

# B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

OCTOBER 29, 2014

3:30PM

MASSET

<b>ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION</b>	Michelle MacDonald, Skidegate Band Council Harold Yeltatzie, Old Masset Village Council
<b>MOTI REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Scott Maxwell, Acting Regional Manager Northern Region, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Randy Penner, District Manager, Transportation, Skeena District, MoTI
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Selina Bull, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
<b>KEY THEMES (3-6)</b>	
1) <b>Ferries:</b> Participants felt strongly that their communities' main concern was with BC Ferries services. The service cutbacks have negatively impacted communities on the islands in terms of access to medical services, food, and connectivity with the outside world. There are especially dire consequences for people in Sandspit who cannot access ambulance services.	
2) <b>Highways and side roads:</b> Participants felt that the maintenance contractor on the island was not performing satisfactorily. The representative from Old Masset Village expressed interest in taking over the maintenance contract or in being a subcontractor for the Masset area.	
3) <b>Engagement with Ministry:</b> Participants felt that the government had not been collaborating with the First Nations of the North.	
<b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main challenge for these communities is to be able to access services and be connected to other communities in BC, both of which have been made more challenging with ferry service reductions.</li> <li>The other challenge is for these First Nations to have their voices heard for the development of the plan among the louder voices coming from the more populous areas of the province.</li> </ul>	
<b>MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES</b>	
1) <b>Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants expressed a concern with the maintenance of the roads in terms of adequate ditches to capture runoff, and also in terms of sweeping and more frequent line painting on the roads. These all impact the ability to transport people and goods safely and reliably.</li> <li>The representative from Old Masset Village noted that pedestrians and cyclists might not be very visible to drivers, so visible painted lines would help drivers stay in their space are a safety issue.</li> <li>The main concern for participants was BC Ferries. Until there is more investment in the ferry services, these communities will struggle to maintain access to critical services on the mainland and on other islands, as well as stay connected to other communities in BC.</li> <li>The representative from Skidegate noted that the way that some cars are parked on the shoulder at the Skidegate ferry terminal was unsafe as they often impede traffic.</li> </ul>	
2) <b>Growing the Economy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The representative from Skidegate noted that the development of LNG resources in the North was a touchy subject for her community.</li> </ul>	
3) <b>Connecting and Strengthening Communities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant from Skidegate noted that with the isolation felt from BC Ferries service reductions, her community does not feel that it is a part of Canada, and it certainly is not connected with the rest of the country.</li> </ul>	
4) <b>Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant from Skidegate felt that the attempt at consultation and collaboration with First Nations on the part of the government was not genuine.</li> <li>The representative from Old Masset Village expressed an interest in collaborating with the Ministry in order for his Nation to bid for position as a maintenance subcontractor.</li> </ul>	
<b>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
<u>Skidegate Band Council:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The representative from Skidegate was concerned with parking on the road at the Skidegate ferry terminal. With nowhere to park their vehicles, passengers parked at the side of the road, often encroaching on the lanes, and causing safety concerns for passing traffic and pedestrians.</li> </ul>	
<u>All/Regional:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The region's top priority is investment in BC Ferries for increased sailings and the ambulance service for the islands.</li> </ul>	
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</b>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The representative from Skidegate's concern with highway maintenance was that noxious weeds are cut alongside the road, which spreads the weeds into the village.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The participant from Skidegate noted that the ditches on Front Street in Skidegate are inadequate to capture runoff.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The participant from Skidegate also expressed concern with the condition of the surface of Slarkedus Bridge, which gets slippery and unsafe. She indicated that she did not feel confident in the Ministry's inspection of this bridge.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Skidegate representative asked if the Ministry had any forthcoming riprap contracts, because her community would be doing blasting.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The participant from Skidegate asked whether the Ministry was familiar with any plan to build a road at the Kendall Rock Pit.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The representative from Skidegate requested that Randy Penner follow up with local issues by email after the meeting.</li></ul>