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Kitimat Chamber of Commerce Newsletter  
 Editor - Trish Parsons  
 Layout & Design - Rosemary Brady  
 Production - Nadine Kelly

## Upcoming Events

**Kitimat Multicultural Society  
 Flag Raising Day**  
 Saturday, June 27, 2015 11:30 am  
 Heritage Park

**Kitimat Chamber of Commerce  
 Board Meeting**  
 Thursday, July 9, 2015 6:00 pm  
 Kitimat Chamber of Commerce

**Kitimat Chamber of Commerce  
 Golf Scramble**  
 Sunday, August 30, 2015  
 Hirsch Creek Golf & Winter Club

**Kitimat Annual Fish Derby**  
 September 5-6, 2015  
 Labour Day Weekend

## Kitimat Talks Challenges and Opportunities in a robust economy

The Kitimat Chamber of Commerce was pleased to have the opportunity to partner with KEDA to “talk” about Challenges and Opportunities in a robust economy. As we all work together to harness the economic development and opportunities that are presented, we need to develop long term strategies and plans to address the challenges that accompany the opportunities.

With communities like Fort St. John and Fort McMurray having experienced first-hand rapid growth and development we were eager to hear about their experiences and what they have learned during that process. Both Mayor Lori Ackerman of Fort St. John and Michael Evans from Fort McMurray provided insight to their communities challenges and opportunities.

Gordon Wilson of LNG-Buy BC spoke of the “real” opportunities of Liquefied Natural Gas. As a transition fuel, it has both global benefit in the reduction of Green House Gases as well as local benefit through conversation away from diesel fuel and propane. Through agreements with the province and proponent companies, significant revenue will come to communities to support social spending programs such as health, education, social support, infrastructure and debt reduction.

LNG development will allow for market diversification from single dependency on the US providing generational wealth to communities. In November 2014 the website [www.lngbuybc.ca](http://www.lngbuybc.ca) added on-line tool for business which will help make connections to your business needs, generate exposure for your company and keep you informed of major project activity.



L-R Gordon Wilson, Lori Ackerman, Michael Evans, Debbie Oviatt, Wim Ravesloot, Trish Parsons, Bill Eynon, Bill Hickman & Greg Halseth.

Greg Halseth of UNBC Community Development Institute provided several Take Home Messages including “Build for flexibility and responsiveness in the future” – economic, social and environmental change. Build on community vision and plan and work towards adaptability and resilience.

Greg also spoke on the need to address barriers to new business start-ups such as high commercial rents, competition for space, aging commercial infrastructure and competition for labour. Some of the current key pressures for Kitimat include housing, poverty (at-risk/vulnerable groups), child care and maintaining infrastructure assets.

The Let’s Talk event was an opportunity to recognize the challenges that we are facing and develop opportunities and strategies to meet those challenges and ensure a long term, sustainable future for Kitimat.

## Welcome New Members

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Serving clients throughout Western Canada for more than ten years, Pacific Employee Benefits brings an innovative approach to Employee Benefit Programs. We are a creative and energetic company driven by a mission focused on the needs of our clients.

We are proud to represent over 300 companies which collectively employ over 5,000 individuals. The companies we service range in size from one employee to over six hundred. These include municipalities, industrial, First Nations, Offices and Retail. Having multiple locations, in BC, is an asset for our clients. Currently, our Head Office is in Smithers BC, with sub offices in Penticton, and Prince George. This puts us in an excellent geographic position to service locations throughout Central and Northern B.C.

### Haisla Nation Council

250-639-3961  
PO Box 1101  
Haisla, BC V0T 2B0  
[www.haisla.ca](http://www.haisla.ca)



The Haisla business philosophy has been firmly established as follows:

- We support environmentally responsible development, and every proposal must consider its cumulative land water impact.
- We recognize that including First Nations peoples does not mean excluding non-First Nations.
- We understand that economic reward means accepting an element of risk.
- We prefer to get things done, such as signing agreements with governments and proponents, away from the Treaty table.

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## Kitimat Chamber of Commerce

### Advertising Opportunities

The Kitimat Chamber of Commerce is offering its members unique advertising opportunities again this year.

Available for Kitimat Chamber of Commerce Members Only  
Chamber Member Advertising runs from July to June - Space is limited, book your space early.

**Newsletter Ad - 2" x 3 1/2" Colour Ad** \$35.00 per issue  
Ad design included - Print and Website  
([www.tourismkitimat.ca](http://www.tourismkitimat.ca) and [www.kitimat.com](http://www.kitimat.com))  
<http://kitimat.com/content/newsletters>

**Fishing Guide - 2" x 3 1/2" Colour Ad** \$99.00 per year  
Ad design included - Print and Website  
([www.tourismkitimat.ca](http://www.tourismkitimat.ca) and [www.kitimat.com](http://www.kitimat.com))  
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**Outdoor Guide - 2" x 3 1/2" Colour Ad** \$99.00 per year  
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([www.tourismkitimat.ca](http://www.tourismkitimat.ca) and [www.kitimat.com](http://www.kitimat.com))  
[http://tourismkitimat.ca/sites/default/files/Outdoor\\_Guide\\_2014\\_Feb\\_2.swf](http://tourismkitimat.ca/sites/default/files/Outdoor_Guide_2014_Feb_2.swf)

**Website Advertising - 583.75px x 150px** \$199.00 per year  
Ad design included - Interactive Banner ad on [www.kitimat.com](http://www.kitimat.com) hyperlinked to your website

**Highway #37 and Radley Park Signs**  
New sign \$150.00\*.....1 year rental included  
Existing sign \$75.00...1 year rental  
Ad design included \*Space permitting

### Achieve greater savings by choosing one of our more popular advertising bundles

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## BC Chamber of Commerce AGM

May 24 - 26, 2015 – Prince George, BC

*Derick Stinson, KCOC Chair* - The 2015 British Columbia Chamber of Commerce AGM was attended by your Executive Director Trish Parsons, Vice-Chair Wendy Kraft and myself in Prince George at the end of May. This well attended event, with over 200 delegates present, brought together various chamber boards members, corporate sponsors and executive directors from Chambers all over British Columbia. With a full schedule of events delegates participated in policy debates, listened to a wealth of speakers, all the while networking and raising issues concerning their own communities and the province as a whole.

Our first day of the conference was spent around a focus of who we as a Chamber brand. As Chambers of Commerce we represent the voice of business, but we are more than that. With the ever changing dynamics and demographics in our province it is important that we as a group of business people remain relevant and bring value to our members. All attendees took time to brainstorm and collaborate on new ways to connect with our members and future members. From using new technology to partnering with other community groups, a challenge for Chambers of Commerce all over British Columbia in the coming years will be to maintain and grow the value and benefit that we have brought to our members and maintain the position of the voice of business that we have carried for so many years.

At the start of day two we had an address from Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism, Skills Training and Labour. Minister's Bond's message centered on the need for BC to have the training in place to meet the jobs of tomorrow. With multiple large-scale industrial projects on the horizon it is vitally important that, as a province, we are ready to attain maximum benefit for our labour supply. The following presentation focused on social licence and how BC can help to work with all stakeholders to build credible, factual and measurable requirements for businesses looking to invest in our province. Businesses require certainty and confidence to make investments in their projects. With measurable and consistent requirements for proposed investments in BC all stakeholders, including the citizens of BC, will all stand to benefit.

In the afternoon of day two, we heard from a panel of speakers who spoke about BC and the role that Liquefied Natural Gas will play in



John Winter, BC Chamber of Commerce President & CEO

our Province's future. With a variety of LNG proponents represented, attendees heard about some of the challenges facing LNG projects, from skilled labour supply, global pressures and overall project cost containment. The take away that I had was that the LNG prospect in BC is still bright, and although we may see a consolidation of some of the projects, it is clear that our province offers several key competitive advantages in the global supply of LNG.

The final day of the conference centered on skills training and discussing what we can do to empower our provincial labour pool to be ready for the new economy. With speakers from the construction industry, the immigration council and a trade school, it is clear that there is no easy answer. As the baby-boomer generation continues to retire it is crucial that our schools and training institutes in BC offer programs relevant to the economy of tomorrow. The role that businesses can play was also discussed, as the success of many trades training programs are critically linked to the support and solid working relationships with small, medium and large businesses in the form of apprenticeships and all around employee mentoring.

During the 3 day conference BC Chambers also discussed more than 50 policies for the BC Chamber to advocate and serve as an agenda moving forward. For the first time in many years, the Kitimat Chamber was a co-sponsor of a policy that focused on local Chambers to become key partners in times of emergency and emergency planning – well done to Trish for all her work on helping to create this new policy that is now part of the policies manual for the BC Chamber of Commerce. A complete list of all policies that were passed at the conference can be found online at the BC Chamber of Commerce website under the Advocacy header.

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# Kitimat Chamber of Commerce

Dinner Meeting - May 21, 2014



Gaby Poirier of Rio Tinto Alcan BC Operations answers Chamber Member's questions at Chamber Dinner Meeting held on May 21, 2015.

With attention grabbing news headlines like *"Rio Tinto skips air scrubbers to cut costs at Kitimat smelter"* the dinner meeting was the perfect opportunity to get the "rest of the story".

Mr. Poirier explained that by modernizing Rio Tinto Alcan's Kitimat smelter, overall emissions would be reduced by nearly 50 per cent. "That's good news for our employees, their families and our community."

So – why not install dry scrubbers? Poirier reported that dry scrubbing is not a proven technology for aluminum smelting, in the way it is needed for the new smelter, and for every ONE ton of SO<sub>2</sub> treated the result would be TWO tons of solid waste. With no market for the solid waste this would create environmental land fill challenges that will build over the life of the plant.

And why not install wet scrubbers? For every ONE ton of SO<sub>2</sub> treated 42,000 tons of water would be required. The intake and outtake of that volume of water from the Douglas Channel would impact marine habitat.

Other countries use sea water disposal/wet scrubbers why not Kitimat? Only About 5% of aluminium smelters in the world use sea water scrubbers. Every smelter and its operations are different, location, climate and natural setting and regulations may be different in other countries and jurisdictions. It is not a simple answer.

Why air dispersion? The STAR (SO<sub>2</sub> Technical Assessment Report) report compiled over 18 months by Health and Environmental experts in their fields studied the emissions impacts at 42 tons per day and determined air dispersion has no significant impacts and no change to health risks related to SO<sub>2</sub> compared to the existing smelter. The STAR was a very conservative study that modelled for worst case scenarios and accounted for projected long term coke availability and meteorological conditions. In addition RTA will actually be emitting

between 33 and 35 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> per with plans to continually improve operating conditions.

What is EEM? The Environmental Effect Management Program is a very comprehensive plan to monitor potential SO<sub>2</sub> impacts and is the first of its kind in BC for industry. The program has already started and the EEM early detection will avoid any significant impacts and it implements a precautionary approach. There are sensitive indicators and thresholds that trigger concrete actions by RTA emissions reductions. RTA has been encouraging people to learn more about the plan, how it is being implemented and how the results will be assessed and how actions will be followed.

To access detailed Fact Sheets and links to detailed STAR reports you can visit Rio Tinto Alcan Primary Metal BC Operations website <http://www.riotintobcoperations.com/our-commitment/environment>



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