staff may attend as well. I will update when that occurs.
2. The Economic Development Committee has again reviewed the proposed Economic Development Act and has come to the conclusion that it agrees with some of the issues brought up at the initial drafting stage. There will be a briefing note on this topic, but the main point here is that it should be enough for Executive Council to give the go-ahead on a project, rather than waiting for the Legislature to get there. Going with the latter can (and likely will) delay projects by up to a year and possibly mean that we must forgo opportunities that we can act upon quickly enough.
3. Progress on the Economic Development Projects listed as “Higher Priority” are as follows:

- i. Sarita MicroHydro Project: HDC has received the second and third payments from the Major Project Infrastructure Fund (MPIF), the fourth payment is due to come in by the time of this report and the application for the fifth has been submitted.
- ii. Bamfield Store and Restaurant: The business plan has been completed and is in the meeting materials. HDC and EcDev Committee have been working with NEDC on acquiring substantial amounts of forgivable loans to help ensure we have the best chance at making this work. Today, we will need Executive Council's approval to acquire the land and business during an in-camera discussion of the details.
- iii. Anacla Campground / Gas Station / Store / Parkade: Progress has still been centered on applying for the appropriate interests in land through the processes set up by the HFN's land department.

## **B. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District**

1. This is complete → "I will be participating in a panel discussion regarding our involvement in with the Regional District at the Local Government Leadership Academy workshop held from Wednesday, February 20 to Friday, February 22. It will be held in Surrey, and travel costs will be covered by the LGLA."
2. The Board of Directors of the ACRD have completed first reading of the financial plan. Due to the difference in our governance structure, many of the decisions being made that change the budget have to be made at the electoral area or committee level. As a result, I cannot give a broad stroke report on what has changed. One major difference, however, is that all communities apart from the FN members have been able to access the "gas tax" moneys set aside for local infrastructure.

## **Emerging Issues**

### **A. Economic Development / HDC**

1. Accessing funds for investment in future projects is a strategic concern for the committee and the HDC boards. It will be necessary that we have a discussion during capital budgeting regarding Executive Council's plan for economic development.
2. EcDev Committee has asked that members of government, members of finance and senior directors attend an Economic Development Strategic Planning Session for April 11-12. The costs of the venue, facilitator and possibly food will be covered by HDC.