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February 5, 2010

Hello everyone,

The opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games are taking place in Vancouver tonight and athletes from around the world will gather to compete over the next two weeks. Canada has a very strong team, including Prince George's very own bi-athlete Megan Tandy. The incredible amount of work that has taken place since the bid for the Olympics began will pay off tonight and in the days ahead. This is a proud moment for British Columbians and an amazing economic opportunity as political and business leaders attend the games. I will be spending time in Vancouver and Prince George and will have both business and hosting duties. My focus will be on our stakeholders from Asia and in particular airlines and shippers. Lots of important meetings and work to be done, but excited to join all of you in the chant Go Canada Go!!

Today was a historic day in the Provincial Legislature. For the first time in 139 years a sitting Prime Minister spoke in the House. It was an opportunity to celebrate the excellent working relationship and partnership that we have developed with the Federal Government over the last few years. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the presentation of a large Canadian Flag and an enthusiastic chorus of "Go Canada Go" by both sides of the House. A day I will remember for some time to come.

The Throne Speech is one of the first things that happen in a

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Useful Phone numbers

BC Nurse line: 24 hour,
Toll free 1-866-215-4700

Pharma Net Hotline:
Mon-Fri (8:30-4:30pm)
1-800-387-4700

Health Info Line: Mon-Fri
(8:30-4:30pm)
1-800-465-4911

Victim Link: 7 days a
week,
24 hours, 1-800-563-0808

new legislative session. As such it was held this week. The Throne Speech lays out the vision that the government plans to develop in the months ahead. Northern British Columbia was not neglected in the Throne Speech, as we move forward to create jobs, improve the environment and support families with children. There will be new revenue-sharing opportunities, new reconciliation agreements and new treaties to create social and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people. British Columbia will pursue amendments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act to create a unified federal-provincial review process that does away with redundancy and unnecessary costs. The commitment to a new Wood Innovation and Design Centre in Prince George will help keep our forestry sector strong into the future. As well, government will look at a new Clean Energy Act and report on Site C this spring. This throne speech shows that Northern BC will remain an economic generator for the rest of the province, and this government remains committed to strategic investments that create a strong investment and economic climate.

There were also two health care announcements in the past week. The first is the Ministry of Health Services has launched a consultation with stakeholders to determine the best model to deliver ambulance services in British Columbia. The consultation follows the release of a report from the Industrial Inquiry Commissioner, who was appointed to propose options to improve service delivery and the structure of collective bargaining. The consultation, which will occur over the next three weeks, will focus specifically on three options outlined in the commissioner's report - closer integration with the health system, close integration with other emergency service providers and opportunities for private sector service delivery.

The second announcement ensures that Northern British Columbia residents will soon receive improved care from a pilot program to seek and treat undiagnosed or untreated HIV/AIDS. For British Columbians who know they have HIV/AIDS and are connected to the health-care system, accessing Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy is relatively straightforward and can have extremely positive outcomes. However, there is a large segment of the at-risk population who are not connected to the health system, and Seek and Treat aims to go out, diagnose, support and provide treatment to those who are medically eligible where possible.

The health outcomes of Northern British Columbians lag that of the rest of the province. Through initiatives such as this new HIV/AIDS program, we are looking to improve health outcomes for some of our most at-risk individuals.

A busy week ahead and it includes some time in Vancouver for business meetings and roundtables as we welcome 9000 business and political leaders to our business hosting program. I am also looking forward to some family time - have a great weekend and cheer loudly for our terrific Canadian team - we want to win gold on Canadian soil! I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Until next week,
Shirley

This week's bouquet of recognition goes to...

The Graduating class out at Baldy Huges, Great job gents, on getting your Grade 12 diploma. Keep up the great work!

Community Announcement

Let's Celebrate..... WINTER!!

Friday February 12, 2010-02-03

3pm @ UNBC NUSC BLD

1st Annual winter Carnival

And

2010 Olympic Opening Ceremonies

Hot chocolate, popcorn,

Ice skating, Horse drawn hayrides

and much, more

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**Mark your calendar...**

- ❖ February 3 - 21 – **Theatre North West** production “Thy Neighbour’s Wife”, tickets available at Books & Co. 250-614-0039
- ❖ February 5 -21<sup>st</sup> – **Snow Daze** Prince George Mardi Gras of Winter Society 34<sup>th</sup> annual. Contact *Snowdaze* office 250-564-3737 or visit at 1529 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- ❖ February 12- **PGSO** – “*Another Kind of Love*” Valentine’s Day celebration joins this worthwhile fundraiser at the Ramada Hotel’s Cranbrook Ballroom at 7pm. Tickets \$25 at Books & Co. for more info please call Elizabeth Fry society 250-563-1113
- ❖ February 13- **Valentine Dance** at ECRA- 1692 -10Ave, Dance to the Retreads, Admission \$5/person, Door Prizes, Spot dances, Snacks provided.
- ❖ February 15-21 Heritage Week
- ❖ February 20 – **Taste of India** \*Bollywood Style\* fundraising event at the Civic Centre presented by the Rotary Club of Prince George Yellowhead club. Tickets \$75/person for info call Kim Gill 250-564-7394.
- ❖ February 20 – **Pancake Breakfast** at Elders Citizens Recreation Association on 10<sup>th</sup> ave. 8am – 11am. Only \$6,
- ❖ February 26 – **Elders Citizens Recreation Association** – Turkey Lunch, Members \$8, non members \$10, 50/50 Draw, 1692 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- ❖ February 26, 27, 28 - Elders Citizens Recreation Association – **Comedy Show**, “Giggles Galore” Friday, 7pm, Sat- 2pm, and Sun- 2pm, Tickets at ECRA Centre \$10/per person.
- ❖ May 4-2010 – **Charlie Pride** at the CN Centre- tickets on sale November 27-www.tickemaster.ca or CN Centre Box Office
- ❖ June 3-5, 2010 – **Resources Expo 2010**- Please visit new website for more info [www.bcreourcesexpo.com](http://www.bcreourcesexpo.com) .

***If you are a non profit organization and would like to advertise an upcoming event or share a story please email [Shirley](mailto:Shirley)***

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. If you would like to see something specific in the next edition of Ask Your MLA, please [email me](mailto:Shirley). If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, email their name so we can add them to our list.



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