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March 28, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

Even though it's still Spring Break, today we got to see parents, children, principals, teachers, school board trustees, Parent Advisory Council representatives and District Parent Advisory Council representatives at the Heritage Elementary school playground. Pat, John and I were there to announce grants for 11 Prince George schools to refurbish their playgrounds. Congratulations to all schools that were successful. I would like to recognize the hard work of the Parent Advisory Councils of all schools who applied for putting the time and effort in to raise money and submit your applications. For those of you that didn't receive a grant this time around I would encourage you to apply again in September for the next round of grants - just keep an eye on the website for details www.pssq.gov.bc.ca/gaming/. A special thanks to Trish Bella and her playground committee for their advocacy and inspiring us to create playground grant programs. Great job everyone!

On Tuesday, March 25, 2008 we had the great pleasure of announcing that the Prince George Family YMCA will receive \$500,000 for the construction of a Child Care Hub that will house 77 new childcare spaces. Congratulations to the Family YMCA and their partners particularly School District

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

No. 57, the City of Prince George, MCFD and Northern Health for their hard work in making this happen! This will be the first Child Care Hub in Prince George. A Hub is a location that houses two or more family related or early childhood development services along with a child care centre. This particular Hub in Prince George will have care available for children ages 6 months to 12 years. This is great news for Prince George families!

On Wednesday March 26, 2008 I had the pleasure of speaking to the Nechako Rotary Club on a topic I am very passionate about: Literacy. This club has worked tirelessly to promote literacy and raise literacy levels in Prince George. Recently they have distributed 686 dictionaries to students in grades 4 through 7 in 5 of the schools in Prince George. I was lucky enough to be presented with my very own dictionary from the Rotary Club! I really wanted to recognize the significant work they've done so I had the honour of presenting the Nechako Rotary Club with a certificate on Wednesday recognizing their ongoing efforts to improve literacy levels. Thanks for making a difference in our community and for the example you are setting for other organizations.

My colleague Tom Christensen, Minister of Children and Family Development, was also in Prince George this week. Minister Christensen and I presented our government's 10 year Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Plan, which is a multi-ministry effort bringing together 9 provincial government ministries! And believe me that is a significant accomplishment. One of the most tragic things but also one of the most optimistic things about FASD is that it is a completely preventable form of brain damage. This is why as a government we are working hard with families who are already dealing with FASD but are also working to prevent further incidences of FASD in our children. For more information on our plan visit www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/fasd.

Tonight Minister Pat Bell and I will be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce at their dinner to inaugurate their new President. We will be presenting our top

priorities for the coming year.

The weekend as usual is full of important events in the community. Please be sure to support the Canadian Cancer Society by purchasing daffodils this weekend! Dorothy and I will both be taking turn selling daffodils this weekend and we would love to see you. I also plan to attend the Cancer Society Fashion Show on Sunday afternoon. These fundraisers help support cancer research, so please do your part. We look forward to seeing you out and about.

Until next week,
Shirley

Question of the week:

What Recent Announcement Will Assist Unemployed Older Workers Living In British Columbia Retrain For New Careers?

The first 12 projects funded through the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TIOW) will help older workers living in British Columbia retrain for new careers.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are jointly awarding over \$7.5 million to 12 organizations across the province to deliver community-based projects that will help an estimated 900 unemployed older workers, mostly from the forestry industry.

The Government of Canada is committed to creating the best-educated, most skilled and most flexible work force in the world, and that work force includes older workers. The experience of these workers who want to continue contributing to their communities and to the Canadian economy can not be overlooked.

The Government of Canada, in its 2008 budget, announced new measures to assist older workers, including a \$90-million investment to extend the

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers until March 2012. This is above the original \$70-million investment the federal government made to launch this initiative in Budget 2006.

With an estimated one million job openings in B.C. leading up to 2018, older workers who are interested in re-entering the workforce can be a key element in addressing the skills and labour shortage challenges our province is facing. These funds will allow service providers to help older workers across B.C. upgrade their skills, benefit from job counselling and gain work experience.

This funding allows ETHOS and other service providers across B.C. to develop essential programs and projects that will help unemployed older workers find new positions and continue to be key contributors to the provincial economy.

The TIOW is one of the deliverables of British Columbia's WorkBC action plan, which sets out ways to address skills shortages for the next five years and respond to longer-term labour market challenges. A key priority of the action plan is to develop the skills of existing workers. The TIOW focuses on workers in communities experiencing an economic transition, such as those in the forest sector who are affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic and by the restructuring of this sector.

News Around the Province

IMPROVED DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING AT BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Nuclear Medicine uses radioactive isotopes, cameras and computers to capture images of biological processes that take place at the cellular and sub cellular level within the body. Gamma cameras detect energy emitted from radioactive substances given to the patient to produce diagnostic images. Doctors are able to isolate specific organs and bodily functions because different radioactive isotopes are absorbed differently by various parts of the body.

Common nuclear medicine procedures done at BC Children's Hospital include bone imaging for infection and oncology diagnosis, such as tumors staging and follow-up; renal imaging to determine the function of the kidneys; brain scanning for epilepsy; gastrointestinal imaging; lung scans; cardiac imaging and thyroid function, to name a few.

BC Children's Hospital recently installed two new gamma cameras as part of a major renovation to the Nuclear Medicine Department. The new SPECT/CT (Siemens Symbia T6) and SPECT (Siemens Symbia) gamma cameras replace two older systems originally installed in 1996. One of the new cameras is a state-of-the-art hybrid gamma camera with six-slice computed tomography (CT) capability; the other is a gamma camera only. CT uses special X-rays to produce multiple two-dimensional images (slices) of the body. Slices are produced by an X-ray tube that rotates 360 degrees around the patient's body. Slices are used to create images of soft tissues and other structures not captured in conventional X-rays. 3-D images can be produced with the right equipment and computer software. CT scans are particularly useful in the diagnosis of trauma, musculoskeletal disorders, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, and cancer.

Combining both gamma and CT functions in one camera is useful for certain types of tests as it produces overlaid images from both the gamma camera and the CT functions. These overlaid or fused images can provide a more accurate picture of the area of interest within the patient and enable more effective treatment. Another benefit for patients is that often just one hospital visit is required instead of two (or no wait between appointments) to capture different types of images.

The Nuclear Medicine Department at BC Children's Hospital performs about 3,750 exams per year. As the provincial tertiary care centre, the Nuclear Medicine Department at BC Children's Hospital is the only facility providing specialized nuclear medicine imaging studies to the children and youth of British Columbia.

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

Congratulations to everyone at Dean Mason & Co. Inc. Chartered Accountants. The firm celebrated reaching its 20th anniversary.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!!

Community Announcements

82nd Kelly Cup at the Golf and Curling Club begins Thursday, March 26. The A-B final is set for Saturday at 3pm. The Kelly final, as well the C, D, and E pool finals, begin Sunday at 4:30 pm.

Mark your calendar...

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

- ❖ March 30 – 12:30PM-3:30PM - A Flower In Fashion! A Fundraise for the Canadian Cancer Society at the Coast Inn. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more info call Margaret at 564-0885 loc 115
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Apr 7 – 11 CNIB will offer a free rehabilitation workshop for people with vision loss. Call Chrissy Hannah at 563-1702 for more info
- ❖ Apr 13- Prince George Youth Soccer Association is hosting a Shoe Swap at 965 Winnipeg St. Bring soccer cleats to the office by March 31 to receive a ticket that will allow you to swap shoes during the event. Those with no shoes to offer can participate by a cash donation. Adult cleats are also welcome For more info call Ron Polillo at 960-1367
- ❖ May 29th – CNIB 7th Annual Drive Thru Breakfast at Costco Wholesale. 7 am to 9 am
- ❖ June 13th - Visions Luncheon at the Treasure Cove Casino show lounge with blind comedian Gord Paynter. Gord has been featured on Yuk Yuks circuit and at the Just for Laughs Festival. Tickets are \$50 each or \$400 for table of eight. Silent auction for more info call Brad or Jeff at 563-1702

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](#).

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