



MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2008 – 2011 COUNCIL TERM

Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences: Donated land and ensured 'shovel ready' status of grant application in 19 days. This secured a federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program grant of \$1.65 million.

Alberni Athletic Hall: Completed lands swap and assisted in securing a federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada grant of \$1 million.

Visitor Information Centre: Assisted in securing \$706,000 from ICET.

Harbour Quay Improvements: Secured \$250,000 from West Coast Community Adjustment Program.

Runners Trail: Secured \$450,000 from ICET and contracted with Tseshaht First Nation to develop trail. Trail provides partial link into Cowichan Valley from Inlet Trail.

Integrated Resource Recovery Study: Secured \$5,000 in provincial funding. Study recommended District Energy System.

Secured annual and increasing contributions for economic development function from Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot and Port Alberni Port Authority.

MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS STARTED (and IN PROGRESS) IN 2008 – 2011 COUNCIL TERM

Former Alply Site: Secured approx \$234,000 in provincial contributions for environmental investigations (completed); remediation of site now being negotiated.

District Energy System: Feasibility study completed and \$9.2 million grant application submitted Nov 21, 2011.

Fishermen's Harbour Improvements: Assisting Port Alberni Port Authority's \$3.545 million grant application.

Inlet Trail: Phase 1 nearly complete; city crew did some work on trail; staff assisted with \$76,000 grant application.

SOME STEPS TAKEN TO RETAIN AND ATTRACT BUSINESSES DURING 2008 – 2011 COUNCIL TERM

1. Maintained an economic development office at the City to provide for business retention and attraction activities as well as diversification of the economy.
2. Maintained a commercial revitalization tax-exemption bylaw that provides new commercial and multi-family improvements over \$50,000 in our uptown area with a 10-year tax break.
3. Adopted financial plans that hold taxes for the commercial class of properties at a zero percent (0%) increase for the next five years.
4. Implemented recommendations in the “Uptown and Waterfront Redevelopment” Plan (which was funded jointly with the Port Alberni Port Authority) inclusive of upgrades to streetscape in the uptown including new street lighting, street furniture and landscaping with financial assistance from Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET).
5. Maintained an industrial revitalization tax-exemption bylaw providing tax breaks for any new industrial construction in the City (please note this has effectively expired and other industrial revitalization tax-exemption bylaws in BC are being reviewed for best practices).
6. Maintained a reduction in taxes for the industrial class of property of \$425,000 a year for five years for a total of \$2.1 million in tax savings for that sector.
7. Supported a variety of tournaments, festivals and events.
8. Provided financial support for the operation of the Visitors Information Centre.
9. Maintained a joint venture with the Hupacasath First Nation and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tseshahat First Nation.
10. Exploring economic development opportunities with the First Nations who adopted the Maa-Nulth Treaty.
11. Supported cruise ship visitations to Port Alberni by visiting the offices of Holland America to discuss these and contributing to costs of hosting vessels.
12. Partnering with the Arrowsmith Rotary Club on their Rotary Arts District initiative.
13. Continued investment in our drinking water which is already among the cleanest and most abundant supplies on Vancouver Island.

14. Continued investment in our infrastructure which is already generally capable of handling a much larger population.
15. Continued investment in the City's recreational and heritage facilities thus providing for sports and cultural tourism.
16. Support for the Wood Tech 21 Society and their 9-point vision of an integrated forest industrial complex in Port Alberni.
17. Advocacy for continued operations of our deep sea port, small regional airport, the privately owned Lady Rose Marine Group and the privately owned and world famous Martin Mars water bombers.
18. Established a 'sports and educational precinct' to allow for the hosting of larger tournaments, events and conferences.
19. Provided financial support for the outdoor adventure business cluster
20. Pursued businesses that are a good fit for the community.
21. Responded to requests from existing businesses looking to relocate within the community, grow or address regulatory issues; and, responded to requests from businesses outside of the Alberni Valley looking to relocate.
22. Assisting implementation of Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan.
23. Assisted grant applications from non-profit groups wishing to improve facilities where that will result in increased business for the community.
24. Entered into Agreement in Principle with Western Forest Products for a land swap to facilitate a dry land log sort.
25. Work with Catalyst to establish a list of mutually beneficial projects inclusive of District Energy System.
26. Support for the Seaspan bid to build non combat vessels in BC and now advocating for some of that work to be done in the community.
27. Work with variety of agencies with a goal of establishing a Seafood Centre of Excellence in Port Alberni.
28. Negotiated agreement to retain operations of Junior Prep Camp in Port Alberni for 2 more years.



Pat Deakin, Economic Development Manager