

Report from

CLAIRE Trevena MLA North Island



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ONE OF THE REAL PLEASURES OF BEING THE MLA for the North Island is the opportunity to get out into the constituency to meet with individuals and organizations. It's a chance to talk about what's working and what is needed, to work together to find solutions.



ABOVE Claire with Lesley Mathews (left) and Lynn and Joanne Conall in Campbell River LEFT At the Vancouver Island North Teachers' Association office in Port Hardy with Amanda Kiatipis, Sean Barfoot, Claire, Tiffany Baur, and Lani Siminoff

North Islanders say 'No' to oil tankers on our coast

THE MOMENTUM AGAINST THE NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINE and maintaining the moratorium on tanker traffic off our coast is continuing. I was very pleased to attend the rally outside the Legislature in the autumn and saw many people who made the trip down from the North Island. And it was great to have such a big turnout to the rally just two days later at my office in Campbell River. Our environment critic Rob Fleming also came here to talk about the problems with the Enbridge project. We need to protect our environment, to respect First Nations and have the courage to stand up to the federal government on issues that significantly impact our province.



Access to education at all levels

I HAVE BEEN TALKING EDUCATION with teachers, supervisors, parents and educators. I've been visiting both elementary and high schools around the North Island and have had the pleasure of talking with students in class. Ensuring equality of access to education is paramount for the health of our society now and in the future. That means we should be investing in our kids before they go to school through high quality public early care and learning programmes and, where needed, early intervention. It means enabling teachers to focus on teaching by providing real classroom support to ensure real integration of all our kids in the classroom. It means improving ways to get young people to move into training and post secondary so they can learn the skills they want and we need.

Healthcare in BC: public or private?

A CONTINUED CONCERN is the public private partnership model under which VIHA is determined to construct the new hospital. This means a private consortium will design it, build it, and then maintain it for 30 years. The province will get the maintenance responsibility just when the building starts to age significantly.

HEALTHCARE IS PART of our social infrastructure. That's why the stakeholders' group I convene



has also been raising concerns about being short changed on the number of beds planned for the new hospital. Port Hardy Hospital is a serious concern; I keep questioning the Health Minister about the continued closure of its emergency ward.



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BC roads and ferries essential for North Islanders' prosperity

HIGHWAYS – BE THEY MARINE, GRAVEL OR PAVED – keep our North Island communities connected. I have been talking with people across the constituency about that crumbling infrastructure. Meetings to discuss the future of ferries were overflowing and the echoing comment I heard was that the system should be integrated into our public highways. And at meetings in Tahsis and Zeballos it was continually repeated that their economic development depends on improved roads. Safety on Highways 19, 28 and 30 is essential – that's why I'm regularly talking with the Ministry about upgrades and work needed.

"I'm looking forward to getting back to the Legislature in February so I can represent the interests of people across the North Island. Your voice has been silenced since the government snubbed democracy and refused to reconvene since May; it will be heard strongly again in the spring session."



On the front lines

IT IS UNFORTUNATE when negotiations do not work or are abandoned, resulting in a strike or lockout. I visited with the 14 members of CEP1123 at their picket line outside the Island Generation plant. They were locked out during negotiations.

Workers have rights and employers have obligations; both should be respected.



Rose Harbour plans for a spring opening

I WENT TO THE CELEBRATION at Rose Harbour, the new second stage housing project for women in Campbell River. When this opens in the spring it will be an invaluable addition to the community, providing safe and supportive accommodation.

Forests: the mainstay of BC's economy

I'VE BEEN TALKING WITH forest companies, with workers and with communities about how we can get and maintain a balance: we need people out harvesting, but we also need manufacturing. And we need to come to a common understanding about what we are talking about when we cite sustainable logging.

Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

I WAS HONOURED TO BE ABLE to present four of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals to North Islanders at the end of the year. I asked an independent panel to nominate the four recipients and was pleased to celebrate the day with them at both Campbell River Museum and at U'Mista in Alert Bay.



TOP RIGHT Locked out workers Gerry Cummings and Steve Harrington speak with Claire at the Island Generation plant

TOP CENTRE Claire speaking at the Quadra Island Ferry Consultation meeting (picture courtesy of Brian Kieran of the Campbell River Mirror)

CENTRE LEFT Claire at Rose Harbour with Shelly Kernovich, Robin Geary, Ellen Latta, Bonnie McGill, Valery Puetz, Travis Brown, Pat Grono, Melanie Towle, and Jodi Grundle

LOWER LEFT Claire with Cst. Tae Kim and medalists Chief Robert Joseph and Jacquie Gordon at the Campbell River Museum