



KIM SMYTHE, President & CEO  
Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce  
Presentation July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Nanaimo Golf Club  
July Membership Luncheon

Although it officially became summer some months ago, we haven't been experiencing those lazy, hazy days at the Chamber. It's been full steam ahead planning events for member engagement and networking, building our value proposition, and working with three levels of government advocating on behalf of business. Locally, city hall is moving rapidly ahead with the results of the Core Review in order to adapt their corporate strategic plan to serve their stated priorities. A reorganization of the management structure was part of this, as was a revamping of the municipal Committee system. I know that several of our members are involved in city committees that have been realigned and the next two months will be a period of testing this new model for community consultation. The Chamber has been active in discussions with city staff to ensure the business community is considered front and centre in the changes taking place at city hall. I have to say that we have a strong relationship with senior management and elected leaders that allows us to take a stand on behalf of business while our city sets its strategic and capital priorities. These priorities have been identified:

- 1) South Downtown Waterfront Initiatives (on land described as the largest tract of undeveloped urban waterfront on the west coast of North America)
- 2) Beban Park Redevelopment
- 3) A Sports & Entertainment Multi-Use Centre (at the HOJO property)
- 4) Completion of the Waterfront Walkway
- 5) Georgia Avenue Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge over the Chase River

What this means is that we are looking at short and medium term plans for some very exciting developments providing employment and economic opportunities within our own community unfolding very soon. This is in addition to the \$28 million dollars in major private construction projects underway, and doesn't include another \$20 million at Woodgrove nor the many, many residential construction projects booming away out there. The Chamber hopes our members are enjoying some of this prosperity and investment. If you wish to speak to Council and share your opinions of their strategic priorities or any other topic, please be part of the E-Town Hall taking place July 25.

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