

A TOUR OF TSAWWASSEN LIKE NO OTHER

When four large tour buses pull up to the Tsawwassen administration building, you know something is up.

When all four buses makes a wrong turn and get the entire security staff excited at the huge DeltaPort, you know that this is a tour you will tell others about.

And when the same procession of luxury coaches bring work to a halt on the new overpass into Tsawwassen First Nation's industrial lands... well one can only sit back and admire the skill of the drivers as they make three-point turns and continue on with the hour-long tour.

"When it was over, they even gave us smoked salmon!" said one man. "I want to come back for the next tour."

He was one of about 120 visitors from the CANDO national conference that was held in Vancouver on Nov. 7-10. With a theme of 'Nation building through economic development', the event was the perfect occasion to take attendees on an 'Ec-Dev adventure' and Tsawwassen filled the bill, in more ways than one.



Andrew Bak was one of the tour guides.

Delegates got a close-up view of what is happening throughout the Tsawwassen lands. They saw the fill brought in to the residential areas where thousands of homes will be built over the coming decade.

The industrial lands, with sites being readied for potential partners in container storage and supply-chain businesses, were an obvious stop on the tour. So too were the areas along Hwy 17 that will feature one of the Lower Mainland's 'destination' retail areas.

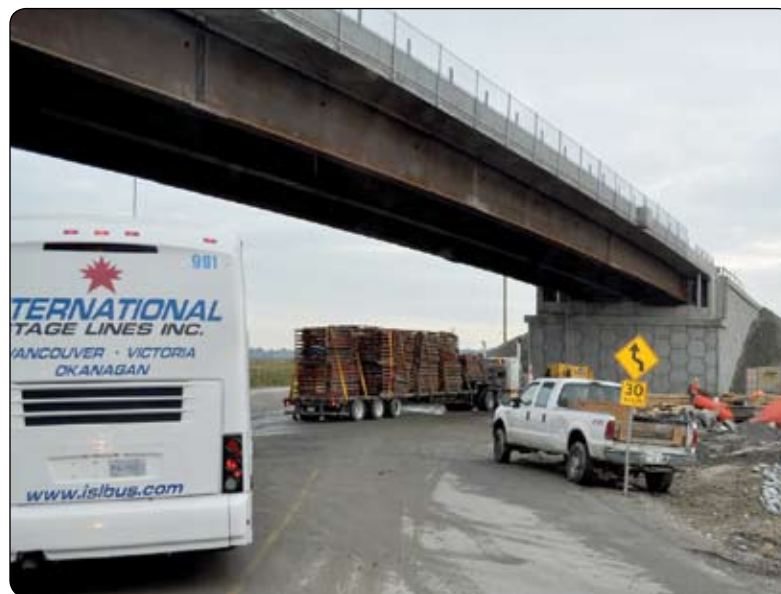
But it was DeltaPort, in all its bigness, that seemed to impress everyone the most. There was non-stop work of a series of cranes loading and unloading containers accompanied by an endless number of train cars and semi-trucks.

Tour guides included:

- Andrew Bak who sits in the Tsawwassen Legislature and is a government services technician for the nation;
- Chris Hartman, the CEO of Tsawwassen's economic development corporation;
- Tom McCarthy who is the nation's policy and intergovernmental affairs manager; and
- Colin Ward, a policy analyst.

The packaged salmon was donated by the First Nations Education Society.

CANDO stands for Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers. It is a national organization that focuses on education and professional development of economic development officers working in Aboriginal communities and organizations.



The new overpass will bring traffic into TFN industrial lands.



The container cranes never stop.



NmTC board chair Terry Sampson of Stz'uminus was one of those on the tour.



TFN/Matcon joint venture were working on a barge ramp removal.