



## Useful Web Links

**April 3, 2009**



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Hello everyone:

Well the last session of our four year mandate ended this week. While I will be very glad to have the time at home I will miss the outstanding team of public servants I have been so honoured to work with for these last four years. The dedication and energy they have means British Columbians are very well served. I want to thank them all for a job well done!

This past week was filled with many announcements that relate to Prince George. Sixty-two physicians from across the province are receiving acknowledgement for their dedication and commitment to improving primary health care for the benefit of British Columbians, including Dr. William Clifford from Prince George. The physicians receiving awards were selected by the General Practice Services Committee (GPSC) for their contributions to the committee's practice support program. GPSC is a joint committee of the Ministry of Health Services and the BC Medical Association (BCMA) that works to renew primary health care in this province. GPSC provides B.C. physicians with the opportunity to participate in a number of incentive programs that support patients with chronic disease, train physicians for the uptake of obstetric and maternity care and aim to increase the number of medical graduates entering general practice. Congratulations to Dr. Clifford on a job well done!

Our province is facing a critical shortage of nurses and this

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

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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

government has moved diligently to create new nursing programs around the province. The provincial government has funded 4,008 new spaces since 2001. This includes an additional 287 spaces added under Budget 2009, with further expansion expected. In addition, 24 nursing programs have been created since 2001. In 2006-07 alone, 2,361 nurses graduated in B.C., up from 1,343 in 2000-01. This is important news for people across the province that now have increased access and better opportunity to pursue a nursing education in BC. Earlier this month I had the pleasure of announcing the \$960,000 investment in the Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program to establish simulation laboratories that will provide nursing students with learning opportunities to enhance their skills in caring for adult and paediatric patients with complex medical issues. Our government's commitment to health care in the north is unwavering, and nursing is just one of the areas where we have made significant investments.

Another announcement last weekend saw an investment of almost \$90,000 to begin an energy-efficiency retrofit for the McBride and District Hospital. The project will invest \$88,910 to retrofit lighting, install variable speed drives on HVAC equipment and improve ventilation. I know that residents of McBride have been hit hard by the downturn in the forest industry. This project will create employment in McBride and demonstrates our government's commitment to assisting small communities and in addition will help the environment by improving energy efficiency in our hospital. Having energy-efficient buildings is important no matter where you live in BC and I always work hard to ensure that our Northern rural communities receive their share of these grant programs.

Thursday it was announced seven British Columbians won healthy living prizes, including Catherine Ablet from Prince George, who won three months of personal training. The World Healthy Living Challenge was announced on February 14<sup>th</sup> and asks participants to pledge to make just three small improvements to their daily lifestyle; these can be any combination of environmental or healthy living goals. British Columbians who take the Challenge will be eligible to win tickets to the 2010 Winter Games, along with other healthy living prizes such as pedometers, personal training sessions and dietitian consultations. New winners will be chosen in the last week of each month leading up to the

opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Games. To sign up for the World Healthy Living Challenge, please visit [www.actnowbc.ca](http://www.actnowbc.ca). Congratulations to Catherine and enjoy the personal training sessions!

This next week is shaping up to be an incredibly busy week. Tonight I will attend three events to finish off a back to back day with events in and out of the constituency office. Saturday and Sunday are also jam packed highlighted by a visit from our Attorney General Wally Oppal. I am pretty sure I will see many of you...out and about!

Until next week,

Shirley

## **Question of the week:**

### **How will New Police Vehicle Cameras be Distributed around the Province?**

B.C.'s 320 new traffic-duty vehicle cameras offer many state-of-the-art features that will make policing safer and protect the integrity of the footage recorded.

The technical standards of the police-vehicle cameras far exceed those of regular, consumer-quality digital cameras.

The in-car cameras:

- Are protected in a maximum-security, fire- and bulletproof vault that withstands the shock, vibration, dust and temperature extremes of a police-car environment.
- Offer a 40:1 zoom ratio, very sharp images, superior colour, night-video capability and a backlight feature that provides better visibility in poor lighting conditions.
- Can record up to 90 hours of real-time video, with a unique time code on each frame.
- Record to encased DVD-RAM discs, which protect data better than do standard DVDs.
- Automatically begin recording when emergency equipment is activated and when a police vehicle is involved in a collision. Officers can also activate a camera while inside their vehicle or remotely through a wireless microphone.

The Province is basing distribution of the new in-car cameras on police operations budgets and the number of traffic unit members and traffic enforcement vehicles that RCMP units and independent municipal police departments

have. The new in-car cameras will focus on impaired and dangerous driving enforcement, so the number of cameras allocated to individual police agencies will reflect the resources they direct toward traffic safety.

The table below summarizes where the new cameras are going.

**RCMP Provincial Traffic Units**

**Lower Mainland Traffic Services**

Deas Island 10

Hope 8

Port Mann 14

Sea to Sky 5

Sumas 11

Sunshine Coast 3

**Island District Traffic Services**

Central Island Traffic Services – Parksville 7

North Island Traffic Services – Campbell River 2

South Island Traffic Services – Chemainus 8

**North District Traffic Services**

Burns Lake Highway Patrol 2

Chetwynd Highway Patrol 2

- 2 -

Dawson Creek Highway Patrol 2

Fort Nelson Traffic Services 2

Fort St. John Highway Patrol 3

Prince George Highway Patrol 6

Quesnel Highway Patrol 4

Smithers Highway Patrol 2

Terrace Highway Patrol 4

Valemount Highway Patrol 2

Vanderhoof Highway Patrol 2

**Southeast District Traffic Services**

Ashcroft Traffic Services 4

Central Interior Traffic Services – Clearwater 2

Central Interior Traffic Services – Kamloops 1

Central Okanagan Traffic Services – Kelowna 7

East Kootenay Traffic Services – Cranbrook 10

Golden Traffic Services 8

Merritt Traffic Services 6

North Okanagan Traffic Services – Vernon 4

Revelstoke Sicamous Traffic Services 3

South Okanagan Highway Patrol – Keremeos 8

West Kootenay Traffic Services – Nelson 8

**RCMP Municipal Traffic Units**

**Within the Lower Mainland:**

Burnaby Municipal Traffic 13

Chilliwack (Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment – Traffic) 4

Coquitlam Municipal Traffic 8

Langley City Traffic 3

Mission Municipal Traffic 2

North Vancouver City Traffic 2

North Vancouver Municipal Traffic 5

Richmond Municipal Traffic 7

Squamish Municipal Traffic 1

Surrey Municipal Traffic 13

Whistler Municipal Traffic 1

**On Vancouver Island:**

Campbell River Municipal Traffic 1

Colwood Municipal Traffic 1

Comox Municipal Traffic 1

Courtenay Municipal Traffic 1

Nanaimo Municipal Traffic 9

North Cowichan Municipal Traffic 1

North Saanich Municipal Traffic 1

Port Alberni Municipal Traffic 2

Sidney Municipal Traffic 2

West Shore Municipal Traffic (Langford) 1

**Rest of British Columbia:**

Cranbrook Municipal Traffic 1

Kamloops City Traffic 4

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Kelowna Municipal Traffic 5

Penticton Municipal Traffic 2

Prince George City Traffic 4

Prince Rupert Municipal Traffic 1

Salmon Arm Municipal Traffic 1

Vernon Municipal Traffic 3

**Independent Municipal Police Departments**

Abbotsford 6

Central Saanich 2

Delta 5

Nelson 2

New Westminster 5

Oak Bay 1

Port Moody 2

Saanich 6

Vancouver 19

Victoria 9

West Vancouver 3

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the

Province's website at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca).

## **News Around the Province**

### **LIVE CAM CALLARS CRIMINALS**

Police will now be able to watch and listen to auto thieves in real time with the introduction of the Bait Car Live program, Solicitor General John van Dongen announced today as a part of the kick-off to April as Auto Crime Enforcement Month.

"A stolen vehicle in the hands of a car thief is like a 3,000-pound bullet driving down the road," said van Dongen. "On top of that, police officers often face drug-fuelled car thieves armed with weapons such as knives and guns. This new Bait Car Live technology will greatly enhance officer safety and make our streets safer." Previous bait car technology did not allow for live monitoring; police could only view the tape after the vehicle was stopped. Officers were not able to determine how many suspects were in the vehicle, what they were planning, or if they were armed.

"Stopping a stolen vehicle can pose great danger to police because a suspect could have a gun, or there may be more than one person involved," said Sgt. Gord Elias of the Integrated Municipal Auto Crime Team (IMPACT). "Bait Car Live allows a dispatcher to watch and listen to everything going on inside a bait car as it happens and relay that information instantly to the responding police unit."

Auto Crime Enforcement month will also see police forces across B.C. ramping up efforts to arrest car thieves and drive down auto theft statistics. Auto theft dropped 16 per cent in British

Columbia between 2007 and 2008, from 15,900 to 13,400 vehicles stolen. Since 2003, the launch year of the Bait Car program, there has been a 47 per cent decline in auto theft from 25,500 to 13,400.

"Since launching the bait car program in 2003, we've seen auto theft claims fall by about \$40 million," said Donnie Wing, ICBC's senior vice-president of insurance, marketing and underwriting.

"It's one of the reasons why ICBC has been able to lower optional insurance rates 17 per cent over the past five years. Our three per cent reduction in 2009 alone totals a \$50 million savings to our 3.1 million customers."

The Province has a number of strategies in the battle

against vehicle theft. The IMPACT program uses Automatic Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology, which involves the deployment across the Lower Mainland of covert police cars equipped with on-board cameras and computers. ALPR can run up to 600 plates per hour looking for stolen vehicles. The Air One helicopter has also had success apprehending car thieves. Since it went fully operational in 2006, Air One has assisted or been directly involved in 146 stolen vehicle incidents resulting in the arrest of 218 people.

As well, Air Two, the second police helicopter to take to the skies, was introduced recently and doubles the ability of police to apprehend criminals.

To view B.C.'s top ten wanted auto thieves, as well as current theft statistics, go to [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/mediaroom/events/2009-apr-01/](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/mediaroom/events/2009-apr-01/). For a demonstration of how the bait car live program works, visit [www.baitcar.com](http://www.baitcar.com).

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

*Tiare Jung, for receiving \$20,500.00 excellence Laureate award from the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.  
Congratulations!*

## **Community Announcements**

***Food drive at Save on Foods locations:  
College Heights, Spruceland, Parkwood  
April 11, 11am – 5pm***

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

- ❖ April 4- Book signing at Books & Co. **Mike Nash** with his new book *The Mountain Knows No Expert*; Geroge Evanoff *Outdoorsman and Contemporary Hero*,
- ❖ April 4 – Prince George Symphony presents **Musica Intima** at Vanier Hall at 8pm. Tickets

- available at PGSO office call 250-562-0800
- ❖ April 6 – **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** in Concert at CN Centre. 7:30pm Call 250-614-9100 to reach Ticketmaster.
  - ❖ April 15- Chamber of Commerce in Partnership with Children First and RBC - Breakfast Series featuring **Charles Coffey**- Think small, act Big, 7am to 9am, at Ramada Hotel, tickets - \$20
  - ❖ April 15 – May3 – **Theatre North West** presents Sexy Laundry at Parkhill centre, tickets available at Books and Co or call 250-614-0039
  - ❖ April 22- **Harlem Globetrotters** are coming to the CN Centre. Tickets on sale now at Ticketmaster and CN Centre box office.

***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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