

November 30, 2010

MP John Duncan Stops in for a Tour of the Highway 19A Construction Site: City Estimates Over 62,880 Hours of Employment Created So Far by the Project

John Duncan, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North made a weekend visit to Campbell River, to inspect recent work done on the Highway 19A Upgrade Project.

As part of the tour, Duncan reviewed City staff estimates about the employment hours of work created so far by this project. Eight months in to this \$13.5 million project, staff estimate that approximately 62,800 hours of employment have been created to date.

“This is a great example of infrastructure dollars at work in a community,” said Duncan. “It’s a win-win because not only are jobs being created but important sewer and water infrastructure has been put in place, to help extend City services, which benefits the region.”

The City of Campbell River officially broke ground on the project on February 26, 2010. Since then contractors have successfully upgraded the sewer and water lines, completed significant roadway improvements including adding turning lanes, cross walks, new streetlights, sidewalks, and boulevard medians. Work is continuing on the creation of a new Simms Creek Lift Station, and utility companies are currently working to move household connections (such as hydro, cable, and phone) underground.

Feedback on the roadway improvements has been exceptionally positive since the road re-opened on November 1st.

“The detours were a necessary step in ensuring the project could proceed on time and on budget,” said Mayor Charlie Cornfield. “Thanks to the cooperation and flexibility of residents, drivers, visitors and businesses, we survived the inconvenience and the whole community benefited as a result. The end result and the feedback have been fantastic.”

In calculating the total hours of employment created on the project, staff estimate that in total, over 78,600 hours of employment will be created by the project completion in March, 2011. With the average annual hourly amount of work being 2080 hours per worker, this converts to a total of 37.8 years of employment created. Staff estimate that the project is 80% complete, resulting in the estimate that 62,800 (or 80%) of the total hours of work have been created to date.

Although it is difficult to measure the exact number of local jobs created, it’s been noted that approximately 90% of the crews and workers on site are local, working with island firms such as Uplands Excavating, Tayco Paving, Highland Engineering, McElhanney Consulting Services, Ketz Pacific, Raylec Power, and others.

“It’s great to see so many partners coming together to make this project a reality,” said Comox Valley MLA Don McRae. “Key infrastructure initiatives like this one are improving the community, creating jobs, and boosting our local economy.”

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Funding for the \$13.5 million project is provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (part of Canada's Economic Action Plan) and the Build Canada Fund, and by City reserves. BC Hydro contributed through their beautification fund.

For more information on the Highway 19A Upgrade project please visit the project pages on the City of Campbell River website: www.campbellriver.ca

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NOTE: Photos of MP John Duncan touring the 19A construction site with Mayor Charlie Cornfield are available on request.

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