Building/Bonds



Paul Michel, left, and Ralph Wright of Prince George beat the drum for community spirit and understanding during the CNC First Nations Second Annual Lahal tournament. The game of lahal is used to strengthen bonds between First Nations communities. CAM MCALPINE/FREE PRESS

Japanese business leaders liked northern tour

The reception for three Japanese business officials was "open and friendly" this week in Prince George and Prince Rupert, says Northern Commissioner John Backhouse.

Mr. Backhouse says it was the first visit to northern B.C. by Yasushi Yamazaki of the Japan External Trade Organization and Tadashi Miyagawa, Japan's consul for economic affairs. Toshiumi Aoki, vicepresident of Mitsui & Co., the number three company on the Fortune 500, accompanied them. "They see some potential opportunities," says Mr. Backhouse, declining to elaborate.

He arranged the tour for the three Vancouver-based officials at the urging of Pacific Western Brewery president Kazuko Komatsu.

Mr. Backhouse plans to do some followup. "When I meet with them again, I will talk about outcomes from the trip."







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