



Report from

CLAIRE Trevena MLA North Island

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 At K'udas Closed Containment Salmon Farm with Cathal Dinneen, operations manager, and Mike Berry, independent environmental monitor LOWER LEFT With Karl Fuchs, Campbell River streamkeeper BELOW At the John Hart penstocks with Stephen Watson, BC Hydro

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'Namgis First Nation launches land based salmon farm

DURING POSITIVE AQUACULTURE AWARENESS WEEK I toured the 'Namgis' closed containment facility, near Port McNeill, that is due to start to stock with fish in January. This is a test to see whether land based salmon farming is economically viable. Wild and farmed fish play a significant role in our ecology and our economy and we all want to make sure we are doing the best possible job.



Campbell River streamkeepers

I HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE of going out with streamkeepers in Campbell River to see their hard work – and the problems they face. We all cherish the salmon but the dried up creek beds are not just a sign of a long hot summer. Improved riparian management and getting the inspection and enforcement staff back on the ground are essential for the health of our salmon runs.

Jobs and access to higher education essential for the North Island

I'VE BEEN TAKING PART IN meetings organized by the government on creating jobs in the North Island: Campbell River is one of its pilot areas. There is a great deal of energy and a host of ideas in the community about how to make our economy vibrant.

Unfortunately the projects which came out of these meetings will not create direct jobs.

Luckily two major projects – the John Hart Dam and the hospital construction, which were outside the discussion

at those meetings – will bring direct jobs.

BUT WE ABSOLUTELY NEED TO INVEST in post secondary education to ensure the skills gap is filled – and that's why the Opposition is suggesting a means-tested, non-repayable student grant to



improve opportunities for our kids to get the training and education they need. For North Island students

there is always the added expense of travel and living away from home that many urban students are able to avoid.



"I look at my desk and see notes about employment standards, welfare, housing, child care, job ideas, alternative power, hydro. As MLA my office deals with all of these – and more. I couldn't be a good representative without good staff so I thank Lynne and Sandra wholeheartedly."

Few North Islanders support Enbridge's BC pipeline

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROVINCIAL FLASHPOINTS that could have a huge impact here in the North Island is the Enbridge pipeline from Alberta. The official opposition is steadfast in saying it should not go



ahead; the risk to our environment is simply too great – both with the pipeline itself, carrying raw bitumen and condensate, and the massive super-tankers sailing to and from our shores. I have met no one in the North Island who says it should go ahead.



Child welfare concerns and issues

I AM ALSO THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION CRITIC for the Ministry of Children and Family Development. That means working across the province on child welfare concerns. I've recently been on tour in the interior talking with First Nations and Métis organizations, community groups and individuals to see what's working and what needs improving.

ONE MAJOR AREA OF CONCERN is the fiasco about the computer system introduced by the Ministry, which does not do the job it is supposed to do – and costs \$192 million so far and rising. Think what could have been done for BC's children with that sort of money.

Public/private hospital debate

THE DEBATE STILL RAGES ABOUT OUR NEW HOSPITAL, the building of which will be great for Campbell River. But there are real concerns about it being designed as a public/private partnership. This is one of the most expensive ways that a public facility can get built: we continue to pay for it for 40 years. There are also questions about whether services within the hospital, such as housekeeping and catering, will also be privatized.



Aboriginal health initiative in Port Hardy

I STOPPED IN AT A WORKSHOP at Sacred Wolf in Port Hardy where the concept of doulas was being discussed; these women offer a supportive environment for pregnant women. The North Island is desperately short of health care professionals; I am continuing to pressure VIHA to make sure our communities get the care they deserve.



TOP RIGHT Cariboo Family Enrichment Centre in 100 Mile House
Back row left to right: Lloyd Garner, Chris Pettman, and Claire
Front row left to right: Janice Silveira, Sheila Hart, Lea Smirfitt, Vic Popiel
CENTRE With Lois Jarvis, Citizens for Quality Health Care
BELOW Jackie Jack, Vancouver Island Aboriginal Doula liaison worker, and Lucy Barney, Aboriginal Lead