

HPI Update

Newsletter of Argentia Area Chamber of Commerce
Hydromet Participation Initiative

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HPI Business Capacity Interviews Underway

The Hydromet Participation Initiative is well underway with its core programming in support of business, according to Gerry Hynes, president of the Argentia Area Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of the HPI Supply Opportunities Committee.

“The project team has now conducted preliminary interviews with more than 20 regional businesses interested in the Voisey’s Bay development”, says Gerry. The purpose of the interviews is to catalogue the capabilities and aspirations of the business community as it prepares for opportunities relating to the \$1 Billion construction of the commercial nickel processing plant at Long Harbour by VBNC.

Once local businesses have been profiled, the project team will be meeting with other companies that have expressed an interest in participating in the project, especially those interested in establishing a local presence or partnering with companies in the area.

With this information in



Bob Kennedy and Chris Newhook in discussion with Cecil King, owner of MagTak Inc. of Long Harbour

hand, the Chamber will be engaging VBNC directly in a discussion on capacities within the region to support the project, and looking for their proactive assistance in identifying particular opportunities that may be a good fit for regional business to pursue.

Gerry Hynes states, “It is important to keep in mind that this \$1billion dollar plus construction activity is imminent and our members need to prepare for participation as soon as possible in order to take advantage of it”.

Already the VBNC web site is showing requests for expressions of interest on 54 packages for materials and supplies, and professional services.

If you are or know of a business that is interested in participating in the interview process of the Hydromet Participation Initiative, please contact the Chamber office at 227-0003 to arrange an interview.

The VBNC web site is www.vbnc.com/CommercialPlantConstruction.asp

VBNC Human Resource Manager Meets Skills Development Committee

Darrell Clarke, and members of the HPI Skills Development Committee met with Human Resources Manager Wayne Scott, and other members of the VBNC team on October 11th. The VBNC team gave an outline of the company's current construction timeline and the impacts on human resources

requirements. The Committee provided ideas and suggestions as to how VBNC may be able to better participate with the region in the recruiting and retaining of local residents through the construction and operational phases of the Long Harbour processing facility. There was general agreement that proactive

measures are needed at the high school level, and also in attracting skilled trades people from the region back from Alberta in order to maximize on local participation in the project. The VBNC team agreed to continue to meet with the Committee in the coming months.



VBNC Manager of Human Resources Wayne Scott

Lunch & Learn Seminar Series Underway

At a *meet and greet* on October 19th, Chamber president Gerry Hynes announced the start up of a special *Lunch & Learn Seminar Series* for businesses and other organizations in the region as part of the Hydromet Participation Initiative. These sessions will be continuing through the fall and into the winter and will focus on strengthening knowledge of our business community on topics such as *HST and income tax for the*

self-employed, dealing with municipal regulation, business partnering, succession planning, commercial lending from banks, and financing alternatives from government agencies.

Mr. Tom Boyd of the Canadian Intellectual Properties Office, Halifax, a branch of Industry Canada, presented the first in the seminar series on November 2nd.

Mr. Boyd spoke on the topic of Canadian Intellectual Property - matters related to patents, copyright, trademarks or industrial design. Chamber members and people involved with producing intellectual material enjoyed a very informative session.

Stay tuned for times and dates of future sessions.



Lunch & Learn Session with Tom Boyd on Canadian Intellectual Properties

MHA Felix Collins Addresses Chamber AGM

Placentia St. Mary's MHA Felix Collins gave an address at the Chamber Annual General Meeting on October 25th. Felix outlined to the membership that the Provincial Government has concluded its review of VBNC's decision to select Long Harbour as the site of its future commercial

nickel processing plant. He advised members that Government is now willing to accept Long Harbour as the site, provided that it clears the environmental assessment process, which is currently underway. Felix also noted that the Provincial Government is focusing its attention on ensuring that the Town of Placentia and AMA are

compensated for investments made in preparation for the commercial development.

He went on to congratulate Mayor Gary Keating on his good fortune in having the development occurring at Long Harbour, and indicated that Government now wants to work with all stakeholders to ensure maximum benefits are felt throughout the entire region.



Career Fair 2006 a Great Success

Approximately 200 Level II and Level III students from Laval, St. Catherine's and Fatima Academy attended

Darrell Clarke, Chair of the HPI Skills Development Committee, is proclaiming Career Fair 2006 a great success. This fair has been held each fall for the past four years and is hosted by the College of the North Atlantic Placentia campus.

This year the fair attracted over 200 students from high schools in the region including Laval, St. Catherine's and Fatima Academy.

Presentations were offered on Pharmacy, Industrial Trades, Mineral processing (Control Room), Offshore Oil & Gas, Med/Lab Chemical Analyst, Business, Engineering Technology, Nursing, and nine other careers.

The feedback received from teachers and students via the feedback forms has been very complimentary.

Thanks go to all the those who supported this year's event including, presenters, teacher/chaperones, moderators, registration desk volunteers, clean up detail, and others for making this year's event our best yet.



Presentations on Early Childhood Education and careers in the RCMP were two of 17 career sessions available at the 2006 Career Fair held October 12th in Placentia.

Bridging Strategy Support Program Insert

Inserted with this month's HPI Update is a one-page summary of the Bridging Strategy Support Program available to businesses which are working with the Chamber through the Hydromet Participation

Initiative. As indicated, qualifying businesses may apply for funding up to 75% of total costs for the implementation of Bridging Strategies developed with the Project Team.

For more information on how your business may be able to participate in the Hydromet Participation Initiative, please contact the Chamber offices at 227-0003.

Argentia Area Chamber of Commerce Hydromet Participation Initiative is sponsored by:



Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency



Voisey's Bay Nickel Company



Argentia Area Chamber of Commerce

Guidelines for Environmental Impact Statement & Public Meetings by VBNC

In September the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador released the draft guidelines for the Environmental Impact Study for the nickel processing plant that VBNC proposes to construct at Long Harbour. The Guidelines are listed on the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador Dept. of Environment web site.

Go to <http://www.env.gov.nl.ca> and follow the links for 2006.

As part of its Environmental Assessment process VBNC has announced that it will be holding a series of public meetings. The first was held at Long Harbour on September 20th. Others are planned in Ship Harbour (Community Hall) on

November 21st, Placentia (Laval High School) on November 22nd, and Whitbourne (Whitbourne Elementary) on November 23rd. These meetings provide the public with the opportunity to provide input into the environmental assessment process and make inquiries relating to employment and other opportunities.

Minister O'Brien Supportive of Region in Maximizing on Voisey's Bay Development

Minister of Business, Kevin O'Brien spoke on November 8th at a Chamber luncheon at the Star Hall in Placentia.

the region had his full support in reaching for maximum benefits from the Voisey's Bay Project and indicated

that issues such as paving of Route 101 to Long Harbour would have his support at the Cabinet table.

During his address Minister O'Brien outlined the merits of the Province's new branding strategy, and detailed some of the initiatives his department is undertaking to attract big business to the Province. Minister O'Brien indicated that



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