

**Minutes of the EDG Quarterly Meeting
held Monday, 2008-DEC-01, at the Coast Bastion Inn
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
(24 persons in attendance)**

1. **Welcome by Pat Ahern and Sherree Walter and Roundtable Introductions**

2. **Presentation by Doug Backhouse re: Island Corridor Foundation**

Doug Backhouse spoke about the Island Rail Corridor Foundation's efforts to raise \$103.8 million for rail infrastructure re-investment to bring island rail to current industrial standards, and to secure a safe and efficient operation. The Province has provided \$500,000 for a feasibility study which will examine the commercial viability of freight transport on Vancouver Island. The terms of reference are being defined and the study is scheduled to start in January. For more information see the attached presentation or visit www.ourcorridor.ca.

3. **Latest Heart & Soul Videos (Pat Ahern)**

Three of the latest Heart & Soul videos were played for the EDG members. These videos were produced by EDG in partnership with Nanaimo Economic Development to:

- Profile Nanaimo's diverse community
- Promote civic pride and awareness
- Identify Nanaimo has a desirable small city to live and relocate to and a safe environment will full amenities; and,
- Discuss educational opportunities within the community.

These videos are being aired on A-Television between November 2008 - and February 2009 and again between May - July 2009. They are available for professionals wishing to promote Nanaimo and can be obtained by contacting Nanaimo Economic Development at 250-755-4465. They can also be viewed on the City's website at www.nanaimo.ca.

4. **Proposed 2009 EDG Workplan (Sherree Walter and Pat Ahern)**

Pat and Sherree, with the help of the EDG Steering Committee Members, outlined their vision for 2009. They discussed that in uncertain economic times, it is even more important to engage the EDG membership and to utilize their expertise. They felt that the connection between EDG members and engagement in projects and initiatives could be improved.

A draft workplan has been developed, and the EDG Steering Committee is now seeking feedback and involvement from the entire EDG membership. The proposed activities, along with the champions leading the initiatives, is outlined below.

Regional projects	Transportation Study passenger ferry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat/Sherree • Pat/Sherree/Jerry/Tom
Community information	Bulletin articles Heart & Soul campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie
Business Outreach	Business retention & expansion EDG roundtable with sector reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherree/Tom • Lee/Maurice (with Chamber of Commerce)
Familiarization tour	Hotel developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry/Tom
Asia Pacific	Host delegations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherree/Maurice
Protocol	First Nations Consuls General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherree/Jerry • Sherree/Jerry

5. **Next Meeting** - Monday, March 3, 2009, from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm in the Malaspina Room of the Coast Bastion Inn.