

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff #:103478

Date: February 18, 2014

PREPARED FOR: Minister Shirley Bond, Minister

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING:

Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 9:00am – 9:30am, MSB Office, Room 138

ATTENDEES:

Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South

Kaaren Lewis, ADM, Tourism and Small Business Division

ISSUE(S): LNG-Buy BC Program

BACKGROUND:

Announced during UBCM in September 2013 by the Premier, the LNG-Buy BC program aims to connect businesses large and small with the opportunities from the development of liquefied natural gas (LNG). MLA Bernier will likely want to discuss implementation of the LNG-Buy BC program in his and other B.C. communities.

DISCUSSION:

The LNG-Buy BC program has 4 key elements:

- **Outreach** to proponents, industry and communities to advocate and raise awareness;
- **Workshops** to help B.C. businesses become suppliers to LNG projects;
- **LNG conference and trade show** to showcase B.C. capabilities and drive business-to-business connections; and
- **On-line registry** to help connect LNG project proponents with B.C. businesses and to highlight B.C. goods and services internationally.

Outreach:

Gordon Wilson, the Advocate for LNG-Buy BC, is tasked to:

- research global best practices for supporting local business participation in LNG and other major projects;
- outreach to proponents, industry, and communities to understand their needs and how best to address them;
- create awareness around LNG-Buy BC and promote the LNG conference; and
- seek input on both barriers and success stories.

His report on his research findings was submitted to government on January 31, 2014.

So far, Gordon Wilson has made initial visits to Quesnel, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitimat, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, and Kelowna. MLA Bernier participated in the Dawson Creek meeting with the local Chamber of Commerce along with Gordon Wilson. Gordon Wilson is scheduled to visit Squamish and Kamloops on February 19th and 20th.

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Workshops:

Two types of workshops will be offered to B.C. companies to help them:

- understand how to do business with major corporations and contractors; and
- learn how to respond to Request for Proposals.

At least five workshops of each type will be delivered between March and June 2014 across B.C (tentative locations are: Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kelowna, Prince George, and Fort St. John.) Two additional workshops of each type will be offered at the May LNG Conference and Trade show. Northern Development Initiative Trust will deliver the workshops on behalf of the province. The workshop schedule will be finalized by the end of February.

The LNG-Buy BC program will also pilot entrepreneurship training for women entrepreneurs who are creating businesses as a result of opportunities linked to LNG and other natural resources development in the north.

LNG Conference and Trade Show:

MJTST is working with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development (lead), Ministry of Advanced Education and Ministry of International Trade to organize the LNG conference to be held from May 21st to 23rd at the Vancouver Convention Center. Dedicated trade show floor space has been reserved for B.C. companies to showcase B.C. capabilities. The LNG-Buy BC component of the LNG Conference includes:

- presentations by LNG proponents on the opportunities for B.C. businesses;
- information on becoming a qualified supplier as well as B.C. success stories;
- networking opportunities and business-to-business meetings between B.C. companies and LNG proponents and their prime contractors;
- workshops to prepare local companies to engage with large corporations; and
- promotion of the new on-line registry.

To encourage participation in the trade show, eligible B.C. exhibitors (B.C.-based company that provides goods and services related to the energy sector) may qualify for reimbursement of the exhibitor fee.

On-line Registry:

After examining several options (transition from the B.C. Business Network; adopt the Supply Chain Connector; or build a new registry), a new on-line registry will be built to help connect B.C. businesses with LNG proponents. The tool will:

- facilitate connections between proponents/contractors and B.C. companies;
- provide a channel for communicating proponents' requirements;
- support the promotion and marketing of B.C. companies to global businesses for both export opportunities and for foreign direct investment projects in B.C.; and
- provide a platform for supply chain connections for other sectors and projects critical to B.C.'s economy.

The core functionality of the new tool will be completed by May 2014. The May LNG conference will be used to profile the current functionality of the new tool while soliciting additional inputs from users. Conference and trade show participants will be invited to be the early adopters of the new tool once its full functionality is completed in late fall 2014. The new tool could be built out over time to include other sectors and to integrate with other government tools (such as the B.C. Business Network).

A web page within the LNG Task Force web site is being developed to provide up-to-date information about the LNG-Buy BC program elements and provide resources on requirements to be a supplier to LNG projects. The web page will be available by the end of February.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:

The LNG-Buy BC program will help link B.C.-based goods and services with investors looking to build their businesses in our province.

Broad promotion of the LNG-Buy BC program elements is essential to ensure businesses in all communities can participate fully in the opportunities LNG offers.

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 102849

Date: February 24, 2014

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: Wednesday, March 5, 2014; 7:30 – 8:30am

ATTENDEES: Honourable Amrik Virk, Minister of Advanced Education
Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Social Development and
Social Innovation
Ms. Kathryn Laurin, President, Camosun College
Dr. Ralph Nilson, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island
University
Dr. Allan Cahoon, President and Vice-Chancellor, Royal Roads
University
Professor Jamie Cassels, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of
Victoria
Mr. John Bowman, President, North Island College

ISSUE(S): 1) Member institutions of the Vancouver Island Public Post-Secondary
Network (VIPPSN) will share results from their collaboration to meet the
needs of Vancouver Island Residents for advanced learning and skills
training;
2) The Ministers have been invited by the five member institution
presidents to witness the renewal and signing of the VIPPSN
agreement.

BACKGROUND:

The VIPPSN was launched in May 2010 and consists of the following: Camosun
College (CAM); North Island College (NIC), Royal Roads University (RRU), the
University of Victoria (UVic) and Vancouver Island University (VIU). The objectives of
the network are: 1) to better address regional needs; 2) to advocate collectively for post-
secondary education; and 3) to use more efficiently resources and enhance capacity.
Participating institutions plan to renew their memorandum of understanding at this
meeting.

The VIPPSN is credited with stronger collaboration on community-based research,
leveraging the diverse knowledge, skills and capacities of the member institutions. It
has also resulted in a number of innovative bilateral agreements. For example, an

agreement between NIC and UVic was established to give NIC students guaranteed program admission and course transfer in designated programs after two years of study.

The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST) has partnered with all VIPPSN institutions with the exception of UVic to deliver skills training in 2013/14. Funding for these initiatives comes from the Canada-BC Labour Market Agreement (LMA) and is allocated through the Employment Skills Access (ESA) and Essential Skills Workplace Training programs.

Employment Skills Access (ESA) funding to VIPPSN members in 2013/14 totalled \$3.6M to support programs for over 1100 unemployed, non-employment insurance eligible participants seeking to enter the labour market. ESA prioritizes targeted, short-duration training programs that are relevant to local employers, result in an industry-recognized credential and enable participants to access sustainable and meaningful employment. Examples of programs funded through ESA in the last year include: Underground Mining (NIC), Community Support and Education Assistant (Camosun), Class 1 Driver Training (VIU) and Business Technology Certificate Program (RRU).

Essential Skills Workplace Training is intended to help participants acquire basic skills needed to gain a foothold or progress in the labour market. Camosun College delivers a program known as "Workskills for Non-Profits" targeted at individuals working or volunteering in the not for profit/social enterprise sectors, to enhance their confidence and productivity. NIC delivers "Skills for Success: Forestry," to assist individuals employed in the sector to increase their productivity and position themselves to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the sector.

VIU, CAM and NIC deliver trades and technology in a wide variety of disciplines and have an interest in the outcomes of Industry Training Authority (ITA) review.

DISCUSSION:

There are no outstanding issues related to any of the contracts between JTST and VIPPSN institutions. JTST is satisfied with contract outcomes and deliverables to date.

Continuation of funding through ESA and Essential Skills Workplace Training is subject to the renewal of the LMA. The outcomes of multi- and bi-lateral LMA negotiations may have an impact on the nature of the programs JTST is able to support and the funds that can be allotted to them. The delay in reaching an agreement with the federal government has had an impact on all service providers including post-secondary institutions due to the uncertainty it has created.

B.C.'s current industry training system has achieved many positive outcomes; today twice as many apprentices, and around three times as many credentials are issued

annually compared to 2004. Government has commissioned an independent review of the ITA to ensure the apprenticeship system is performing optimally to meet the demand for skilled workers as the economy grows. The final report and recommendations were received on February 7, 2014 and will be made public upon completion of the government's review and analysis.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:

- Thank you for the invitation to witness the renewal of your commitment to the *Vancouver Island Post Secondary Network*.
- JTST looks forward to continued close collaboration to ensure that the skills training system continues to meet the needs of Vancouver Island and the Province as a whole.

ATTACHMENTS:

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