

# Ask Your MLA



Shirley Bond MLA, Prince George-Mt. Robson

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## April 7, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

Wow, another whirlwind week in the Capital! Sometimes at the end of the week when I'm writing my note to all of you I look back and wonder where the week went. In fact, last week was so busy I'm getting this newsletter to you a few days later than usual. The week was filled with a lot of catch up and just trying to get back into our regular schedules after having two weeks away from the Legislature and getting to spend some much appreciated time in our constituencies. However, there were a couple of announcements last week, that were particularly important to me.

I was pleased to announce that the contract to build a Commercial Vehicle Inspection Station and expand the Cariboo Connector to improve efficiency and safety will go to tender. The work will be located on Highway 97 near Red Rock. We will be awarding the contract in early May 2008 and work on the project should begin right away after that. This should be completed by October 2009. The project is valued at about \$30 million in total. The Cariboo Connector project includes the Simon Fraser Bridge twinning, the weigh scale relocation and the 4-laning of several stretches of the highway. We ask everyone to please have patience this summer as road crews are working and remember to slow down and obey the

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

road signs. This is an exciting time of building and new projects in our province!

On Wednesday Claude Richmond, Minister for Employment and Income Assistance, and I announced a partnership to help some families access the many services we are providing for them and their children. We have done this by issuing bus passes to families wishing to visit our StrongStart BC Centres throughout the province who are currently unable to do so. Approximately 700 families will have access to these bus passes for 3 months free-of-charge to encourage them to utilize the StrongStart BC Centre in their neighbourhood so that they can help give their child a strong start in education and in life!

On Friday I hosted the Student Congress in Vancouver with 120 British Columbia secondary school students. This is the second annual Student Congress and was another successful and productive day with B.C.'s best and brightest future leaders. Among those attending were members of the DP Todd Leadership Class and Duchess Park students. In fact, the DP Todd students had a very special role in this Congress. They were an immense help in planning, consulting and contributing to the organization and agenda of the Congress. I was also pleased that they agreed to be key note speakers at the Congress this year. What an amazing presentation! And I hope they were as pleased as I was to spend time with his honour the Lieutenant Governor Stephen Point. Thank you to the DP Todd Leadership Class for all of your hard work over the past few weeks and even months and a special thank you to Don Homan for always providing amazing leadership to a special group of young people.

This week is shaping up to be another very busy week in Victoria. What I'm most looking forward to is my regular visit to the Robson Valley this week. There is always so much I would like to do in the Valley but never enough time to do it all. However, we are fitting in as much as we possibly can. I am thrilled we will be able to end the jam-packed day off by attending the Missoula Children's Theatre

production of the Little Mermaid. I can't wait!

Congratulations to Margaret Jones Bricker and the Canadian Cancer Society for an excellent fundraising fashion show last Sunday which I attended after my shift of daffodil sales. Thanks for a job very well done. Your efforts will make a difference.

I hope you enjoyed your weekend and I look forward to seeing you out and about!

Until next week,  
Shirley

## Question of the week:

### What New Requirements Will Assist In Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions?

The Province is reducing greenhouse gas emissions by establishing the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act. The Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements will reduce the environmental impact of transportation fuels and contribute to a new, low-carbon economy. By enabling the government to set new requirements for transportation fuels, this legislation supports B.C.'s goal to lower greenhouse gas emissions 33 per cent by 2020.

The act creates a regulatory framework that enables the Province to set benchmarks for the amount of renewable fuel in B.C.'s transportation fuel blends, reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels and meet its commitment to adopt a low-carbon fuel standard similar to California's. The act will help diversify B.C.'s transportation fuel supply and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by establishing a sustainable market for low-carbon fuels. The flexible design of this legislation will:

- Encourage suppliers to determine how best to meet the requirements in accordance with consumer demand and market forces.
- Create additional consumer choice and reduced

reliance on non-renewable fuels.

- Enable requirements that encourage emerging cleaner fuel technologies.

The BC Energy Plan commits the Province to establish a five per cent average renewable fuel standard for diesel fuel and gasoline by 2010. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act stipulates that fuel suppliers must supply a prescribed percentage of renewable fuels. The required amount will be set in regulation and will fulfill the BC Energy Plan commitment.

For more information on the BC Energy Plan, go to [www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca](http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca).

## **News Around the Province**

### **MORE TO DISCOVER THIS YEAR IN BC PARK**

Adventure, activity and just plain fun are in store for those wanting to put a little more BC Parks in their life. The beginning of April is the start of what promises to be a great parks and camping season. There is something for everyone in British Columbia's parks and protected areas, and BC Parks and Tourism British Columbia can help you find it.

From interpretation and educational programs, wheelchair accessible facilities, picnicking and camping sites and adventure playgrounds to kayaking, canoeing, hiking and backcountry camping adventures, every park visitor will find something to do in one of B.C.'s parks. Across the province, BC Parks now offers more than 11,000 campsites and 6,000 km of trails in almost 900 parks and protected areas.

B.C.'s provincial parks get better and better every year and over the past four years, the B.C. government has invested almost \$83 million to upgrade park infrastructure and acquire additional parkland.

Many capital improvements have already taken place in provincial parks in recent years, including:

rebuilding day-use areas and campgrounds, upgrading drinking water systems, replacing shower and toilet buildings, and improving trails and roads. To make it easier to plan your spring and summer vacation, BC Parks has published six regional brochures and maps, describing some of the best recreation opportunities in each region. These brochures are available free-of-charge from Tourism British Columbia Visitor Centres and at many provincial parks. If you need online assistance, BC Parks hosts an informative and detailed website that includes in-park maps, park brochures, details about park facilities and recreation opportunities, and information about special park features. You can visit the BC Parks website at [www.bcparks.ca](http://www.bcparks.ca). In addition, well-informed people in provincial parks and at visitor centres will be happy to assist you along the way.

The Discover Camping reservation service can also help with spring and summer preparations by offering campsite reservations for 68 of the most popular provincial parks. From April 1 to Sept. 15, reservations can be made online at [www.discovercamping.ca](http://www.discovercamping.ca), or by phoning the call centre at 1-800-689-9025 (604-689-9025 in Greater Vancouver). Reservation agents are available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays (Pacific Time).

The BC Parks Parking Pass can be purchased at visitor centres in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Okanagan and Thompson regions; by calling Discover Camping at 1-800-689-9025 (604-689-9025 in Greater Vancouver); or by printing a mail-in form at [www.bcparks.ca](http://www.bcparks.ca). An annual parking pass costs \$25 and is valid in the 40 provincial parks with parking fees. Revenue from parking fees is reinvested in the parks system and pays for maintaining trails, day-use and picnic areas, playgrounds and park buildings.

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

Save-On- Foods stores for the great community work!  
Salvation Army community ministries received more than 3,000 pounds of food collected from the four stores in Prince George during the Stuff-a-Bag six hour food drive. Great Job!

## **Community Announcements**

**Attention Crafters Michael's the large craft store chain will celebrate it's grand opening on April 19<sup>th</sup> in Westgate Shopping Centre.**

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

- ❖ 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 11-13 - ECRA drama Club is presenting Spring Slapsticks. Fri April 11 at 7pm, Sat April 12 at 7pm and Sun, April 13 at 2pm.
- ❖ 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
- ❖ April 19 - Rummage Sale put on by the Good Cheer Club at Moose Hall on Douglas Street from 9am to 1pm. For more info call Ann at 564-6751
- ❖ April 25- Chamber of Commerce Luncheon at the Ramada Hotel- Guest Speaker Minister of Education, Shirley Bond. Tickets available at the Chamber 562-2454
- ❖ May 29<sup>th</sup> – CNIB 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Drive Thru Breakfast at Costco Wholesale. 7 am to 9 am
- ❖ June 13<sup>th</sup> - 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](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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