



## **Imagining our collective future**

Dear Editor,

It was a great experience to sit down with the people from Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue on their program called "Imagine BC" last week.

Joanna Ashworth was a great facilitator in stimulating the discussion among the delegates (graduates from Leadership Sea to Sky Program cohort I and II) about our sense of place and identity as members of the Sea to Sky Community. The discussion revolved around three possible scenarios for B.C.'s future: Dark Times, Business as Usual and Ideal Future, particularly for Sea to Sky Country. It is interesting to listen to various opinions on what this community would look like if certain events happen. I bet everybody who lives in this community, too, has different opinion on what the Dark Times, the Business as Usual and the Ideal Future would be for them.

No doubt, it will be a matter of perception whether we are now on our way to dark times or ideal future. Who knows? But we do know that we cannot face our future with fear. If we cannot overcome our own fear of the uncertain, the volatility and the challenges that the future will bring to us, it will be pointless to discuss any strategy on how to plan the future for this community.

We also have to acknowledge that there are certain problems in life that are man-made and there are things that are called natural problems. Man-made problems can always be resolved by accepting the fact that we are all capable of overcoming obstacles and seizing opportunities. Nature, on the other hand, has taught us to accept our limits, whether it is physical or emotional one.

So "Imagine BC," to me, more than anything else is about overcoming our own fear of what the future might bring to us and try to understand what our man-made and our natural problems are.

Therefore, it is important for this community to support programs like "Imagine BC" (from SFU Centre for Dialogue) and Leadership Sea to Sky (from the Whistler Forum), because without these kinds of exercises our community may never learn on how to deal with its own future. And that will be something to be afraid of.

Jay Wahono  
Whistler