Climate Change: Implications for British Columbia

Monday, September 30, 10 to 11:30 am via live webcast or at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. On September 27, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will release the first Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, the work of 259 authors from 39 countries. Leading BC climate scientists and senior contributors to the report will explain the IPCC assessment process, what’s new in climate science and implications for BC.

Cleaner-conscience vacations

“Carnival to cut pollution from cruise ships,” phys.org, Sept 6, 2013. In a tentative agreement with the EPA, the US’s largest cruise ship company will deploy scrubbers to reduce sulfur dioxide and filters to trap soot on up to 32 ships over the next three years. At port, ships will plug into the electrical grid, rather than idle, to reduce pollution.

Dr. Katherine Gibson is the 2013 Distinguished Speaker for UVic’s Centre for Co-operative and Community Based Economy. (There was a workshop at AOM in Orlando on Dr. Gibson’s work.)

October 3, 7-8:30pm at Bob Wright Centre A104, she will be presenting her new book Take Back the Economy: Ethics and Methods for Constituting Community Economies.

Innovative business model

“BC’s Worker-Owned Mill Success Story,” TheTyee.ca, Sept 23 2013
Five years ago, Nanaimo’s Harmac mill was as good as gone until workers rallied to buy it, and their jobs, back. A year later, Victoria’s CHEK TV employees applied the model (and advice from Harmac execs) too.

Innovative unions

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is reaching beyond its members-as-usual practice to what it’s calling “solidarity partners.” This means groups that aim to organize workers outside the traditional collective-bargaining model, particularly in low-paid service sectors; and ideological allies such as ethnic-minority lobby groups. This, according to “New labour, alt-labour,” The Economist, Sept 14, 2013, “was not uncontroversial.”

Finance, investments

Danish fund AP Pension has partnered with co-operative ethical bank Merkur Andelskasse on sustainable investments. The pension fund will make its investment platform available to the bank’s customers and Merkur’s customers will be able to invest in AP’s ethically screened funds. Merkur’s customers will get a broader selection of investment possibilities and an opportunity to invest wisely, said CEO Lars Pehrson, and this venture ensures that their investments work both for their pensions but also for a sustainable development. “Danish Fund Partners With Co-op Bank For Sustainable Investments,” Global Money Management, 2013.