Please Note: I had taken some days off as a part of Annual Leave. During that time, I was called in to work on the Friday and the Tuesday of that Annual Leave. I have not yet rectified my Leave Filings, but intend to take some time off during the week of the submission of this report (August 28).

LNG and LNG Advisory – Progress Report

LNG Advisory Committee

A conference call was held to review the final draft of the KLNG Project Description. Nathan Hume was there to provide technical support, and many thanks to the Law Clerk who called in to take notes for the meeting. I’d like to share my appreciation for R. Todd Dennis, Brian Lucas, and Norman Dennis for being dependable committee members. There was no substantial feedback on the PD itself, but rather some questions and suggestions regarding how we communicate with the Nation, our neighbours and the wider public about the Project itself.

HFN-SLNG Project Oversight Board

A special POB meeting was called at the urging of myself and fellow member, Rob Botterell, based on the timing and importance of an HFN-led capital raise. The bulk of this issue is highly confidential, but in the interests of what can be reported, we believe HFN has the capacity and the expertise to help the project by finding organizations to invest in the project at the development phase. Investment at the development phase is inherently more risky from a financial perspective, but the returns are generally much higher than at later stages. Finding and successfully pitching the project to folks who can invest tens of millions of dollars takes our own experts, our own plan, and the people needed actually heading on the road to speak to these folks directly.

LNG and LNG Advisory – Emerging Issues

The Project Oversight Board will require modification in its operation in order to help create a better problem solving and relationship building atmosphere, rather than one of mere reports. There is broad agreement amongst all the members of the POB that this should be the case, and we have put into place a preliminary plan of action to make that a fact for the next POB meeting.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Progress Report

[We should have a contractor for solid waste (garbage, etc.) pickup for all three major players in Tliishin’s hahoulthlee. And that program will move ahead with improving the quality and scope of service in the area. I would like to thank the work that our Director of Public Works and Infrastructure
has put into this, as well as suggest that we send a letter of thanks to both the responsible staff at the ACRD as well as Director Keith Wyton for his efforts in helping to make this happen.

Progress with Tseshahit First Nation on the issue of the landfill is coming to a head. The ACRD will be making its tenure application to FLNRO for the landfill and we will head into consultation from there. Meetings were held with Tseshahit and even Minister Scott Fraser (as our MLA) to ask him to advocate for the ACRD keeping the ~$6MM it was allocated past the end of the fiscal year because the delays were due to good-faith relationship-building with TFN.

The Board of Directors conducted a flawed study to review their remuneration. It saw an increase, but not one that takes into account both the changes to the tax structure, and the cost of living. Of course, any increase to the remuneration of government is controversial, but it is my belief that local government members are critically underpaid, which leads to only a certain subset of people even willing to put their name forward. I would point to the severe lack of indigenous, female, and (relatively) young people even announcing candidacy for local office. This fact makes me appreciate the work done in the past regarding the full-time, salaried work that we conduct here at HFN.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Emerging Issues

[The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) annual convention is happening in September. I will be in attendance as the Chair of the ACRD, but I will also need to know if I should put time aside to aide our own in attending meetings there in Whistler.

External Relations (Federal) – Progress Report

Minister Philpott was in Nanaimo for the Cabinet Retreat, the first one following the Cabinet Shakeup that Prime Minister Trudeau announced not too long ago. The federal government and the provincial government joined HFN, and later the NTC, for an announcement on funding for the Social Services Panel Report Recommendations and the State of Emergency. With HFN providing a baseline of $650,000 and the Province in for $400,000, the Federal Government announced approximately $800,000 per year for five years to support our report and programs. This is a huge win for HFN, and I’d like to acknowledge the work that had gone into all of this from Councillor Charles, to the Social Services Panel and Task Force, to the support of staff and contractors, and the Chief-Councillor for advocating this with the proper level of vigor and compassion.

External Relations (Federal) – Emerging Issues

[The perceived weakness of the sitting Liberal government is a concern. If things do not go well, we are not likely to see anything other than a Conservative majority under Andrew Scheer; if they go as expected, we may see a Liberal-led Minority or a Liberal-NDP/Green Coalition. Regardless, I think we need to consider continuing with a broad, all-parties approach to federal relationship building, but also ensure that we have good knowledge of Andrew Scheer’s proposed plans in the event that the Tories
take government in 2019. Regardless of who is in government, we need to show that we can work with any and all parties in good faith on behalf of our people, and the Canadian people’s chosen leaders.

With the announcement of Conservative-leadership-rival Maxime Bernier on his intention to leave the Tories and start a new political party, the political landscape may shift to an early-1990s model where the Liberals form a long-standing majority government due to the right and centre-right parties splitting the vote. Adding in the ineffectiveness of NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, who seems preoccupied with attempting to balance the blue collar and LEAP manifesto wings of his own party, it appears as though we need to consider re-election of the Trudeau Liberals. This doesn’t appear to be a bad thing, in any way, for the HFN but I still believe a broad-based approach to federal engagement is the safest bet.

NOTE: I have been appointed a Director of my university, VIU, recently, and will be devoting about twelve days a year to its governance. This should not impact my duties as a Councillor, nor as Chair of the ACRD. We should, however, perhaps have a discussion regarding whether Council is comfortable with my running for Chair of the ACRD once more after the local government elections in October.
August Executive Council report for Ben Clappis

August was a slow month holiday time for some people. For myself, I attended the Executive Council meeting on August 1st Anacla. On August 10th NTC EETC meeting in Port Alberni. I did some cheque signing between both offices. And took holidays starting August 17th and returned Sept-4th.