



## Useful Web Links

**March 20, 2008**



[Watch Shirley's latest video message](#)

[My website](#)

[BC Government Caucus](#)

[Ministry of Education](#)

[City of Prince George](#)

[Regional District of Fraser Fort George](#)

[Prince George Public Library](#)

[Two Rivers Gallery](#)

[Act Now! BC](#)

[2010 Commerce Centre](#)

[Spirit of 2010](#)

[Prince George Community Foundation](#)

[Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

[The Exploration Place](#)

[Railway and Forestry Museum](#)

Capital Report: [Sign up](#) to find out what is happening in

Hello Everyone,

This week was the start of Spring Break for all of the school districts in the province. It is also spring break for us MLAs. However, instead of being off holidaying on a beach, many of us have been traveling around the province, visiting constituents and announcing important programs.

This week the Premier recognized the achievements of 45 special British Columbians with the 2008 BC Community Achievement Awards. Congratulations to all recipients and nominees of the awards, but special congratulations goes to Vanessa West from Prince George. Vanessa was recognized for being a role model and a leader in the Lheidli T'enneh Band. She is a Band Councilor and ensured the youth perspective was represented at the recent treaty table. Congratulations Vanessa and keep up the great work!

The Premier also launched our LiveSmart BC Logo Contest this week. The call to action on climate change has really resonated with our young people so we are trying to tap into their creative energy and talent to design a logo that will empower British Columbians to take action on climate change. If you or someone you know is interested in inspiring British Columbians to make greener choices, visit

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

[www.climateactionsecretariate.gov.bc.ca](http://www.climateactionsecretariate.gov.bc.ca) to find out how to enter a design for the new LiveSmart BC logo.

I was really excited to see the new BC150 Community Arts Grant, announced this week by my colleague Stan Hagen, the Minister for Tourism, Sport and the Arts. This is a \$190,000 grant program to support community and regional arts activities. The funding will be available to community and regional arts councils and Aboriginal cultural centres and there is a wide range of eligible projects. I eagerly anticipate the exciting new arts projects that will bring B.C.'s rich history to life with the help of this grant.

In addition to being Good Friday, March 21, 2008 is also the International Day for the Elimination of Racism this year. In honour of that day the Attorney General, Wally Opal, and I announced the "Make A Case Against Racism" initiative this week. It is designed to complement provincial school curriculum for grades 4 to 7 and encourage students to take personal responsibility for preventing racism, while celebrating the province's cultural diversity through music and art. For more information on this exciting initiative visit [www.WelcomeBC.ca](http://www.WelcomeBC.ca).

Finally, on a personal note I wanted to congratulate the hard work of the Farr Fabricating PG AAA Bantam Cougars hockey team this week. The team has been competing at the provincials in Victoria this week and I've been working overtime as hockey mom and MLA cheering them on! Tonight they will compete in the finals for the provincial title. In addition to the hard work of the Cougars team, I'd like to recognize the efforts of Brad Crossan the head coach and his assistants Jeff Rowland, Andrew Luciuk, Ben Williams and my son Chris Bond. Great job...we are really proud of you!

I am looking forward to celebrating Easter with my family and I hope you will find some special time with yours as well. Happy Easter!

Until next week,

Shirley

## Question of the week:

What recent announcement will assist Aboriginal communities pursue healthy living choices?

Aboriginal youth and urban Aboriginal populations in B.C. will be in a stronger position to meet their health priorities in support of ActNow BC goals for healthier living. This funding will work towards closing the identified health gap between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians. This is a key goal that the province set last year in the First Nations Health Plan. The Friendship Centres are making a great effort in meeting the needs of the Aboriginal communities through healthy living strategies.

The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAHA), through its BC Initiatives for Aboriginal Health division, will provide \$400,000 in provincial funding to help the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) address the health goals of urban Aboriginal populations in B.C. The funding comes from a \$6-million ActNow BC program announced in 2007 to encourage Aboriginal British Columbians to lead healthier lives and close the gap in health between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians.

The \$400,000 will support four projects that will strengthen links between on- and off-reserve health programming, facilitate community control of Aboriginal health plans and support Aboriginal youth in healthy living through the promotion of sports and recreation and the development of targeted drug and alcohol strategies.

These funds will support projects that can lead to transformative, sustainable change in Aboriginal health. Many see this initiative as crucial to strengthening the health of Aboriginal people, particularly youth, as they move between rural communities and urban centres. The Gathering Our

Voices 2008 Provincial Aboriginal Youth Conference in Victoria received an additional \$200,000 in funding support from the Province. The theme of this year's conference is Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Wellness and is an opportunity for Aboriginal youth to learn about how sport and recreation programs can provide job skills, increase their participation in sports and physical activity and encourage healthy lifestyle habits.

As part of their participation in the conference, each of the approximately 1,000 participating youths received an ActNow BC pedometer and registered for the Activity Challenge, an online tool to engage participants in tracking their physical activity. The NCCAH is based at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George and is one of six centres across Canada established by the Public Health Agency of Canada to serve First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

ActNow BC works together with government ministries, the health sector and health promotion partners to deliver programs designed to encourage healthy choices for all British Columbians.

For more information on ActNow BC, visit [www.actnowbc.ca](http://www.actnowbc.ca).

## **News Around the Province**

### **PROJECTS ANNOUNCED ON WORLD WATER DAY GET BOOST**

British Columbia is investing more than \$1 million in water-related funding to support water and fisheries resources, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced on World Water Day. The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. World Water Day is as appropriate time to remind us just how precious water resources are to British Columbia. It is also a great time to announce a number of projects throughout the province that will help ensure that water resources are protected and

preserved for generations to come.

The grants announced will benefit groups such as the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, the Sport Fishing Institute of BC, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the British Columbia Water and Waste Association.

The grants will support a variety of projects throughout the province, such as assessing fish stocks, mapping groundwater sources, assessing watershed risks caused by mountain pine beetle salvage work, monitoring stream flows and helping First Nations derive more benefits from the inland fisheries resource.

For more information of World Water Day, check online at <http://www.worldwaterday.org>.

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

... the organizers and participants of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Prince George Dance Festival! Thank you for using your time and talents to create another wonderful cultural event in our community.

## **Community Announcements**

A Flower In Fashion! ~ March 30  
A Fundraise for the Canadian Cancer Society

This fashion show is for raising funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. The event features fashions, tea, door prizes, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$25 and are available at DandyLines, Jackie's Fine Lines, JJ Springer, and the Canadian Cancer Society.

12:30 – 3:30, at the Coast Inn of the North

## **Mark your calendar...**

- ❖ March 1 – April 30: City of PG – Regional District of Fraser Ft. George 2008 Woodstair Exchange Program.

- ❖ Mar 25 – Bluegrass Show at Art Space 7:30 pm, John Reischman and the Jaybirds, \$15, tickets available at Books & Co.
- ❖ Mar 27 to April 04 – Travelling World Community Film Festival. (Raven Haven 421 George Street, Artspace) The festival includes a Brown Bag Cinema: weekday lunch screenings at Raven Haven at 421 George Street and evening showings starting at 7 p.m. at Raven Haven and/or Artspace. A single day pass (lunch hour and evening films) is \$5, a Brown Bag Cinema Pass (five films, five lunch hours) is \$10 and a Festival Pass (all 22 films) is \$30. Festival schedules and tickets are available at Books and Company and Sassafras Savouries, 416 George Street.
- ❖ Mar 28 –Prince George Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting 5pm to 7pm and Inauguration Dinner 7pm to 10pm. For more info call 562-2454
- ❖ Mar 29 – Women’s Perspective on the Mt. Pine Beetle: The goal of this forum is to discuss the extent and implications of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic as experienced by women in terms of their own and their communities' health and wellbeing. Challenges, assets, solutions and capacity building opportunities will be identified. No charge, snacks and lunch provided. Space is limited. 8:30am - 4:30pm in @ UNBC, Room 6-211 Sarah Boyd-Noel P: 960-5632 E: [empower@unbc.ca](mailto:empower@unbc.ca)
- ❖ Mar 30 – A Tribute to Elvis at the Prince George Playhouse, starring Steve Elliott- Tickets at Studio 2880 \$27.50
- ❖ Apr 1 –7PM Prince George Playhouse- the Mystique Variety Show to support the Children’s Wish Foundation of Canada
- ❖ Apr 4- The Sting at the Coast Inn of the North. The Kiwanis Club and Child Development Centre have teamed up for this fun evening. For more details call CDC 563-7168

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

Toll Free: 1-866-612-7333  
Phone: 250-612-4181  
Fax: 250-612-4188

[www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca](http://www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca)  
[shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca)

1350 5th Ave,  
Prince George, BC  
V2L 3L4