



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2011

Three economic development issues and opportunities are being brought forward for Council's attention at this time:

1. Industrial Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw

Many people in the economic development field are of the opinion that the best contribution a municipal government can make to the local economy is to improve the 'hosting conditions' in the community for industry, business, institutions and organizations.

This Council has done several things to improve hosting conditions including adoption of the Industrial and Commercial Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaws, provision of a tax break to the industrial class of property, land grants or exchanges and more.

The Industrial Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw has now expired with no 'take-up' of its provisions. However a company looking to establish three small (by comparison to the Catalyst and Western Forest Products operations) integrated forest industrial manufacturing facilities in Port Alberni has indicated that a new Industrial Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw would be one of the keys to moving forward with the project.

Accordingly Council's approval is requested for preparation of a new Industrial Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw for consideration at the next Council meeting.

2. Brownfields

As Council knows, brownfield issues have complicated efforts to lease, sell or develop industrial and commercial properties throughout the community. In recent months, several potential project proponents have concluded that the process and cost of remediation are respectively too time consuming and too expensive to allow pursuit of the opportunities.

Accordingly Council's approval is requested for preparation of a letter to the Premier and several Ministers of the Provincial Government suggesting an alternative approach to the issues and requesting a meeting for the purpose of achieving agreement on this matter.

3. The 'New Face of Port Alberni' Campaign

Council is advised that a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued within the next two weeks for this campaign approved by Council during the recent budget deliberations. The RFP will have a closing date of July 29, 2011 and the campaign will be initiated as soon as possible thereafter.

Pat Deakin
Economic Development Manager