



President's Update to the College Community

June 5, 2004

Economic Development Sessions Aboard

Throughout the spring months there have been many meetings on how to stimulate economic development in the northwest. The College has been invited to make presentations in all of these sessions, which has helped to profile the college's role in social and economic change. The most recent discussions occurred with Premier Gordon Campbell on May 27th and June 1st with Senator Jack Austin in the Terrace Council Chambers. While the profile for the College has been good and the discussions have been interesting, it remains to be seen what changes will occur at the government level to help the northwest.

Employee Recognition Event

A formal dinner event saw over 40 employees recognized for their long service to the College. Employees who have worked at NWCC for ten, fifteen or twenty years were presented with a gift and certificate of appreciation. The event was well attended and judging from the emails and cards received, employees really appreciated the evening.

Alcan celebrates 50 years in Kitimat

This year Alcan's Kitimat operation celebrates its 50th anniversary. The College Culinary students catered the opening celebratory event held in Kitimat on May 15th. Service to over 350 people went exceptionally well and was an opportunity for me to meet again with Paul Henning, Director of Operations.

Community Presentations

The spring months have me touring the region making presentations to Rotary and Council meetings. The tour started out in Terrace with an update on the financial barriers for our students and a request to the Skeena Rotary Club for the initiation of a Rotary endowment fund. Funding requests are also scheduled for clubs in Rupert for the Rupert campus and in Smithers requesting support for the Exploration and Mining initiative.

Management Seminar Series

The first of a series of management seminars took place on May 20th. Learning Works Inc of Vancouver, presented a five hour seminar on Harassment in the Workplace and held an in depth discussion of the College's Harassment and Discrimination policy. Future seminars are planned to occur every three months beginning again in September. These seminars have been initiated to address the absence of management development opportunities in the northwest. Some of these seminars will be open to other management personnel in other companies in the north. A set number of these seminars will be fashioned to lead to a management development certificate.

This is the first step in the development of a Management Development Institute for the northwest.

Premier Campbell and Shirley Bond at NWCC

Meetings with Premier Campbell, Shirley Bond and local MLAs consumed most of the last week of May. Tuesday May 25th, Premier Campbell, Shirley Bond and Bill Belsey toured the new campus project in Prince Rupert and announced a further 250 seats for NWCC over the next six years.

On May 26th a Liberal fund-raising event was held in Terrace and catered by the Culinary Arts students. This event showcased the College to over 100 community members and provided an opportunity for me to meet many more community members personally. The Premier was in attendance and both he and Roger Harris acknowledged the College and its importance in the region.

On May 27th, Roger Harris invited me to participate in a Roundtable with the Premier and the northwest MLAs on the economy. Senior personnel from companies such as Alcan, Eurocan, Methanex, BC Hydro, BC Metals, Prince Rupert Grain, Prince Rupert Bulk Terminal were in attendance, along with John Nestor, President of the Truck Loggers Association. I addressed the challenges and importance of building human capacity in the northwest.

NWCC Convocation

Two graduations were held at NWCC this year: one in Prince Rupert and one in Terrace. Forty-three out of forty-five graduates were present at the Rupert graduation and one hundred and twenty out of three hundred and fifty graduates were present in Terrace. Both events were very well attended and not only acknowledged the graduates but provided a further venue to promote the College.

Fairhaven Farms

NWCC has been approached by the Gitksan Chiefs to be the education partner in the development of a training institute at Fairhaven Farms. Fairhaven Farms is located near Kitwanga and has been in existence for several years. This organic farm was originally set-up as an experiential education facility for student's age 14 to 18 years of age. Students would engage in both daily work experiences and traditional study. This faith-based operation ceased to be a school in 1997. Fairhaven continues to operate a successful organic bakery, donnage mill and organic market gardens selling both bread and produce to Safeway.

Fairhaven Farms is interested in selling to the Gitksan people who would like to use it for both employment and educational uses. NWCC and the Gitksan have agreed to jointly prepare a business plan proposal for consideration by both the College and the Gitksan Chiefs.