



Provincial Cabinet Minister Meeting

Honourable Peter Fassbender Ministry of Education

Date: September 24, 2014 @10:40 am

Location: Alpine Room B, Westin

PURPOSE

Joint meeting with Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education and the District of Ucluelet to discuss:

- 1) Provincial education plans for Ucluelet - potential partnership
- 2) Education opportunities in remote communities

BACKGROUND

The District of Ucluelet would like to thank you for meeting with us last year. That meeting gave Council significant hope in our efforts to bring additional educational opportunities and resources to our citizens. The meeting last year also outlined the foundation for open communication with your Ministry and we appreciate the support.

Over the past year, we have met twice with our local Board of Education (BOE), School District 70, and these meetings continue to benefit both ourselves, as politicians, and staff within each organization. To enhance communication, Council has designated a Councillor as liaison to both Ucluelet Elementary and Ucluelet Secondary Schools. The investment in a communication strategy has encouraged parents to participate in their Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and in many specific planning meetings related to school planning, traffic safety, emergency preparedness, and recreational opportunities.

Council would like to highlight some of our partnering successes that have been implemented over the last year. Several partner meetings have resulted in the following:

Speed reduction meetings with education partners

- Speed reduction resolution of Council resulting in changes from a designated school zone to a playground designation. We invested over \$30,000 to new gateway signage in three locations and the purchase of an electronic speed reader board.
- New sidewalks along Peninsula Road, bordering the high school.

Emergency Planning Meetings Action Items

- A funding partnership between District of Ucluelet, Board of Education and Ucluelet Secondary School PAC resulted in the purchase of a 10-metre high electronic sign. Similar to other schools, the sign has dual purposes; one intention of the sign is to highlight local school events and give our students a feeling of being up-to-date with

other school districts. The second function falls under Emergency Planning. When a major emergency takes place, the District can utilize the sign, which is located directly across from our Emergency Operations Centre, to broadcast emergency information.

- The District has plans for a combined Emergency Response Centre to service the entire west coast. We have met with consultants, RCMP and BC Ambulance regarding the facility. The facility would be located on one of the highest points of land within the municipality and directly across from the location of our future K-12 school. The potential for additional partnerships and cost saving with the Ministry of Education are now becoming apparent and deserve future planning discussions with Ministry of Education capital planning staff, the Board of Education, and District of Ucluelet planning staff.

Expanding Educational and Trades Training Opportunities Partnerships

- The District of Ucluelet has participated in the formation of a working group that has met three times over the last year to bring together educational and trades leaders to discuss opportunities and help formulate a planning process that will bring forward a recommendation that we believe will aid the Ministry in both cost savings and delivery of services. In many cases the reality of educational opportunities on the west coast is that we simply do not have the economy of scale or numbers to offer many course choices. In the past, many west coast communities would offer a course; however, due to costs and poor communication plans resulting in low numbers, they would have to cancel the course. With help from regional partners, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, North Island College, Vancouver Island University, Ucluelet Secondary School, Ucluelet Elementary School, many local First Nations educational faculty, and the District of Tofino, the partners recently launched a Listserve portal. This Listserve is open to all and anyone can advertise their courses. It is the groups' belief that this one-stop location will result in an increase in educational opportunities by pooling our human resources. We continue to meet and look forward to bringing a recommendation forward to the Board of Education and, through them, to your Ministry.

CONCLUSION

The District of Ucluelet thanks you for meeting with us today. It is our hope that this brief summary demonstrates to the Minister that the Ucluelet Council has taken some significant steps in partnering with key stakeholders on many levels. The District hopes the Minister recognizes that Ucluelet is a community worth investing in by moving forward with the purpose built K-12 school outlined in the SD70 capital plan. It is our intention to continue to champion educational opportunities, forge strategic partnerships and communicate these efforts to our west coast citizens. The District looks forward to working with our Board of Education and the Ministry and will make available any planning material that may be helpful to the project.

NEXT STEPS

1. We are asking for a formal scheduling of a meeting with staff to discuss the future build of the new Ucluelet Kindergarten to Grade 12 school and any partnering opportunities available.



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Her Worship Dianne St. Jacques
Mayor of District of Ucluelet
PO Box 999
Ucluelet BC V0R 3A0

Dear Mayor St Jacques:

I am writing in follow-up to the meeting held at the 2014 UBCM convention in Whistler. It was a pleasure to discuss matters of concern to your Council and the Ucluelet community.

Ministry of Education staff is aware of the need for seismic upgrades for Ucluelet Secondary and Ucluelet Elementary schools and requested that the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC review the seismic/structural risk for these schools. The review was completed in June 2014 and concluded both the Ucluelet schools should be considered as having high seismic risk.

School District No. 70 (Alberni) is now working on developing Seismic Project Identification Reports for the two schools, which will inform the next steps required for the seismic upgrading of the schools. The Alberni School District is expecting to have the necessary reports to the Ministry by the spring of 2015; thereby, allowing time for review and feedback in time for its annual capital plan submission to the Ministry.

I encourage you to contact the Alberni Board of Education for up-to-date information on these school facilities and other educational issues concerning the Ucluelet region: (250) 723-3565 bwitt@sd70.bc.ca or Joel Palmer, Executive Director, Capital Management, Resource Management Division: joel.palmer@gov.bc.ca (250) 216- 4627.

Again, I enjoyed meeting with your representatives at UBCM this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Fassbender".

Peter Fassbender
Minister