



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT FOR JANUARY 28, 2008

Work in December 2007 and thus far in January 2008 has focused on four initiatives:

1. the Wood Tech 21 'round table discussion' that took place in Port Alberni Jan 10 and 11 and involved more than 40 researchers and industry experts;
2. the production of a pamphlet inviting relocation of forest industry firms to Port Alberni for distribution at the Truck Loggers Association convention;
3. preparation of a report for Council on industrial taxation;
4. written weekly columns on economic development issues for local media

Other Business Retention and Expansion efforts have included:

- Assistance to Acoustic Woods for their relocation and wood supply needs;
- Meetings with the Uptown Merchants Association and Southport Revitalization Association;
- Meetings with the Coulson Group of Companies regarding a forest industry training institute;
- Meetings with the Ministry of Forests and Range and SOVA to identify ways of moving forward on recommendations made in the 'Review of the Port Alberni Forest Industry';
- Meetings with local First Nations to discuss their interest in economic development initiatives in Port Alberni
- Ongoing provision of assistance to 4 community efforts to secure Island Coastal Economic Trust funds;
- Assistance to a 'Think Asia' workshop scheduled for Sat Feb 2 at 10 AM at Echo Centre;
- Meetings with artists looking for a collective venue similar to a farmers market;
- Assistance to the efforts of ACERES (Alberni-Clayoquot Environmental Research and Education Society) to establish a Business-Led Centre of Excellence here

Ongoing Business Attraction efforts include:

- Continued work, with other City staff, on the Requests for Proposals for City-owned properties at Stirling Field and Tebo Avenue;
- Work with four entrepreneurs interested in relocating to Port Alberni;
- Meetings with a developer interested in larger waterfront properties in the community

Work that has not moved forward over this period includes:

- the Community Economic Development Strategy;
- a strategy for the sale of City-owned properties
- acquisition of the Catalyst surplus lands by a key stakeholder group

Pat Deakin