

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2008 AT 9:35 A.M.**

Present    **Council:** Mayor Harwood; Councillors Webster, Johnson, Quibell, Anderson and Johansson (arrived at 11:15 am)  
              **Staff:** B. Mercereau, Deputy Clerk  
              **Others:** Honourable Iain Black, Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services; Trevor Halford, Executive Assistant; and B. Lindsay

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting with the Minister of Labour and Citizen Services**

Minister Black met with Council to get a better understanding of the concerns and needs of smaller Northern communities in British Columbia. He advised that the Premier had asked him to travel around the province to speak with communities about the issues affecting them. He requested to Council advise him of the issues that Hudson's Hope is currently dealing with. The following information was given by Council:

- internet services do not include broadband which many residents and professionals in the community are in need of for business purposes;
- discussed how the current internet is run and it was suggested that the solution for the internet problems would be to have fibre optics run from Hudson's Hope to Fort St. John, however this would be a costly project;
- Minister Black advised that he would check with the current program to see if there are funding options for Hudson's Hope internet services;
- some residents in the community do not have telephone services and additional cell service towers would be an asset between Hudson's Hope and Fort St. John to allow residents to have this service during the 80 km drive to and from Fort St. John;
- starting to see Oil and Gas exploration within Hudson's Hope, however this District has not seen much tax revenue from these companies, but there have been employment opportunities for residents;
- discussed the grant-in-lieu from BC Hydro and the formula which had capped the grant that Hudson's Hope received because of the population;
- there have been road issues because of the increased industrial vehicles;
- advised of the closure of the Northern Lights College;
- the elementary and secondary school numbers are decreasing;
- one of the reasons that school numbers are decreasing is because some of the BC Hydro employees who work in Hudson's Hope actually live in the lower mainland;
- there are many jobs at BC Hydro which have not been filled that used to have an employee with a family which helped with the school numbers;
- there are approximately 90 workers in Hudson's Hope who are working for various contractors at the dam;
- the increase of transient workers has increased rents and house prices so that there are no affordable housing anymore;
- there is a need for a physician in Hudson's Hope; although we are aware that this need is required all across the country;
- it was suggested that there needs to be better communication with Northern Health regarding services at the Hudson's Hope Health Centre;
- as there is no public transit system residents need to use their own vehicles to drive long distances and with the new carbon taxes it is getting more difficult to travel due to the fuel costs;
- discussed the relationship between the District and BC Hydro and advised that work needs to be done to have better communication between each other;
- policing has not been a problem, but with the increase of a transient population

- drugs and alcohol may become a problem;
- concerns with the Site C Dam are that Hudson's Hope could lose a large part of their population to Fort St. John and that the drive may become too long to travel to necessary services;
- Council has not made a decision as to whether they are in favour or opposed to the Site C dam;
- Mayor Harwood advised that she would like to hear from everyone in the community regarding Site C, however, they have only heard from the opposition to date;
- advised that the consultation with the First Nations has been confidential so the District is unable to know what the common concerns are;
- advised of the Peace Moberly Tract project and that some of the tract is inside the Hudson's Hope boundaries, however the District was never consulted;
- discussed using the school facility for more community based activities as the school is probably only used for 30-40 percent of the time which it could be available for use;
- advised that the District is required to purchase a \$2,000.00 plaque for the Towns for Tomorrow grant received from the Provincial Government, but the District sees that this money could go to better uses;
- Minister Black advised that one of the reasons plaques are being required is so that residents recognize that provincial tax dollars were used on the project;
- Councillor Johansson questioned whether any updates were available on TILMA and Minister Black advised that he was not involved in the project but that he would try and provide an update to us; and
- discussed the Pine Beetle problem in Hudson's Hope.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Certified Correct:

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Clerk

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Mayor