

Ask Your MLA



Shirley Bond MLA, Prince George-Mt. Robson

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May 2, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

It was a challenge to get back into the routine of the Legislature this week after having a week to work in my constituency. It was especially tough as I looked out the window and saw the school children having a great time playing and picnicking on the Legislature lawn in the sunshine! I did get to take an hour to do something exciting but admittedly pretty nerve-racking. Thursday was BC Coalition of Motorcyclists' 19th Annual MLA Ride. Yes that's right, I climbed onto the back of a Harley Davidson, held on for dear life and took a lunchtime ride around downtown Victoria with my colleague MLA Blair Lekstrom. The ride is in recognition of May being Motorcycle Awareness Month. Motorists are encouraged to try and be aware of motorcycles on the road and be extra cautious.

Another important thing to note this month is Mental Health Week from May 5 to 11. This year everyone is encouraged to think about whether they have a healthy balance of work and home in their life. I think Mental Health Week comes at a good time because at this time of year we are all working too hard, and it's been too long since our Christmas break and we're still some time away from summer holidays. I would encourage everyone to take some personal time next week and make a real effort to reinstitute a

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

healthy work-life balance. I'll give it an honest try too! CHMA Prince George will be handing out flowers next week as random acts of kindness. I would like to encourage everyone to commit to at least one random act of kindness next week – you'd be surprised how great it makes you feel as well!

I really enjoyed attending the second annual Robson Valley Women's Opportunity Fair last Saturday! I spent the day with many wonderful women learning how to make cards, garden stones, scrapbook and so much more. It was great to take the day to "live, laugh, love" and I'd like to thank Bridget Uhl and Jennifer Quam for their hard work in organizing the day's events and to my workshop instructors for their patience with me.

On Tuesday, I had the opportunity to help Tom Christensen, Minister for Children and Family Development, announce an exciting new pilot program for aboriginal youth. The Ministry of Children and Family Development is offering 25 paid internship positions for aboriginal grade 11 and 12 students interested in social services careers. This is an exciting opportunity for these youth to gain first hand knowledge of what a career in social work or child psychology for example. Students can apply online at www.gov.bc.ca/mcf. The deadline for application submissions is May 23.

Tonight I have the honour of attending Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) B.C. Council Annual General Meeting. Their theme this year is "Spark! The Power of Imagination." These are amazing women who know a lot about the power of imagination. They were founded in 1919 the year after women got the vote and the year before women were able to stand for election. The CFUW's efforts to raise the social, economic and legal status of women remind me of a quote from William Arthur Ward – "if you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it."

Tomorrow I will spend another day in the Robson Valley to participate in the official opening of the McBride Community Centre. This Community Centre

is a direct result of significant partnership and much hard work. The hard work and partnership ensured that the Village of McBride received their \$400,000 grant from the BC Government Towns for Tomorrow program. Congratulations everyone who has been waiting for this day to arrive, we now have a beautiful Community Hall and well deserved!

This will be another busy constituency weekend as Bill and I attend numerous events today, Saturday, and Sunday. Why not join us in supporting amazing community groups such as the ECRA Gospel singers at their Spring concert. We look forward to seeing you out and about.

Until next week,
Shirley

Question of the week:

What Highway Improvements Were Put Out For Tender?

The B.C. Government has announced a tender to complete the final phase of a three-phase resurfacing project on Highway 16 to increase safety and road durability.

The third phase will pave 3.9 kilometres of Highway 16, from the Highway 97 and Highway 16 intersection to the Southridge Overpass. The work also includes rehabilitating the intersections at 22nd, 15th, 10th and 5th Avenue on Highway 97. Three roads in the Prince George area are to be paved as part of this project. The work is scheduled to begin in June, 2008 and be completed in August 2008.

Due to its age and the increasing heavy industrial traffic on this busy corridor the pavement is in very poor condition. These investments will make the highway smoother and more easily traveled, thus improving safety and access for industry, tourists and residents.

This resurfacing project supports local commuter, industrial and tourism traffic that uses this busy corridor.

This traffic includes expanded log hauling that results from the mountain pine beetle harvesting. These improvements exemplify our government's commitment to supporting northern communities, particularly in this time of economic transition. The project will complete the resurfacing of Highway 16 through Prince George. The resurfacing technique includes variable depth asphalt milling and replacement with new asphalt mix. The side roads in Prince George will include level course and top lift paving.

The previously completed two phases of the resurfacing project include:

- Phase 1 was completed in 2006, from Old Cariboo Hwy Intersection to First Avenue and Victoria (6.3 km) and the 15 Avenue & Victoria Intersection.
- Phase 2 was completed in 2007, from First Avenue and Victoria through to the intersection of Hwy 97 and Hwy 16 as well as the Southridge Overpass to Bunce Road.

The work on Highway 16 and Highway 97 will be performed between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. There will be minor traffic delays through the work area and one-lane traffic will be maintained in each direction. Motorists are advised to use alternate routes within the City of Prince George during construction.

Visit Shirley's web site at www.shirleybond.bc.ca

News Around the Province

Legislation Introduced To Cut Vehicle Emissions

British Columbia is taking further action on climate change with the introduction of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act, which will save consumers money while reducing emissions.

Reducing tailpipe emissions from family vehicles, such as cars, SUVs and light-duty trucks will help curb our impact on the environment. More efficient vehicles will also translate into significant fuel cost

savings for British Columbians, and will provide more flexibility to make environmentally conscious choices without compromising vehicle performance, reliability or safety.

The new legislation will put into law the 2008 throne speech commitment to set vehicle greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards equivalent to those laid out in California's 2004 regulation. These standards will reduce GHG emissions by 30 per cent relative to current models. This will result in a reduction of 600,000 tonnes of GHG emissions annually by 2016. Seventeen U.S. states have adopted or are in the process of adopting the California model, while six others are actively considering it. Twelve out of Canada's 13 provinces and territories support California tailpipe greenhouse gas standards, with Quebec now in the process of making final revisions to its draft regulations. Together, these states and provinces have a combined population of 176 million and represent nearly half of all new car sales in the U.S. and Canada.

Under the act, automakers' fleets of family vehicles will not be allowed to exceed predetermined fleet-average GHG emission standards. The "fleet-average" approach will allow manufacturers to keep selling vehicles that exceed the allowed emissions – provided they sell enough low-emission vehicles for their fleets to meet the new average standards. This approach ensures that consumers will continue to have the choice of the full range of vehicles available today.

The act also provides B.C. with authority to require larger vehicle manufacturers to include a percentage (or set number) of zero emission vehicles in their fleets per year. This requirement will be based on California's approach, and will target both GHG emissions and air pollutants. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act provides authority to establish additional elements of the California regime by regulation. The tailpipe GHG emission standards under this act will come into effect when California starts to implement its regulations.

To learn more about B.C.'s climate change initiatives,

please visit the Ministry of Environment
and the Climate Action Secretariat websites at
www.gov.bc.ca/env and
www.climateactionsecretariat.gov.bc.ca.
For all the details on this and other new legislation,
please visit
www.leg.bc.ca/38th4th/votes/progress-of-bills.htm.

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

***St John Ambulance Workers
Celebrating 125 years of Saving Lives
Congratulations on this significant
milestone.***

Thank you for all you do in our community.

Community Announcements

**Unemployed from the Forest Sector?
Attend this free informational event
and find out about:**

- Employment options**
- Training options**
- and more!**

**At the Prince George Civic Centre
Saturday, May 10, 10AM to 4PM**

**For further information contact:
Terry Tate Forest Worker Coordinator
Phone: 563-7771**

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ May 3 – Giant Garage Sale- Canadian Cancer society's Relay for Life event at the Royal LePage parking lot – 9am to 2pm for more info call Carmelita at 640-5955
- ❖ May 3 – 4 - Spring Concert at ECRA Saturday 7pm; Sunday 2pm Gospel Singers & Friends, country bluegrass, and more,

- \$10.00 per person. For info call 561-9381
- ❖ May 10 – Prince George Ducks Unlimited 21st Annual spring Banquet & Auction Coast Inn of the North for tickets call 960-2664
 - ❖ May 10 - Mothers Day Tea at ECRA, 1692 10th Ave. 2pm to 4pm Cost \$5.00 per person.
 - ❖ May 10 – Sea Cadet Corps 50th Anniversary Parade at 1pm in Connaught Youth Centre gym
 - ❖ May 10 – Walk a Block for Lupus- UNBC Walk the Ring Road Meet at Parking **Lot B** at 10AM for pledge forms and information call Penny 564-9426
 - ❖ May 16-18 2008 Family Focus Conference – Bringing Families into Focus and AiMHiare co-hosting event. For more info visit their website at www.familyfocusconference.com to view workshop schedules, speakers' bios and to register on line.
 - ❖ May 17 – May Day Parade at 11AM –Victoria street, 7th Ave, 9th Ave, 3rd Ave, George Street.
 - ❖ May 23 – the Golden Violin in concert at Westwood Mennonite Church at 7pm. Adults \$15, Senors \$10
 - ❖ May 26 – AimHi and Value Village, a community barbeque starting at 11:00AM at the Value Village parking lot on Spruce Street.
 - ❖ May 29th – CNIB 7th Annual Drive Thru Breakfast at Costco Wholesale. 7 am to 9 am
 - ❖ May 31 – 2008 Stroll for Liver Walk/Run in Ft George Park
 - ❖ For more info call 963-9756
 - ❖ 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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