

Message from the Chair of the Delta Sustainable Community Economic Council

The Delta Sustainable Community Economic Council was established in 2004. I am honoured as Chair to present to the community of Delta, a draft Sustainable Economic Strategy for Delta.

The funding and leadership for development of the Economic Strategy has come from the Delta Chamber of Commerce, although the economic strategy is to be a community strategy and not a Chamber strategy and the business community. The Chamber is one of many voices of a wide variety of Delta stakeholders participating in this project. The Delta Sustainable Economic Community Council will encourage, and assist where possible, implementation of the Strategic Plan along with its many partners.

A professional consultant, a long-time Delta resident, was hired and has drafted the Economic Strategy after collecting historical and technical data. The consultant has also conducted many, many focus groups and has had input from over 100 stakeholders in our community.

For me, personally, this has been a long journey from “just talk” to beginning the process of building effective strategies, to balance the choices of people in Delta, economic viability and environmental considerations.

As Chair of the Economic Council, I strongly believe we have to look at alternative approaches to economic development. I believe this is because of the many challenges facing our community – economic challenges, environmental issues and loss of community control – need to be addressed in a holistic and participatory way.

I believe community economic development includes fostering the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of our community. It should be a community based and a community directed process that combines social and economic development.

The Delta Sustainable Economic Community Council recognizes and supports all the paid and unpaid activity that contributes to the economic well being of Delta. The Economic Council is a vehicle for the community to work together effectively and to communicate common economic goals to build a better future for our children.

Delta must find a way to capitalize on our competitive edge in a sustainable manner. This competitive edge is our geographic location, sunny climate, environment, open spaces and farmland. We must find a way to balance economic growth, investments and jobs while protecting our environment.

An economic strategy for Delta must not destroy what has made our community great.

I look forward to talking with the people of Delta about improving the quality and health of our economy in the near future. Please participate and let your “Choices for the future” be made known, your opinions matter.

Maria DeVries, Chair
Delta Sustainable Community Economic Council