

Report on
Combined Councils Annual General Meeting
February 4 – 6, 2010
Labrador West

The Annual General Meeting of the Combined Councils of Labrador was held in Labrador City – Wabush from February 4 – 6, 2010. The report on the Roundtable Discussion on Thursday evening is available under a separate document. This report will provide a summary of the meetings held on February 5th and 6th with different Government departments, as well as the annual meeting of CCL.

Annual General Meeting – February 5th

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ernie McLean at 9am on Friday morning. Reports were presented by President Jim Farrell and the regional vice presidents.

President Farrell reported on some of the events of the past year, and felt that it was a successful year for CCL. Some of the issues highlighted in his report included subsidized flights for William's Harbour, gas price freeze for the coast, ferry services, and freight rates. He thanked the Provincial Government for their continued support through funding, and especially thanked the Department of Labrador Affairs for their cooperation throughout the year. He later indicated that he would not be seeking re-election as President of CCL.

The Vice President for the Labrador Straits, Nath Moores, reported that he held two regional meetings the past year where issues regarding the Labrador Straits were discussed. He reported that year-round ferry service was now in operation for the first time, and the re-routing of the highway around Pinware River was approved and would begin in early Spring. The region was already seeing positive effects from the opening of Phase 3 of the Trans Labrador Highway, but cautioned that the docking facilities in Blanc Sablon requires upgrading prior to the busy tourist season. The Waste Management Strategy for the Labrador coast is underway with the hiring of a consultant to evaluate different options for implementation.

Vice President Nick McGrath of Labrador West, who had just recently joined the CCL Executive in October, reported that the economy of Labrador West was rebounding nicely, and expected that the IOC expansion would be restarted in early Spring. Waste Management continues to be a challenge in Labrador West with the impending closure of the Wabush incinerator and the opening of the temporary landfill site. While little paving got done this past year on the TLH, he expects the planned 80 kms of pavement will restart as soon as the weather permits. The cost of air travel, with only one airline flying from Labrador to the island, remains a concern for the residents of Labrador West. With the recent highlighting of the Medivac system, there is a renewed call from the region to have a third Air Ambulance stationed in Labrador, preferably Labrador West.

Vice President Ernie Mclean, the Central VP, reported that he spent considerable time both at the CCL office and the Department of Labrador Affairs this past year, dealing with issues concerning all communities in Labrador. He represented CCL at NALCOR meetings and Expo Labrador and reported back to the CCL Executive. He expressed disappointment with the lack of representation from the North Coast Communities after having spent considerable effort in arranging for them to attend. He met with the Chief of Sheshatshiu, Anastasia Quippee, trying to build a

stronger relationship between CCL and the Band Council. He has worked closely with Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, compiling a report of all CCL resolutions from 2005 to 2009, reporting on the progress and status of the resolutions.

Vice President Alton Rumbolt, South-eastern Labrador, reported that he had attended several meetings the past year, including those with South-eastern Aurora Development Corporation and Department of Fisheries. His efforts in getting the price freeze lifted air service for Norman's Bay, Williams Harbour and Black Tickle highlighted some of his accomplishments. The region remains reliant on the Fishery, an issue on which CCL must continue to lobby. The condition of the Trans Labrador Highway, community roads, and the Regional Airport are issues that will require constant monitoring and lobbying. Hydro rates remain high and any deal on the Lower Churchill must include some relieve for the residents of South-eastern Labrador.

Resolutions

The Resolution session was chaired by Graham Letto. With the exception of two, all resolutions are printed in the booklet.

Resolution 2010-01: - Use the Paddon Home as a Senior's Home Care Facility, *submitted by the Town of Happy Valley – Goose Bay.*

Status: - Amended to read Level 1 and 2 - *Passed*

Resolution 2010-02: - Study to determine long-term connection to the Island, fixed link or year round ferry service, *submitted by the Town of L'Anse Au Clair.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-03: - Labrador based Air Ambulance Service, *submitted by the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.*

Status: *Passed* (after amended to read "in Labrador")

Resolution 2010-04: - Construct Regional Airport on the Labrador Southeast Coast, *submitted by the Town of Port Hope Simpson.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-05: - Pave Phase 2 of the Trans Labrador Highway, *submitted by the Town of Port Hope Simpson.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-06: - Lobby Municipal Affairs to increase Municipal Operating Grants, *submitted by the Town of Port Hope Simpson.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-07: - Regional health Care Facility for the Southeast Coast of Labrador, *submitted by the town of Port Hope Simpson.*

Status: *Defeated*

Resolution 2010-08: - Lobby Canada Post to put in place a realistic means and schedule for mail delivery within the coastal region of Labrador, *submitted by the Town of Port Hope Simpson.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-09: - Health Care Travel Subsidy fully funded by the Provincial Government, *submitted by the Town of Labrador City.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-10: - Lobby Government for a 100% funded water and sewer projects for smaller towns in Labrador, *submitted by the Town of St. Lewis.*

Status: *Defeated*

Resolution 2010-11: - Recognize the Labrador Tartan as the official ***District Tartan of Labrador***, *submitted by the Town of Northwest River.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-12: - Replace the Labrador Training Center with a new Wellness Center, *submitted by the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-13: - Cell phone coverage across the entire length of the Trans Labrador Highway, *submitted by the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-14: - Lobby Government for changes in the Snowmobile Regulations, *submitted by the Town of Labrador City.*

Status: *Passed*

Resolution 2010-15: - Provincial Government to introduce Anti-scab Legislation, *submitted by the Town of Forteau.*

Status: *Passed*

Election Results

President..... Nick McGrath

Vice President – Western..... Jim Farrell

Vice President- Central..... Stanley Oliver

Vice President – Southeast..... Alton Rumbolt

Vice President – Straits..... Nath Moores

Vice President – North Coast..... Vacant

Frank Flynn – Labrador Fisherman’s Union Shrimp Company

Frank Flynn, President, LFUSC, reported that the Shrimp Company remains one of the main employers on the Labrador Coast, but that 2009 was a very challenging year for the fishing industry. Before the cod moratorium, the Shrimp Company employed more than 900 people, but that was down to 300 in 2009. The drop in prices also posed a major challenge for the company.

MHA Lorraine Michaels – Leader of the New Democratic Party

Ms. Michaels reported that she has raised issues on many occasions in the House of Assembly on behalf of Labrador, and that she is very familiar with the challenges facing Labrador communities. All communities deserve basic services and nobody should have to beg and fight for what is right for communities.

MHA Jim Baker – Labrador West

Mr. Baker reported that under the Williams Government, Labrador has received more attention than from any other administration, but there remains a lot to be done. He is not disappointed with what his district is receiving and we all need to work together for all of Labrador. The Northern Strategic Plan is progressing well and Government has speeded up delivery on many major projects. He was asked to bring back a message to Government of the disappointment with the lack of Government representation at the CCL AGM.

Aurora Energy – Ches Anderson and Waylon Williams

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Williams provided the meeting with an updated status of the Michelin project and the benefits that would accrue to the North Coast Communities and the Nunatsiavut Government. Despite the moratorium, Aurora’s plan is to develop the project once the moratorium has been lifted, but that no exploration would take place until that happened. There is still a need to do an Environmental Assessment, Pre-feasibility study, and a bankable feasibility study. The economic benefits would include 700 jobs during construction, 400 jobs for operation, 25% mining tax and 90% of income tax to NG. Supplier opportunities would include helicopter services, electrical, catering, IT, transportation, etc. The 17 year project would provide the North Coast with many long term careers and a very strong economy. There will be a head office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay with information offices located in Postville and Makovik.

Plans for 2010 include consultation with the Nunatsiavut Government, reducing the Tailings Plan from 5 down to 2 options, an environmental baseline study, and update the project registration document. They concluded the presentation with three specific points; the Tailings can be managed, the Michelin project is viable, and there will be long term benefits for the Nunatsiavut Government and Labrador.

Transportation and Works – Dion Tee

Mr. Tee reported on the present status of work being performed on the Trans Labrador Highway – 172 kms of pavement has been tendered on Phase 2, with 44 kms completed at the end of the 2009 season. A total of 75 million dollars was spent in Labrador in 2009 - \$32.6 on Phase 3 and \$42.4 on Phase 2. There are still 50kms remaining to be completed on Phase 3 to bring the highway up to standard, which will be completed in the Spring of 2010. Two highway depots will be constructed in 2010 – one at Cartwright juncture and one at Crook's Lake.

With the completion of Phase 3, there will be a need to install permanent weigh scales in Labrador West and portable scales in other areas. Highway cameras, providing continuous update, will be installed in Labrador West, Churchill Falls, and the new depots on Phase 2 and 3. Upgraded emergency satellite phones are now available in Labrador West, Churchill Falls, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Port Hope Simpson, Charlottetown, and Cartwright.

With regard to the Red Bay – Lodge Bay section of the highway, new equipment has been allocated with improved warning signage and gates. Road closures are down this year from previous years, but the rock cuts require constant monitoring and response.

The Regional Airport for Southeast Labrador is still awaiting a discussion from the Provincial Government, who is in discussions with the Federal Government on funding possibilities. The Nain Airstrip is presently undergoing an analysis for the best possible site for access, as well as a Provincial/Federal cost sharing arrangement.

The Provincial Government will be replacing four of its water bombers – two in the summer of 2010.

The Labrador West College/Hospital site is progressing with site clearing and water/sewer services being installed. The college tender has been awarded, and scheduled to open in 2011. A 4.3 million dollar tender for structural steel for the hospital has been awarded and scheduled to be completed by 2011. The remaining hospital tender will be released this fall for an anticipated occupancy in 2013-14. The Port Hope Simpson and L'Anse au Loup schools are on schedule to open in 2010-11.

Design work for the re-routing of the Pinware River highway has been completed and work should commence next year. The re-surfacing of Route 510 is included in the priority list and now part of the budgetary process.

Questions and comments from the delegates included the need for new topping on the Red Bay to Lodge Bay road, the ownership and condition of the Black Tickle roads, tendering process, and the responsibility of the airstrips. The need for resource protection and management with the opening of Phase 3 was identified as a priority, and a committee through the Innu Nation has been formed to oversee that responsibility. It was noted that the committee should also include the Métis Nation.

Mr. Tee was questioned on the plans for a feasibility study for a road link to the North Coast, but was not aware of any commitment or plan to do so at this time.

Tourism, Culture, and Recreation – Todd Kent

Mr. Kent provided the delegation with an updated overview of Cain's Quest, which at the time had 24 teams registered for this year's race. He also showed a promotional video of the race that has been used at different trade shows and exhibitions.

RCMP – Inspector Ron Smith/Sgt. Bill Mooney

Inspector Smith reported that the communities of Sheshatshiu, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Nain, Natuashish, and Cartwright have the highest crime reported instances in the Province.

"Operation Pipeline" is a collaborative effort between the RCMP and the RNC to control the drug movement on the Trans Labrador Highway.

There will be additional officer added to the Mary's Harbour detachment to increase patrols on the Trans Labrador Highway. The town of Postville now receives three patrols per month from its detachment in Makovik. Wendy Quinlan thanked and congratulated the RCMP for increased presence in Black Tickle.

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture/Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Wayne King – DFO/Craig Taylor – Provincial Fisheries

Wayne King gave a brief overview of DFO's role in managing of the Aboriginal Fishery with the Innu, Métis, and Nunatsiavut Government and ensuring that the treaties and other obligations are met with the Aboriginal groups.

The main fishery continues to be crab and shrimp, with only 4 full-time crab fishermen in Labrador.

DFO has a mandate for management of the recreational fishery and inland fish resources in the five angling zones in Labrador. With the opening of Phase 3 of the TLH, the Eagle Plateau Management Zone becomes a challenge. There are distinct genetically trout stocks in this zone that will have to be carefully managed. The bag limit has been reduced from 12 per day down to 6/day or a total of 2.5 pounds.

Craig Taylor gave a detailed overview of the fishing industry, its challenges, opportunities, and the current environment. While the value of the fishery is up, the volume is down. The challenges would include overcapacity (139 licensed facilities and too many vessels), seasonality, workforce demographics (51 – 60), and environmental sustainability. The current environment depicts a financial crisis in the fishery with low market demand, low prices, high fuel costs, and tariff/trade barriers. While there may be challenges, there are also opportunities – research and development, marketing/branding, enhanced quality, fresh vs. frozen, eco-certification, and reduced tariffs.

The Fishing Industry Renewal (FIR) must include a fishery that is sustainable, economically viable, internationally competitive, and regionally balanced. Rationalization and restructuring must happen to respond to the crisis and develop restructuring models for harvesting, processing, and marketing. Alton Rumbolt commented that marketing should be the key element of renewal.

On the issue of selling cod locally, Mr. Taylor replied that the legislation is 40 years old, and they are looking at ways to be more flexible.

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs – Michelle Watkins and Chris Murden

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, with a total employment of 30 people, is responsible for policy and planning, land claims and self government agreements, air foodlift subsidy, trail grooming, William`s Harbour residential air subsidy, CCL grant, and suicide and detrimental lifestyle grant.

Ms. Watkins gave an overview of the department, noting there was a strong collaboration with other Government departments and agencies. The Northern Strategic Plan, formed in April 2007, contains 145 commitments over five years that the department is responsible for implementing and monitoring. The vision of the department is ``where Government and people work together``.

A mid-term report, to be released in the Spring of 2010, will show that 73% of the commitments are completed, 20% are ongoing, and 7% remain to be completed. Under Transportation initiatives, there is 92% completion, Education and Employment – 61% comp/26% ongoing, Natural Resources and Environment – 47% comp/24% ongoing, Health – 67% comp/25% ongoing, Tourism and Culture – 96% comp/4% ongoing, Aboriginal Affairs – 54% comp/39% ongoing.

The total expenditure from all Government departments to Labrador since March, 2004 totals **1.9 billion dollars**.

Town Hall Session

MP Todd Russell

- Now Aboriginal Affairs critic
- Sealing Industry still very important to the economy of Labrador
- Fully appreciates the impact of opening of Phase 3 of TLH
- Congratulates provincial government on year-round ferry service
- Need clarity from Province on airport proposals for Nain and Port Hope
- Supports the need for a third air ambulance stationed in Labrador
- Mealey Mountain National Park has benefits for all of Labrador
- Possibility of NATO using Five Wing Goose Bay for air traffic control
- Small Craft Harbours investments including plans for Mary`s Harbour
- Need more assertiveness from CCL and Labrador
- We pay our way!!!

MHA Yvonne Jones

- Province will see 80% growth from Labrador in next 10 years
- New mining initiatives and expansion in Labrador West
- Natural Gas development potential off the coast of Labrador
- Don`t buy into the 1.9 billion dollar propaganda campaign!!
- Labrador makes a significant contribution to Provincial economy
- Provincial population average decline from 2001 to 2006 is 1.5%
- Cartwright to L`Anse au Clair communities range from 2.1% to 17%
- Charlottetown saw a 9.0% increase
- Infrastructure needs include paving, fixed link or year round marine connection
- Need subsidization of commercial diesel rates – uncompetitive environment
- Need a Federal/Provincial plan for paving of TLH – HVGB to L`Anse au Clair
- Need better ferry service between Cartwright and Black Tickle
- Labrador Medical Travel Plan should include vehicular travel

- Need a Regional Airport for Southeast Labrador
- Canada Post – mail service for Cartwright to Lodge Bay should now be road based
- Need Ambulance service between Charlottetown and Happy Valley-Goose Bay
- Supports a third air ambulance stationed in Labrador (Not remove from St. Anthony)
- Lack of Tourism Department presence in Labrador
- Need more Tourism Development Officers in Labrador
- Need defined “Gateway” in Labrador

The session ended with comments from the delegation that included the need for a Landlord Tenancy office in Labrador and the need for legislation on capping rental rates.