

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
SPECIAL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M.**

Present **Council:** Mayor Harwood; Councillors Kosolowsky, Quibell, and Anderson
Staff: C. Bonnick, Administrator; and B. Mercereau, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Northern Lights College (NLC) Meeting

The following information was provided by the Northern Lights College representatives:

- the budget was provided to Council;
- BC Hydro is offering to do training through the Northern Lights College (NLC) and they are currently in negotiations with them;
- the computers provided to the Hudson's Hope campus are being moved back into the Pearkes Centre and will still be used in Hudson's Hope;
- have rented one classroom at the Pearkes Centre on a monthly basis;
- the Hudson's Hope School was only able to provide room for classes during evenings and weekends which didn't work for most of the courses being offered;
- there are three sustainable community models being considered for Hudson's Hope as follows:
 1. the college would be in full operation in Hudson's Hope offering community interest programs as required; or
 2. the college would act as a facilitator on an economic planning committee and the school would become a contractor that would be hired to provide courses on a cost-recovery basis; or
 3. the college would provide courses with the funds coming from government funding sources.
- the Atlin campus is currently run using grant funding;
- the reason that the District was not notified of the closure at an earlier date was because the college was dealing with union issues within a collective agreement that was confidential;
- registrations in Hudson's Hope have been dropping significantly over the past couple of years;
- need to determine what the community wants and needs are for education;
- with the requirement to have a certain number of students to run a course it sometimes causes those courses not to run, which in turn causes some students to choose just to go to a bigger centre such as Fort St. John which guarantees a certain course will be provided;
- the marketing expenses for the entire college are approximately \$750,000.00;
- tuitions are the same at every NLC campus, but they could look at doing a sliding scale for tuitions in Hudson's Hope which would be determined on how many people register for a class;
- the NLC representatives are interested in coming to Hudson's Hope to meet with stakeholders a few times a year to determine the needs;
- the movement of the aesthetician course from Chetwynd and Dawson Creek has worked well and a bus provides transportation for those students in Chetwynd to the

Dawson Creek campus;

- video conferencing courses cannot be held in Hudson's Hope because there are insufficient broadband services;
- NLC is willing to help Hudson's Hope with trying to get better broadband into the community;
- there are more private schools in Vancouver that cost the government nothing to run, which is causing the BC government to look more at these privately operated schools rather than partially funding schools like the NLC;
- the region needs people with training and skills, and therefore, this training should be offered in the North rather than sending students to the lower mainland or having people from the South come here to for work only, not to actually move here;
- are starting the "Energy House" in Dawson Creek that will allow people to learn about green alternative energy technology;
- the extra money made by the Energy House will be able to subsidize smaller community campuses;

Questions and comments from members of Council included:

- Mayor Harwood stated that if the District could have met prior to the closure of the college maybe they could have worked together for a solution that could have kept the school open;
- Councillor Anderson advised that she had attended one of the meetings hosted by the NLC that was supposed to determine the needs of the community, but she never saw or heard any follow-up from that meeting;
- it was requested that a staff member come to the community once a month to determine community needs and to show that there is a presence in Hudson's Hope;
- could set up sign up sheets for courses and once there are enough names for a specific course then it could be run by the school;
- the Seniors' study completed in Hudson's Hope showed that seniors are interested in taking some special interest courses;
- questioned whether the college is considering removing some of the entrance requirements so that more students would enter into some of the courses;
- should do more marketing for the courses to encourage students to attend the college.

ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting of the Council adjourned. (2:12 pm)

Certified Correct:

Clerk

Mayor