

## **Recognizing Kevin Douville, a Valued Steering Committee Member**

### **Nanaimo News Bulletin EDG Column Thursday, April 24 2008**

Nanaimo Economic Development Group would like to acknowledge Kevin Douville, Business Development Manager of Community Futures Central Island (CF-CI) for his dedicated work for EDG over the past seven years. As a strong proponent of EDG, Kevin has taken every opportunity to advance its mandate. Although he will be missed as a member of the steering committee, he will remain an important member at large of the organization.

Kevin has played a key role in several EDG initiatives. He became involved in 2001 when the Business Care Program was first piloted. Kevin fondly remembers his role as a co-champion for this project: "It was a unique and rewarding opportunity for me and one I will always look back on with a sense of accomplishment. We were able to recognize many of the issues facing small businesses and better assist entrepreneurs meet their challenges and recognize opportunities." He has also been involved with the Leading EDG Awards and recognizes this event as the pinnacle of what EDG stands for through its commitment to recognizing and encouraging the great work going on in the community by both individuals and organizations.

When asked what he is proud of accomplishing as an EDG member Kevin replied "I am proud of our efforts in championing the Mid-Island Transportation Task Force with the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, and in fact am equally pleased with the strong relationship in place between EDG, the Chamber and the City of Nanaimo." Since becoming involved with EDG, Kevin has established many professional relationships, gained important mentors, developed a stronger sense of community, has become a better leader and most importantly, he will be an effective community champion wherever life leads him.

According to Kevin "whether the economic outlook is bleak, which was the case when EDG first came into being in 1996, or in today's more positive economy, I firmly believe EDG will always have a role to play." He has faith in its solid foundation built over the past eleven years and the Economic Development Strategy that is still the model of many BC communities. "The economy will always be uncertain, always full of challenge and opportunity, but this is what makes EDG strong and a valued contributor to the community. I wish the organization and those involved all the best and much success in the future."

EDG thanks Kevin for his efforts as a valued steering committee member and recognizes his efforts toward our community success. It is because of individuals like Kevin Douville that Nanaimo continues to be one of the most desirable, livable small cities in North America.

Anyone with an interest in community economic development and wants to get involved with a dynamic, truly unique collaborative organization is encouraged to attend an EDG quarterly meeting to find out what it's all about. If you would like more information, contact Katie Ferland at the Economic Development Office 250.755.4465.