

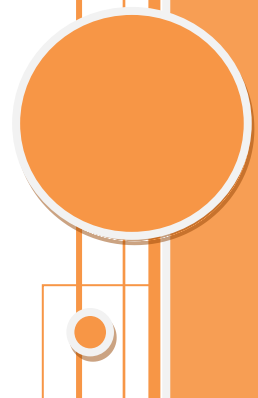
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHWEST BC

TAKING CONTROL OF OUR FUTURE

**A Final Report on the Economic Forums
conducted by Member of Parliament
Nathan Cullen**

Also available at www.nathancullen.com

January 30 – March 19, 2010



RIDING TOUR ON THE ECONOMY

Final Report

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NATHAN'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to each of you who joined me on our recent riding tour on the economy. Based on last year's successful tour, many great ideas resulted in record money coming to the Northwest from the federal government.

We hit the road for round two in 2010. It was a great opportunity to connect with you, hear your priorities and focus my work in Parliament based on your recommendations. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, people across the Northwest came up with constructive ideas for building a more sustainable economy in the Northwest.

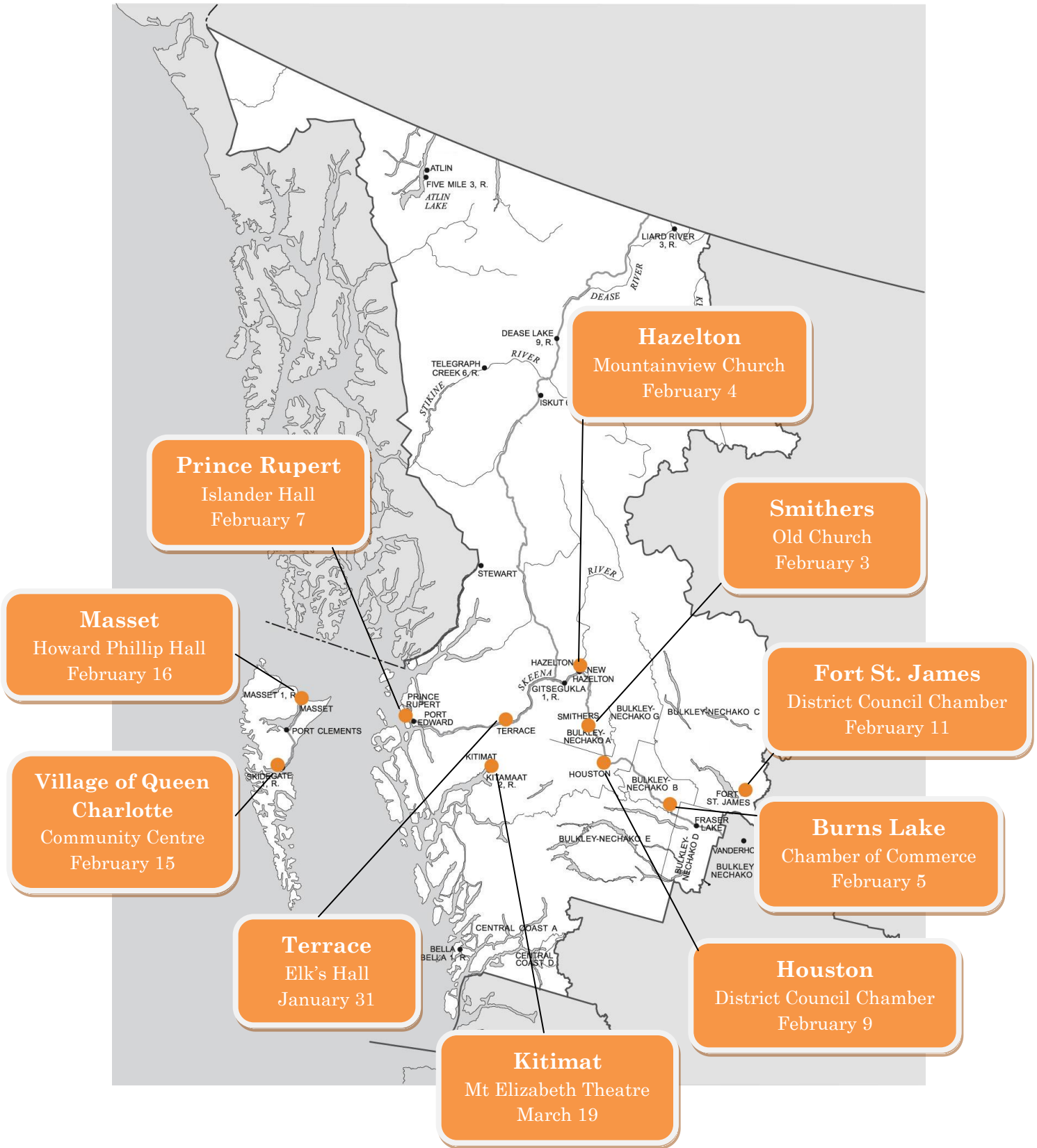
Conversations from Haida Gwaii to Fort St. James generated dozens of good ideas which you will find in this report. In addition to sending this report back to constituents, I have presented a copy to key ministers to let them know about our regional priorities. I hope that we will continue the conversation about the health of our economy at www.nathancullen.com.

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who took the time to participate in this community planning process and in particular to the many volunteers who made it all possible. My staff team also deserves my thanks for their tireless work above and beyond the call of duty. Seeing the energy and the innovative solutions of folks in our region fills me with confidence that we have the ability and the resources to restart the economy in the Northwest.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FORUM SCHEDULE



OVERVIEW

The second annual Skeena-Bulkley Valley Economic Forum Tour was a success. MP Nathan Cullen visited ten communities to hear their thoughts on how to build a better federal budget and revive the Northwest economy. Led by local facilitators, participants discussed local priorities related to Government Spending, Small Business, Green Economy and Infrastructure.

One of the messages that resonated across the riding was that residents of the Northwest want to see a regional plan for economic development. Despite increasingly globalized markets, local communities continue to have particular needs that must be taken into account in the federal government's approach to economic development. Participants recommended that local, provincial and federal leaders work together to build regional economic opportunities that make use of local resources and expertise all the while benefitting local workers. Strengthening links between communities through better transportation services as well as through knowledge sharing will help communities build their economies as well as that of the entire region.

There was also a general consensus that the Northwest wants to “go green”. Eco-tourism, local food production and renewable energy generation were cited as some of the ways in which the Northwest can build a more sustainable economy while getting folks back to work. The region has an immense wealth of natural resources that must be harvested to foster new non-traditional resource businesses.

It was also widely agreed that small businesses will play an increasingly important role in the development of the Northwest economy. The region must diversify its economy and build resilience through networks of small enterprises creating local employment. The federal government must

provide support to help businesses get off the ground and to assist those already established to grow. Finding ways to renew existing infrastructure for business opportunities in places like Kitimat will be key moving forward.

While some discussions focused on what to improve, much was said about what the Northwest already offers. People emphasized the importance of capitalizing on the knowledge, expertise and experience of individuals in our communities. Community planning is important to help individuals get projects off the ground. Echoing last year's recommendation, people said that economic forums of this kind must continue to take place.

From the many ideas provided by participants, here are the four top recommendations that resonated across the riding:

- **Let's build a regional economy** - Communities want to work together to build a regional economic strategy that takes into consideration the particularities and the needs of rural northern communities.
- **Go Green** - The Northwest is ready and equipped to go green. Government must provide incentives to help northern industries and communities make the Green transition.
- **Build Small Businesses** - With the knowledge and resources of the Northwest, well supported small businesses must take the lead in developing the regional economy.
- **Let's do it again** - The economic forums are a great way for constituents to connect with their MP as well as with each other. Participants appreciated the opportunity to actively engage in discussions and work together towards effective solutions.

TERRACE

As the economic face of Terrace continues to change, forum participants reiterated the importance of focusing on projects that can create lasting and sustainable jobs. Tourism was highlighted as a key industry that will become increasingly important during the current economic transition. Discussions about tourism led to proposals for specific projects, such as building a riverboat and a multiplex tourism centre, which could help bolster tourism in the region.

In addition to providing tourism opportunities, small businesses will also be key significant economic drivers given their potential to develop value-added products. Locally-minded entrepreneurs like artists and farmers would benefit from federal support to build infrastructure and provide wage subsidies. People agreed that the government has a role to play to help individuals and businesses transition given the current economic situation.

Participants in Terrace were thinking Green. The value of sustainable resource extraction was discussed as was the importance of ethical hiring standards for all businesses in the region. People recommended that current federal government funding for Carbon Capture and Storage be diverted to local Green energy production. There was also agreement that the federal government needs to take into consideration the social, economic and environmental value of commodities when negotiating economic agreements.

The highway 37 expansion was also discussed as potential job creation project that could also facilitate mining exploration in the region.

Facilitators include: Roger Leclerc, Sam Harling, Sasa Loggin, Stacey Tyers

INDIVIDUAL REPORT

SMITHERS

Given the current economic climate, participants in Smithers highlighted the need to provide support for individuals transitioning to new careers and to those who are disadvantaged in the job market by their health, ability, education level, or other factors. More funds are required to provide training facilities and educational opportunities to help people acquire new skill sets to succeed in the current, and future, job market.

Infrastructure, particularly transportation, is one of the key spending areas where the government could create good value for money. Only through better rail, road and air strip access can rural communities and local businesses gain access to larger markets in order to grow their businesses.

Discussions also revolved around a number of difficulties faced by small businesses. Some of the challenges for aspiring entrepreneurs include uncertainty surrounding the HST as well as uncertainty of land title. Better access to information for new and existing business owners as well as business-friendly taxation policies that take into consideration the high cost of living and doing business in the North were among the recommendations made by participants.

People also highlighted the importance of promoting sustainable lifestyles and resource extraction. Local food production initiatives such as the Telkwa Co-op must be encouraged to stimulate the local economy. Furthermore, putting a price on pollution and changing the way we do business to become more green must be a priority. Overall, people agreed that the federal government should focus on smarter spending that creates sustainable jobs and sustainable industries in the Northwest.

Facilitators include: Taylor Bachrach, Greg Brown, Bob Haslett, Cathryn Olmstead, Dave Stene

HAZELTON

Despite the hard times Hazelton has gone through, forum participants were optimistic about the talent and expertise available in the region to restart the local economy. However, to capitalize on the latter, we need to build bridges within the community in order to share knowledge and experience. In concrete terms, people requested programs to help connect new and established entrepreneurs to help individuals start, as well as maintain, their businesses over time.

In order to identify possible areas of economic growth, people suggested creating an inventory of local Green Economy potential so that investors and entrepreneurs could quickly identify sustainable business opportunities. The community has the potential to offer eco-tourism alternatives and local markets and local food production would increase the community's governance capacity as well as its quality of life. The region would also benefit from the creation of better infrastructure to access the natural environment. In addition to providing leisure for residents, this would also create tourism opportunities that would bring revenue into the region. Another infrastructure project on the horizon is building a new arena to provide more opportunities for locals and visitors.

Participants emphasized that people should rely on neighbours to support one another as "Citizens" and avoid seeing one another as "Taxpayers" who only pay to obtain services. With this in mind, they called for a long-term vision of economic development in the Northwest that includes neighbouring communities.

Facilitators included: Neal Erickson, Royce Pritchard, Brian Huntington

BURNS LAKE

Concerns were expressed that the Bulkley Nechako Region did not receive enough stimulus money given the economic contribution the region makes to federal coffers. Participants asserted the need for additional funds to offset the costs associated with living in the North. Specifically, funds could be used to renew the education system, build a community hospital shared with First Nations, and construct a recreation facility to increase health and wellness in the region. The Gas Tax model, which gives federal funds directly to municipalities, was cited as a way to reduce bureaucratic spending and allow communities to more efficiently dispense of funds.

Small business development was also featured in discussions. People pointed out the difficulty of maintaining tourism-related ventures given the high insurance costs for operators. Participants further noted that local businesses would benefit from the Prince Rupert container port if there was greater access to shipping opportunities along the railway line. To facilitate regional business expansion, railway and highway expansion was also explored.

Overall, people agreed that Green initiatives need more support to address the high capital costs of adopting and developing new Green technologies. The region would be better situated to build a Green economy with greater access to resources and an increase in secondary forest products manufacturing. An increase in power supply was also identified as a potential driver for future economic activity in the region. There was general support to expand Highway 37 to increase access to power.

Facilitators included: Eileen Benedict, Doug Montaldi, Cindy Shelford, Eileen Benedict

PRINCE RUPERT

The general consensus in Prince Rupert was that it is time to focus on solutions, not on problems. Participants insisted that there needs to be a rural development policy for Northern BC which ensures that rural communities benefit from the sustainable exploitation of resources.

Discussions about economic development were couched in notions of social enterprise, which emphasizes social, in addition to economic, outcomes. One group provided a definition of a Green Economy that went beyond energy production and focused instead on long term job creation. Specific solutions offered to build a Green Economy included making industry accountable for its environmental impacts, providing financial incentives for Green economic solutions, as well as investing in solar, wind and tidal energy.

The recommendations made by participants reflected the hope they had in the renewal of the local economy through investments in sustainable industries. Fisheries was mentioned as one of the industries in need of attention. Calls were made to address the current fisheries crisis by reconsidering license fees to allow fishers to maintain ownership of their vessels and pursue fishing as a viable employment opportunity.

Throughout the forum, participants reiterated the fact that economic prosperity is a vehicle to social sustainability.

Facilitators included: Janique Dubois, Maya Paul, Erika Rolston

HOUSTON

There was a general consensus in Houston that small business plays a key role in diversifying the local economy and providing job opportunities. While small business makes Houston an attractive place to live, there is too much red tape and bureaucracy in the start-up stage for entrepreneurs. Streamlined programs and mentoring partnership with existing businesses would help prospective entrepreneurs get started. Various ways of expanding the business market through joint ventures, internet sales, and other methods were discussed.

To get projects off the ground, the region is still in need of federal stimulus or general program spending. While people are keen to see economic development, they specified that investments need to focus on Green initiatives, such as energy saving renovation projects. In addition to small scale projects, the community stressed the importance of having multi-year infrastructure funding commitments from governments to allow small communities such as Houston plan for and manage grants. A long-term vision with financial commitments is needed to ensure that a sustainable economy can be developed in the Northwest.

While government spending is needed, participants also noted that onerous over-reporting requirements for federal funds is inefficient and gets in the way of the tangible work organizations are funded to accomplish. Overall, Houston's economy will benefit from a long term economic development strategy that takes into consideration the particular needs of local residents.

Facilitators included: Brenda Andersson, Gerry van der Wolf, Vera Beerling

FORT ST. JAMES

Some of the conclusions reached in Fort St. James echoed those of other communities. Participants expressed frustration over the current formula for the transfer of funds. They said that communities need more control with respect to dispensing funds and named the Gas Tax model as an example to emulate.

The importance of empowering local governance structures was crucial in discussions. When communities manage programs and distribute funding, they are better able to build leadership, strengthen community engagement and engender pride in the community.

To facilitate sustainable resource exploitation, the federal and provincial governments must work together. Speaking specifically about the proposed Mt. Milligan mine, people noted the advantage to streamline processes to foster economic opportunities. Bioenergy was also featured as a potential economic driver in the community. Given the difficulties resulting from the pine beetle outbreak, bioenergy would allow the sustainable harvesting of reserves of standing timber. Participants emphasized that the federal government has a role to play in helping to attract Green initiatives and facilitating their success.

Education was touted as the backbone of future development in Fort St. James. Participants agreed that investments in education and training will have significant benefits for the economy since it allows individuals to develop skills, cultivate entrepreneurship and become economic leaders.

Facilitators included: Deb Hadwen, Kelley Inden, Rob MacDougall

VILLAGE OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE

The forum in Queen Charlotte City focused on improving the quality of life for residents. Participants discussed the need for additional funds to offset the higher costs of basic healthcare, transportation, and education in remote communities. The idea of having a northern allowance was mentioned as a means to compensate for high living costs and was favoured in lieu of a tax credit which ignores those who do not receive income.

Transportation was a key issue for residents who noted that increased movement of goods and people is needed to foster development in the region. Transportation challenges also make postal service delivery particularly difficult which has important repercussions on communication in the region. Improved transportation infrastructure, such a more reliable ferry services, could increase the quality of Canada Post, enhance recycling opportunities and reduce the cost of services like sewage treatment.

Participants also asserted the need for a national energy vision that takes into account the potential of the region. They called for federal incentives that favour green energy and offset the capital costs associated with new technologies such as heat pumps.

In order to foster economic development on the island, participants outlined the need to access greater capital for entrepreneurs through micro-credit lending and the adoption of cooperative business models. People agreed that more local control over resources and the settlement of land claims would improve the business climate and foster local employment. Constraining regulations and the lack of access to wider markets were also mentioned as burdens for burgeoning businesses.

INDIVIDUAL REPORT

MASSET

Forum attendees agreed that recreation, health and education facilities are needed to ensure the viability of the community. Their primary recommendation was that government spending take into account the particularity of rural communities and provide infrastructure appropriate for their needs.

Transportation and communication were mentioned as key drivers of a sustainable economy. For example, highways need to be better maintained and small craft harbours are in need of repair. Sustainable infrastructure is required for economic prosperity. Some of the barriers to economic development caused by transportation issues include the ferry system and postal service.

To allow local industries to flourish, participants also signalled that a secure and reliable source of energy is required. While people emphasized that energy needs to be made available to secondary manufacturing on the island, some concerns were expressed over the impact and viability of the NaiKun Wind project.

Participants addressed several issues during the forum. Some of the specific issues discussed were the recent wood, fish processing and farmgate sales rules and regulations that have hurt existing and future local production. Overall, people focused both on community and government solutions to reinvigorate the local as well as the regional economy.

Facilitators included: Art Lew

KITIMAT

Kitimat has experienced a series of important economic setbacks. The closure of the Eurocan mill has added stress to an already strained economy. Despite the hard times in Kitimat, a large crowd came to the economic forum to discuss future opportunities for the community.

Residents, businesses and all levels of government are working to come up with a new economic plan for Kitimat. Some participants noted the fruitful relationship with other communities, specifically Terrace, in moving ahead. Options for the Eurocan mill were discussed, focusing on the possibility of a different ownership structure for the mill. People want to find new ways to make the mill viable.

Affordable housing has attracted new people to the community and the potential for attracting retired folks is promising as long as Kitimat can diversify and keep them in the area with jobs. Suggestions were made to keep services up while also providing professional opportunities for people. Northwest community college was identified as a key player in working with new groups interested in creating employment. Concrete examples, such as starting an artist collective, were also given to further opportunities.

Participants also raised concerns about the long term impacts of upcoming projects like the Enbridge pipeline. It was also stated that any future development project must involve Haisla. Overall, people came prepared to put short term as well as long term ideas on the table.

Guests included: Mayor Monaghan, Mayor Pernarowski, Stephanie Forsyth, Mary Murphy, Scott Doherty

CONCLUSION AND THANK YOU!

Once again, residents across the Skeena-Bulkley Valley riding have great ideas regarding how we can work towards solutions to improve our economy. Forum discussions across the riding generated insightful recommendations that would allow the Northwest to take control of the economy and steer it in the right direction.

There was agreement that local communities as well as federal and provincial governments must collaborate to develop a regional economic plan that meets the needs of rural communities in transition. We must also place our energies on favouring green alternatives in renewing industries. The announcement of a wood pellet facility in Terrace and the partnership between Suskwa Chiefs and Pacific Northwest BioMass Corporation for a power generation facility are some examples of innovative projects that will contribute to a more sustainable economy.

While there is much to celebrate, people also made clear that some of our industries – particularly fisheries – are in need of federal support. They also emphasized that federal funding must take into account the reality of rural, northern communities. All of these ideas will continue to be discussed by First Nations leaders, environmental activists, businesses and non-profits as part of Renewal Northwest. This project aims to develop a vision of economic development that can meet the standards and values of the standards and values of the peoples, places and cultures of the region. Watch for updates at http://nathancullen.com/news/article/renewal_northwest/.

Sincere thanks to everyone who brought their ideas to the forums. See you next year!



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Nathan Cullen

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Skeena Bulkley-Valley

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The Honourable James M. Flaherty
Department of Finance Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

March 31, 2010

Dear Minister Flaherty,

I am writing on behalf of the constituents of Skeena-Bulkley Valley to present you with a report outlining regional priorities for economic development. During ten economic fora held throughout the riding, constituents came together to share ideas about how to foster a strong, sustainable and lasting economy in the Northwest. While economic struggle has been a feature of our communities for the past decades, I share my constituents' enthusiasm and optimism for the future. Communities are looking to the federal government to step up as partners in economic renewal.

Despite increasingly globalized markets, residents of the Northwest want to see a regional plan for economic development that takes into account the reality and the needs of northern communities. One of the key priorities of the report centers on building a green economy through investments in local markets and sustainable industries. The report emphasizes the pivotal role of small businesses in a green economy and outlines recommendations for government support to start up and maintain small businesses.

The annexed report outlines our region's economic priorities. I look forward to discussing the recommendations made by residents of Skeena-Bulkley Valley in greater detail and thank you for taking their ideas into consideration in the implementation of the federal budget.

Sincerely,

Nathan Cullen MP
Skeena – Bulkley Valley
Attachment: 1

APPENDIX A: WANT TO DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH?

Community Futures 16/37 provide communities with a variety of services including business development loans, technical support, training and information - <http://www.1637cfdc.bc.ca/>

Economic Development Association of British Columbia is a provincial association of economic development practitioners that provide services to support the activities, profile and development of its members - <http://www.edabc.com/>

Invest British Columbia is a partnership of provincial, federal and local economic development organizations working together to expand business investment in BC - <http://www.investbc.com/>

Kitimat Valley Institute is a self sustaining organization, a leader in Job Readiness, and a partner of choice for local industries and institutions in the development of qualified people - <http://www.kitimatvalleyinstitute.ca/>

K.T. Industrial Development Society is a group of volunteers interested in supporting economic initiatives in the Kitimat-Terrace valley - <http://www.ktids.ca/>

Northwest Corridor Development Corporation advances tourism, trade, and economic development opportunities through multimodal transportation by air, rail, road, and marine - <http://www.nwcorridor.com/>

Skeena Native Development Society provides employment training, and service support to First Nation and Inuit peoples - <http://www.snds.bc.ca/>

Northern Development Initiative Trust is an independent regional economic development corporation focused on stimulating economic diversification and job creation in central and northern BC - <http://northerndevelopment.bc.ca/>

Terrace Economic Development Authority is a public-private partnership responsible for promoting the growth and diversification of Terrace's economy - <http://www.teda.ca/>

APPENDIX B: LOOKING BACK - 2009 RESULTS

Economic Forums 2009: Results for the Northwest

Last year, in the midst of one of the country’s economic crisis, individuals from across the Northwest came out to share their ideas for building new opportunities throughout the region. The conversations in each of the 10 communities visited helped to shape priorities for Nathan and his team to work on during the year.

With the vision laid out at the economic forums and through cooperation and hard work by communities, businesses, and non-profits alike, we were able to help bring more than \$60 million in federal funding to support all kinds of projects across the riding. We also got a commitment for \$130 million to build the highway 37 transmission line.

You Told Us:	And We Worked To:
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The Forums are a great way to connect with people in our community to discuss important ideas

Do it all over again – We are thrilled to be here!

EI must be reformed to extend the benefits period for laid off workers

Secure an additional \$1 billion to extend EI benefits by up to 5 weeks

Infrastructure dollars would be well used to create cultural and recreational facilities in municipalities across the riding

Help dozens of projects secure more than \$5 million in federal funding to build and restore great recreation and cultural facilities throughout the region

Stimulus money should be focused on creating local jobs and helping people get training and skills to find new employment

Get funding for new job-training programs and projects to create new value-added employment in the riding

We need to think forward to new and innovative sustainable resource projects that balance social, economic and environmental benefits.

Create ‘Renewal Northwest’ – a gathering of community and business leaders from across the riding focused on planning new economic opportunities for the region

Government must protect our pensions. People are relying on their CPP and OAS to support them in retirement

Introduce a comprehensive Pension Reform plan, with our caucus colleagues. The proposal would strengthen CPP and OAS and double the benefits through just a 2.5% contribution increase

We are very excited to be on the road for the 2nd Annual Economic Forums Tour and can’t wait to get to work on the ideas and priorities you share with us.

APPENDIX C: NORTHWEST ECONOMIC PROFILE

Here are a few facts about our Northwest economy...

Forestry

- Northwest BC's forestry industry has continued to struggle as a result of pine beetle spread, drop in lumber prices, and a lack of access to International markets.
- The closure of the Eurocan mill in Kitimat is the latest in a series of mill closures affecting communities across the province.
- Proposals for innovative new wood product uses including bioenergy and building materials could help to revive the industry.

Fishing

- Fishing-related activities accounted for 0.17% of Canada's GDP in 2007 as compared with 0.61% in 1990.
- This year saw one of the worst salmon runs in BC's history and the industry continues to struggle to adapt to the crisis.
- Various groups have come together to protect the Skeena Watershed and our fisheries. See <http://skeenawatershed.com>.
- With one of the richest fisheries in the world, the Northwest is looking to integrated-local management to provide for future generations.

Mining

- By late 2008, a 50-70% reduction in the price of some metals caused a sharp drop in mining. Although mineral exploration expenditures are down from the record high set in 2007, they still represent \$140 million in the region.
- Upcoming regional mining projects include Red Chris, Mt. Milligan, and Galore Creek.

Tourism

- Employment in the accommodation and food services industry in Northwest BC grew in the summer of 2008 employing 4,600 people.
- 2008 was a great year for the Port of Prince Rupert's cruise business, which brought in more than 10 million.
- The economic downturn negatively impacted tourism numbers for 2009 but the industry maintains great potential to contribute to a diversified and resilient economy.

Alternative Energy

- The Northwest is developing its extensive potential for alternative energy production.
- Xeitl, a Tlingit-owned power company, recently built a run-of-river, two-megawatt hydro power project on Pine Creek near Atlin.
- Terrace will soon have a 500,000 metric tonne per year wood pellet facility that will make industrial wood pellets from local hemlock fibre sources harvested from sustainably managed forests.
- The Naikun Wind project off Haida Gwaii received environmental approval in December of 2009. The 396 MW project will create 200 construction jobs and employ 50 people permanently.
- A \$25 million partnership deal between the Suskwa Chiefs and Pacific Northwest BioMass Corporation was recently signed for a biomass power generation facility in the Gitksan Territory. The co-gen plant is expected to create 125 jobs for the Gitksan.

RENEWAL NORTHWEST

Renewal Northwest brings together First Nations leaders, environmental activists, businesses and non-profits to talk about a future economy, a greener economy, for our region. The objectives are to:

- develop a vision about how communities should look a generation from now and what kinds of development would be needed.
- develop ways to evaluate whether proposed activities would be consistent with this vision.

Renewal Northwest reflects seriously about how economic development can meet the standards and values of the peoples, places and cultures of the region.

Watch for updates at http://nathancullen.com/news/article/renewal_northwest/.

Prospective Northwestern Economic Projects

Northwest Transmission Line (NTL)

The proposed Transmission Line is a 335 km, 287 kV transmission line between Skeena Substation (near Terrace) and a new substation to be built near Bob Quinn Lake. The NTL would provide a reliable supply of clean power to residents and for further mining and industrial developments in the area. For more information, visit <http://www.bctc.com/projects/ntl/> and <http://www.highway37.com/s/Home.asp>.



Prince Rupert Fairview Container Terminal

The proposed terminal expansion would nearly triple the size of the current facility to accommodate the continued growth in regional export traffic anticipated to develop over the next decade. The second phase expansion of this high-speed, congestion-free trade corridor between Asia and North America is dependent upon the concluding of the environmental assessment currently under review by federal regulatory agencies. For more information, see <http://www.rupertport.com/> and <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/document-eng.cfm?document=39345>.

Enbridge Northern Gateway

This pipeline project proposes to build twin pipelines 1,170 kilometres from Alberta's Tar Sands to B.C.'s coast at Kitimat. If approved, the pipelines will travel through the salmon-bearing Upper Fraser and Skeena watersheds and will open our northern coastal waters to oil supertanker traffic. While this project promises economic benefits, serious risks are also involved. Read more about it at <http://www.oilsandswatch.org/> and <http://www.northerngateway.ca/>

Want to do your own research? Check out the following sources:

The Creation of Sustainable Wealth: An Economic Strategy of the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations is a research and development project to create a comprehensive northern region economic strategy – <http://www.nwttgroup.com/economic.html>.

Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project (UNBC): This community driven project explores community and economic development in northwestern BC – <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/nev2.html>.

Omineca Beetle Action Coalition includes the region between Prince George and Smithers, led by a Board of the region's Mayors and Regional District Chairs – www.ominaccoalition.ca.

Regional Employment Projections: BC stats on labour force data and employment projections – <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/DATA/lss/repm.asp>.