



Notes of the EDG Quarterly Meeting
held Monday, June 1, 2009, at the Coast Bastion Inn
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM
(26 persons in attendance)

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

2. **VIU Campus Master Plan Presentation by Ric Kelm**

Mr. Kelm presented the first formal long-term campus master plan at VIU which will guide future campus development for the next 20-40 years. The complete plan can be viewed at www.viu.ca.

3. **Update on EDG Subcommittees**

Networking (Pat Ahern)

A draft terms of reference document was distributed for this committee, which will seek out networking and speaking opportunities for EDG in order to inform the community, find volunteers, and build relationships and partnerships.

Health Sector Roundtable (Marilyn Hutchinson)

Marilyn invited feedback and comments from EDG members regarding the direction of this roundtable, and whether it should focus on the high level health sector (VIHA), or small to mid-size alternative health businesses in the community. Subsequently, the Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce has volunteered to work with the sub-committee members (Jerry Pink, Tom Bennett, Doran Lahana, Zeni Maartman, Eileen Page) to organize a health Sector Roundtable.

Tourism Sector Roundtable (Tom Bennett)

This roundtable will be held in the fall and will invite CEOs and owners from 20-25 tourism businesses to share issues they are facing and how EDG and its stakeholders can help.

Positive Messaging (Lesley White)

This committee will seek out good news stories from EDG members and profile them in EDG's monthly News Bulletin column. If you have a story idea, such as a local company winning an award, expanding, or another positive achievement, please contact Katie Ferland at katie.ferland@nanaimo.ca or Lesley White at lwhiteibc@shaw.ca.

4. **Update on US Consul General Visit (Marilyn Hutchinson)**

US Consul General Philip Chicola's visit to Nanaimo on May 14 was a success. He toured two Nanaimo companies (VMAC and Impact Visual Communications Ltd.), met with City Mayor & Council and Snuneymuxw Chief and Council, and then spoke at a business luncheon at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre which was attended by over 100 business people.

5. **Outcome of Technology CEO Roundtable (Marilyn Hutchinson)**

A recommendation which came from the EDG/MISTIC Technology Sector Roundtable held on March 10 was to invite input into the proposed changes to the City's Zoning By-law and update the definition of an industrial park. This session has been organized with the City of Nanaimo Planning Department on Monday, June 15, at 5:00 pm in the City Hall Boardroom. Land developers, technology business owners, and commercial real estate agents who serve industrial land clients are invited to provide their input. To RSVP, contact Katie Ferland at katie.ferland@nanaimo.ca or 755-4465.

6. **Benefits of Worksharing and ROE Web (Cathy Manson, Service Canada)**

Cathy Manson of Service Canada presented information on the worksharing program, which helps companies to avert temporary layoffs by reducing the employees' work week by 20-60%, and offering EI benefits for the balance of the work week. She also advised that records of employment can now be retrieved online. For complete details visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/work_sharing/index.shtml.

7. **Next Meeting** - Monday, September 14, 2009, from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm in the Malaspina Room of the Coast Bastion Inn.