

ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN BC'S NORTHWEST

Individual Forum Report

Prince Rupert

The stop in Prince Rupert was another example of the great depth of great ideas that exist here in BC's Northwest. As challenging as the economic downturn has been it seems to have sparked the imagination of many in the coastal town. Ideas included not reducing taxes but, having smart tax policy. The example of the GST

cut was used as an example of what not to do. There was significant trepidation on the topic of bailouts, but some felt that they may be necessary so as to keep Canadian business competitive with the Americans. Like elsewhere in the riding, it was agreed that having matching funds for federal infrastructure makes no sense at all. Those communities hardest hit will only suffer under such a plan.

There was no shortage of ideas for specific infrastructure programs available in the riding, such as housing and child care developments, along with transportation initiatives and further development of the port. In concert again with the other stops it was agreed that EI needs urgent fixing, and that the solutions of tomorrow will not pit the economy vs. the environment. The solutions will meld the two to greater a greener a more prosperous country.

Facilitators included: Avis Hopkins, Kathy Bedard, Peter Lantin, Richard Wilson, Lucia McCann, Janet Hultkrans, Danielle Dalton and Bobbi Parnell

"Now that the "free enterprise" experiment has proven to be a colossal failure, replete with layoffs and business closures and leaving Canadians feeling its bitter sting, it is time to have integrity restored to the Employment Insurance Plan." – Terry Intermela, Prince Rupert