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May 16, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

It has been another very busy week in the Legislature. We have introduced a number of pieces of legislation as I've mentioned before and we continue debating, reviewing and voting. If you are interested in what legislation is before the Legislative Assembly visit <http://www.leg.bc.ca/legislation/bills.htm> and if you have any questions about our legislation this session please feel free to give my office a call or send us an email.

I had a very busy weekend in my constituency before making my way back to Victoria last Sunday night. As you know last Friday was the NCMA convention and the Premier was in town to address the NCMA attendees and to announce that Prince George will be getting a Spirit Square, which we are very excited about! On Saturday Team Bond was out at the Cancer Relay For Life along with so many others from our community. It was wonderful to see so many people participating, raising funds and supporting this important cause. I am proud that my team and I were able to raise \$2000 to help fight for a cure – we even broke our record from last year! A special thank you to my team members and to

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

everyone who helped us raise that record amount this year.

As a government we are also doing our part to help fight for a cure for cancer. This week we contributed \$2 million to the Michael Cuccione Foundation to support research into new treatments for childhood cancer. For more information on the Michael Cuccione Foundation and their important work for children who suffer from cancer visit www.childhoodcancerresearch.com. We have also contributed \$4 million to the Breast Cancer Foundation of BC/Yukon for their public awareness campaign. Did you know that only 50% of B.C. women get mammograms? The procedure is free, you don't need a doctor's referral and it could save your life. For more information or if you haven't gone for a mammogram yet visit www.cbcf.org.

On Saturday afternoon I had the honour of attending and speaking at the celebration of our 23 graduates from the Northern Medical Program at UNBC. I was especially pleased to be able to address the graduates and guests since I was the Minister of Advanced Education when we brought the program to UNBC in 2004. It was wonderful for me to be able to congratulate those graduates who in 2004 I introduced as our first students into the unique Northern Medical Program.

I would like to share with you a few wonderful facts about this first class of graduates. Almost every one of these graduates came from northern and rural communities and even more importantly most of them have decided to complete their residencies in northern and rural communities. Eight of them will even be completing their residency program right here in Prince George! This is exactly what we had envisioned for the program – northern doctors who were educated and trained right in northern B.C. Another important fact about these special graduates is that 70% of them have chosen to practice family medicine. This is almost double the number from other Canadian medical schools and in a time where we just can't seem to get enough family doctors this kind of choice is essential. Congratulations

graduates, we are very proud of you!

This week in Victoria we were able to honour some other important medical professionals from northern B.C. It was Nursing Week and in honour of B.C.'s 150th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Nurses Association we recognized 150 outstanding nurses from across the province for their work and dedication. Some of those 150 nurses were able to come to the Legislature where we announced that the government will be contributing a further \$15 million for the B.C. Nursing Strategy raising the total investment to \$189 million since 2001. The B.C. Nursing Strategy helps recruit, retain and educate the best qualified nurses for British Columbians. Through this strategy we have seen the number of nursing graduates in B.C. nearly double and we've raised the number of practising nurses in B.C. to 41,000.

Thank you to all our hardworking nurses and special congratulations go out to LaDonna Fehr, Rose Perrin, Derek Dobrinsky, Judy Huska and Dianne Quinn who were honoured for their contribution to nursing in Prince George and Northern B.C.

I am certainly glad to be back in Prince George today and what a day it is! It's been awhile since we've seen weather in the mid-20's I hope everyone will have the chance to take advantage of it this weekend. Enjoy your long weekend and I hope some of you get the opportunity to experience our beautiful parks and campgrounds with your families and friends. Also, you may want to stop by the Spring Antique Fair at Huble Homestead this weekend. Adults can buy and sell antiques and the kids can do crafts, play games and decorate the maypole! This special event is just one of the many Prince George events sponsored by BC150 this year. For more information on this and other exciting BC150 events visit www.bc150.gov.bc.ca.

Have a wonderful and safe long weekend. Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT IS GoPG?

GoPG Tourism project will receive a funding through the Community Tourism Program to promote Horizon Air's new direct flights to Seattle.

Prince George has a lot to offer international tourists and this project will give this service the attention it deserves. Starting May 1, these direct, regular flights to Seattle opened up Prince George community to new visitors and will bring further attention to the province as the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games approach.

The government is supporting awareness of this new service and this is a great opportunity to attract newcomers and increase local tourism revenue as the new route brings the U.S. and the world closer to Prince George for business and pleasure.

This is an exciting new opportunity for northern residents and this initiative will ensure that information is readily available for potential travelers. The GoPG marketing program is one way we can increase awareness and encourage people to choose this new destination.

GoPG is an inbound tourism marketing strategy aimed toward the Seattle market to provide information and raise awareness of the new Horizon Air direct daily flights between Prince George and Seattle. This is a marketing initiative partnered between Initiatives Prince George, Tourism Prince George, Northern BC Tourism, Prince George Airport Authority and Horizon Air. Promotional material includes print and radio advertising in Seattle, articles in Horizon Air's In-Flight magazine and targeted promotion of the website www.gopg.ca. The new air service began on May 1, 2008.

The Community Tourism Program is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities on behalf of the provincial government. The program is in support of local priorities for tourism infrastructure and marketing.

This is the second round of Community Tourism Program support with \$12.5 million distributed to communities during the first phase.

The Community Tourism Program was announced by the Premier at the 2004 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention.

Visit Shirley's website at www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca

News Around the Province

TRIBUTE TO BC PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES

A permanent tribute to the BC Public Service recognizes the contributions public service employees have made to British Columbia. More than 30,000 BC Public Service employees across the province perform profoundly important work every day to help build a positive future for all of us and our communities.

As this year marks both B.C.'s sesquicentennial and the centennial of a merit-based professional public service in our province, it is fitting that we demonstrate that respect and appreciation with this tribute in the Parliament Buildings.

Premier Campbell unveiled a framed copy of the Oath of the British Columbia Public Service, which is sworn by every BC Public Service employee when they begin their careers. The oath will hang on permanent display in the rotunda of the Parliament Buildings as an acknowledgment of the vital role of the professional public service in supporting the province's elected government.

As they have throughout our history, individual men and women continue to help unleash the full potential of the people and province of British Columbia by choosing a career in the BC Public Service, That

contribution has never been more important as we work together to tackle some of the most pressing issues in our province's history. Our success in those efforts is in large part thanks to the members of our public service.

As part of the lead-up to Public Service Week in June, this tribute acknowledges the important role government employees have in our communities. Their commitment to service is something for which we can all be thankful.

The BC Public Service is the largest corporate employer in the province, with employees working in over 200 different types of jobs in 280 communities. This year, the BC Public Service was recognized as one of the B.C.'s Top 40 Employers – the first time it has achieved such a designation. More information on career opportunities with the BC Public Service is available online at employment.gov.bc.ca.

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

All who participated in the Canadian Cancer Relay for life. More than \$455,000.00 was raised.
Give yourselves a hand, Prince George,
You deserve it.

Community Announcements

The Annual Elks May Day Parade
May 17th at 11am
Marks the 80th Birthday
The Spring Event will salute the
Rocky Mountain Rangers Corps
Celebrating 50 years.
Come out and show them your support.

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ **May 16-18 - 2008 Family Focus Conference** – Bringing Families into Focus and AiMHi are 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 – **PGSO** at Vanier Hall, The concert starts at 8pm.
- ❖ May 17 – **Motorcycle Show and Shine** at the Pine Centre Mall -10:45 to 3pm
- ❖ May 17 – **May Day Parade** at 11AM – Victoria street, 7th Ave, 9th Ave, 3rd Ave, George Street
- ❖ May 18-19 – **Spring Antique Fair** held at Huble Homestead, also pancake breakfast and BBQ for tickets call 564-7033 or Books & Co.
- ❖ May 23 – the **Golden Violin** in concert at Westwood Mennonite Church at 7pm. Adults \$15, Senors \$10
- ❖ May 24 – **Children's Author Robert Munsch**, at the Prince George Civic Centre 11am – 1pm for more info call 614-9100
- ❖ May 25 – Great Strides – Taking steps to Cure Cystic Fibrosis to register call www.cysticfibrosis.ca/greatstrides
- ❖ 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 30- 8th annual **Kiwanis /Friends of Children Golf Classic** –PG Golf & Curling Club for more info call 564-2217
- ❖ 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
- ❖ June 15 – **Communities in Bloom**, Walk in the Garden at Centennial Park form 10am to 2 pm
- ❖ July 1- **Run for Canada** – Fundraise for

Canada's Athletes. For more info on this event visit www.hbc.com or call 1-866-July-1st(585-9178)

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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