

Thank you for holding a consultation in Grand Falls-Windsor. Your approach and presentation was well done. I'm no expert in this field and I attended the session to learn rather than be a participant. However, I felt it was necessary to make a few comments on the process.

Mining and mining exploration is extremely important to Central Newfoundland and has significantly contributed to our recent economic growth. This importance has magnified following the closure of our paper mill. This industry is crucial to our present growth. We have to also realize that it's a non-renewable resource which brings with it an end at some time. However, it's important to maximize our opportunities when it's most needed and this is certainly good timing for Central Newfoundland.

As we plan and put a strategy in place, it is important to build partnership with stakeholders in this industry. It is important to maintain strong communication with all partners and design a plan where everyone has been given the opportunity to have input.

As I mentioned earlier I don't personally have much to contribute to the plan but I feel in order for further exploration to take place we need to maintain a good transportation network. Much of our interior has been connected by Abitibi-Bowater roads in the past and we must work with the appropriate agencies to make sure this connection continues. It is important to maintain accessibility with placing huge cost on prospective companies.

With the amount of exploration and mining that happening in Central Newfoundland, I feel that it should be a priority for the department of Natural Resources to have a mining division office here in Grand Falls-Windsor. This office would provide easier access and local resources to Companies in the Central area.

I also feel that there should be increased funding made available to prospectors. This group is very important to continued exploration.

I feel the province should be proactive and working with the Town of Botwood to complete the divesting of this property. The Port of Botwood could be a huge asset for mining companies in this area to get their product shipped to market.

These are just a few thoughts. Thanks again for the opportunity to share.

Al Hawkins

Mayor

Grand Falls-Windsor