



Useful Web Links

February 29, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

It was great to have my son Chris and his girlfriend Cristina spend some time in Victoria during reading break week at university. They attended Question Period and the Budget speech and we also managed to squeeze in a couple of hockey games. We watched the Victoria Salmon Kings defeat Idaho 6-0 and then our very own Major Midget Cougars defeat their Victoria rivals 4-2. They went on to an easy 5-3 win on Sunday. Congratulations to coaches Brent and Grant Williams and the team for some very exciting hockey and for representing the North so well!! What can I say . . . Once a hockey family - always a hockey family!!

A long week in Victoria with numerous debates including Question Period. One of the highlights at the Leg this week was seeing members from both sides of the House wearing pink t-shirts in support of Anti-Bullying Day. There was a sea of pink around the province including in my constituency! Thanks and congratulations to everyone who stepped up and wore pink. Special thanks to all our students who came out in huge numbers - including in McBride. Proclaiming a dedicated day is important but more important is that we build on the momentum and make every day Anti-Bullying day. We need to make personal choices to respect diversity and role model

government.

Ask Your MLA Archive: [Click here](#) to read past editions of Ask Your MLA.

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

tolerance. I hope that we will continue to see the ongoing benefits of this provincial event.

This morning Solicitor General John Les announced that Prince George will be one of several communities that will be piloting a prolific offender project. This initiative is based on the shocking statistic that 50% of reported crimes in BC are committed by about 10% of offenders. This project will test an integrated approach by intensively managing the small number of offenders that commit a significant portion of the crimes. The integrated teams will include law enforcement, health and social service representatives.

The results will be evaluated but experiences in other jurisdictions like the UK suggest that similar programs resulted in positive outcomes. This aggressive approach is one more opportunity to ensure our communities are safer places for all of us.

New funds will soon be available for organizations to apply for that want to provide crime prevention and victim assistance in our communities. The Solicitor General announced this week that \$500,000 will be made available from the civil forfeiture program. Grants up to \$20,000 will be available to organizations such as local governments, school districts First Nations bands. I will be working to encourage applications from the North. If you are interested in applying you can contact the Victim Services and Community Programs Division at 604-660-3747 or as always we can find you more information at my office.

It was great to have Mayor Mike Frazier in Victoria this week to meet with Minister Richard Neufeld and I about a potential power line extension for the Robson Valley. The Mayor was well prepared and the meeting was productive. We expect a report back from the Ministry with the next month or so. I am always proud of the hard work done in my constituency by our municipal leaders including Mayor Frazier.

How do you spell AMAZING?? Why not attend the second annual CanSpell event in Prince George. I

had the pleasure of attending last year and will be there once again this year. You would be so impressed with the students who compete! Congratulations to Alan Ramsey and his team for the great job! We'll be cheering tomorrow!!

A very busy weekend and then right back to Victoria on Sunday - so not a lot of family time - but I look forward to seeing many of you out and about!!

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT NEW PROCLAMATION SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO END BULLYING?

The Province is proclaiming Feb. 27 as Anti-Bullying Day to support efforts to end bullying in schools and communities across the province. Nobody likes a bully and we all have to take a stand to stop bullying. Anti-

Bullying Day is a celebration of those who take action to stop bullies in our schools and around the province. It starts with all of us saying bullying is wrong and then standing up for those who become targets. We all benefit when everyone feels safe and secure in their schools, neighbourhoods and province.

Anti-Bullying Day highlights British Columbia's commitment to a safe and inclusive province and is an opportunity to actively promote respectful and kind behaviour among citizens. It recognizes efforts to build communities that foster respect, fairness, equity and compassion, and to celebrate the actions of individuals, schools and communities to address bullying, harassment and intimidation. Student safety is a top priority, and we know that when students feel safe and accepted among their peers, they do better at school. Anti-Bullying Day is another step towards uniting as a province to find tangible solutions so that all British Columbians can feel safe and achieve their

best.

Last spring, the Province passed legislation requiring all B.C. schools have codes of conduct for their students that meet provincial standards. This step fulfills a platform commitment to institute “zero tolerance” of bullying in B.C. schools. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General are also updating the Focus on Bullying and Focus on Harassment and Intimidation guides, and a parent brochure will soon be in schools to help families better understand their shared role with schools in bullying prevention. The Province encouraged everyone to wear pink on Feb. 27 to show your opposition to bullying.

Anti-Bullying Day complements the Province’s beliefs that a healthy environment and educated populace are essential to healthy human development, and that a safe, humane society is the outcome of an enlightened, prosperous and caring community.

News Around the Province

PROCEEDS OF CRIME TO AID PREVENTION EFFORTS, VICTIMS

Communities across B.C. will share in \$500,000 forfeited as a result of unlawful activity. The growing success the province is enjoying with our civil forfeiture program will help advance the Community Safety Strategy envisioned in the throne speech. Now, it’s time to share our success by using the proceeds to support grassroots crime prevention and victims’ assistance in communities across the province. The fact it’s coming out of lawbreakers’ pockets makes this program even more satisfying. The new funding program will provide one-time-only grants of up to \$20,000 to help prevent and address the effects of crime. Local governments, community and youth organizations, school districts, police departments, victim service programs, Aboriginal organizations and First Nations bands are invited to apply. The Province will give priority to projects that address one or more of the following:

- Tackle the root causes or risk factors that contribute to crime. These include individual risk factors like a history of violence and substance abuse; family risks such as poor parenting skills or family violence; and community risks such as high crime or needed services.
- Respond to local, specified crime issues.
- Increase the ability of victims and community members to fully participate in justice processes, like the opportunities already provided by alternative or restorative justice programs in many B.C. communities.
- Adopt evidence-based community safety and crime prevention approaches that have proven effective in other jurisdictions.
- Focus on the needs of rural and Aboriginal communities.

Organizations in smaller communities can accomplish a great deal on the crime front with just a small amount of seed money. These grants will be an effective tool for dealing with neighbourhood crime problems within cities and towns. Knowing the proceeds will help communities prevent crime and aid victims will encourage more police departments to refer files for civil forfeiture action where appropriate.

The grants from civil forfeiture proceeds will build on the additional \$17 million over three years that Balanced Budget 2008 provides for victim services programs. To date, \$3.4 million in assets have been forfeited. The Province first made civil forfeiture proceeds available last July, when \$500,000 in seized proceeds of an unregistered investment scheme – one that used money from new investors to pay out current investors – were returned to their rightful owners.

Communities and organizations interested in applying for the new grants are invited to contact the ministry's Victim Services and Community Programs Division at 604 660-3747.

The Civil Forfeiture Act was devised to help take the profit out of organized crime and other illegal activities. Where it has been proven in civil court that property was acquired as a result of, or used for, unlawful activity, the Supreme Court can order the property forfeited. Proceeds from its sale are paid into

a special account to:

- Compensate eligible victims of an unlawful activity.
- Prevent unlawful activities by providing grants to fund crime prevention activities.
- Remedy the effects of unlawful activities.
- Cover costs related to the administration of the act.

The B.C. government introduced the act in March 2005 and it came into force in April 2006.

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

Our Local Dental Assistants!

Remember to congratulate and appreciate the Canadian Dental Assistants you know for their valuable contribution to dentistry. Please spread the word in your community! Click [here](#) to learn more. And tune into **CityTV** Breakfast Television March 3-7, where each day CDABC gives away one Oral-B® Triumph™ Professional Care™ 9000 power toothbrush!

Community Announcements

Sarah's video story has advanced to the top 4 who are vying for the top 2 spots to go head to head for the title of Canada's Best Speed Skating Story.

You can now vote for this round at <http://www.INGSpeedSkatingChallenge.com>

Please take a moment to vote again for Sarah Pousette, now one of the front runners in the ING Speed Skating Challenge. This is a great way to promote PG speed skating and PG overall!

BC150 Years' Rivermania's website is now live at <http://bcrivermania.com>. This 36-day tourism event is launching in PG on August 24, 2008, hosted by The Exploration Place. Rivermania is being marketed

internationally as a great way for tourists to experience BC's rich history and cultural heritage via the Fraser River as it winds down to the lower mainland through river-side communities, most of whom are planning accompanying community celebrations.

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ Feb 28-Mar 1 - UNBC host Provincial Womens Basket Ball at Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre at 6pm
- ❖ Mar 1 - Dunster Community Association Mid Winter Buy and Sell- 11AM -2PM at Dunster Community Hall, Silent Auction, White Elephant, Bake Table-For more info 968-4334
- ❖ Mar 1 – Can West Can Spell National Spelling Bee 2008 at Vanier Hall.
- ❖ Mar 3 – CNC- The Big Book Sale- great selection – call Kathy Plett at 562-2131
- ❖ Mar 4 - 6 -Vision Loss workshop- CNIB -490 Quebec St. For info call Sharon-563-1702
- ❖ Mar 5 – 6 Singfest 2008 at 7 pm at Vanier Hall. – Over 400 elementary and high School vocal musicians will be participating.
- ❖ Mar 5 – 6:30pm to 9:30pm at Artspace; Elizabeth Fry is hosting the International Women's Day event. Admission is free, refreshments, desserts, and door prizes.
- ❖ Mar 7-9 – The Rainbow singers and musical friends present Musical Eastcoast Kitchen Party at ECRA, Admin: \$10
- ❖ Mar 9 – Bowl for Kids - Big Brothers Big Sisters at Strike Zone 2366 Westwood Drive, for more info on how you can support, visit www.bbbspq.ca or call 563-7410
- ❖ Mar 9 – Cariboo Toastmasters 50th Anniversary Dinner/Dance –for more info call Laura : 961-3477
- ❖ Mar 13 – World Kidney Day-
- ❖ Apr 1 –7PM Prince George Playhouse- the Mystique Variety Show to support the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada

If you are a non profit organization and would like to advertise an upcoming event or share a story please email [Shirley](mailto:shirley@leg.bc.ca)

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@leg.bc.ca). If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, email their name so we can add them to our list.



My second e-newsletter, People, Places & Projects showcases great people and projects in our area. To subscribe to People, Places & Projects, [click here](#). To read past editions to go: [People, Places & Projects online](#).

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