



Minutes of the EDG Quarterly Meeting
held Monday, 2008-SEP-08, at the Coast Bastion Inn
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
(20 persons in attendance)

1. **Welcome by Pat Ahern and Sherree Walter and Roundtable Introductions**
2. **Leadership BC - Nanaimo (Maurice Donn)**

Maurice informed the group that the Leadership BC program is sponsored through the BC Chambers of Commerce, and that Nanaimo has one of the leading programs in the province. It is now affiliated with Vancouver Island University, and is a credit course which can be counted toward a Communication and Leadership Certificate. Businesses can submit names of their employees for the program, who will receive business training and participate in group projects that benefit community organizations. Maurice encouraged everyone to get involved and learn more about the program.
For more information, contact Russ Burke at manager.nanaimo@cwbank.com.
3. **Recent Purchase of Pope & Talbot's Harmac Mill (Sherree Walter)**

Sherree advised that in response to the shut down of the Harmac mill, EDG formed a Forestry Stakeholder Group who will keep informed on this issue and assist when possible.
4. **Results of MATCH Form (Wade Simmons)**

Wade advised that in response to a meeting with the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, EDG hosted a non-traditional career fair in late March where employers met with agency representatives to facilitate job placements for their clients. A keynote speaker was also present to motivate the participants and share success stories and best practices around hiring persons with disabilities. He advised that it was challenging to find employers to participate, but overall the event met the planning committee's expectations. He also informed the group that additional applications are now in process for six additional MATCH Forums in other communities.
Action: Katie will distribute MATCH Forum final report to EDG list serve.
5. **Outcome of Challenge of Change Forum (Sherree Walter)**

Sherree notified the group that the Third Annual Challenge of Change, which highlights Nanaimo's diversified economy, was a success. Approximately 60 people heard presentations from the Tourism, Retail, Knowledge-Based, Aboriginal Economic Development and Education sectors. The overall theme was around succession planning. Service agencies had trade show booths around the room where participants could learn about employment and retraining opportunities. Sherree advised that the session was well received by guests, especially newcomers wanting to learn more about their city, and that this event is worth continuing.
6. **Leading EDG Awards Update (Jerry Pink)**

Jerry advised that the theme for this year's EDG Awards is around attracting talented people to Nanaimo. The awards luncheon will be held on October 15 at the Coast Bastion Inn. Tickets are \$30 and tables of ten can be purchased. Ed Poli will be the master of ceremonies again this year. To purchase tickets to this event, or for more information, contact Katie Ferland at 250-755-4465 or katie.ferland@nanaimo.ca.
7. **Leading EDG Awards Nomination Breakout Session (Jerry Pink)**

Jerry broke the attendees into groups of three to brainstorm nominees for this year's Leading EDG Awards. Nomination forms can be found on the City's website at www.nanaimo.ca. Nominations close on September 16, 2008.
8. **Next meeting** – Monday, December 1, 2008, Coast Bastion Inn from 12:00 - 1:00 pm. (Room TBA)