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May 23, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

It was a bit of an odd week this week since on a statutory holiday week we are usually not in the Legislature. As I've mentioned before we usually have the opportunity to be in our constituencies on a "break week." It is especially different for the Legislature to be sitting on a Friday. Since I wasn't able to make it home until midnight on Friday, I am making up for it with a very busy weekend in my constituency.

It is the season of graduations and this Saturday I will be cheering on our 2008 College of New Caledonia graduates. I am very proud of our graduates and the success of our regional college. I have been pleased to see CNC expand into outlying regions like Valemount in order to truly embrace the meaning of a regional college.

When the Social Credit government under W.A.C. Bennett established the College of New Caledonia in 1969 this is exactly what they had envisioned for British Columbia's regional colleges. In fact the Education Minister of the time, Donald Brothers, said that he expected regional colleges to become vital to our communities and economy as we expanded industry in our province and would inevitably require more skilled workers. That is certainly true today for

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

British Columbia as we will create 1 million jobs over the next decade and currently only have 650,000 students in the K-12 system. This is why institutions like UNBC and CNC are important to our communities. They will help us fill these jobs with skilled professionals educated and trained in our community.

Also happening this weekend is the annual Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) conference. Prince George will be host to over 800 delegates and some exciting keynote speakers next week. Some of the speakers include: Paul Charette, Chairman of the Canadian Construction Association; the Honourable Romeo Dallaire, Senator; and Storm Cunningham, CEO of Resolution Fund. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket for \$35 plus GST to see any of these keynote speakers call 561-5846.

Along with the “Forests of Change” theme for the ACCC conference, we made an important announcement for the forestry industry this week. The 90 day forestry regulatory review has identified four major steps that will enable government to immediately cut red tape to help the forest industry. The forestry regulatory review was established to streamline red tape and cut processing time. Some of the key actions that will be implemented immediately are: defined faster approval times for cutting permits and road permits, enabling forest districts to accept and approve digital files of plans and permits, and recognizing new Ecosystem Based Management costs incurred by the coastal industry in stumpage rates. Visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/for/index.html> for more information.

This week we also announced the launch of LiveSmart BC and the new Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy. The Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy encourages the use of energy efficiency measures in homes, businesses, communities and governments and puts practical tools in the hands of British Columbians to achieve electricity self-sufficiency by 2016. The LiveSmart BC program will help families,

particularly in rural B.C., to reduce their energy costs and carbon footprint. Small changes in our daily lives can add up to big energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on this program and how to save money while reducing your carbon footprint visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/empr/index.html>.

This weekend I will also be participating in the Diabetes bike-a-long. I would like to encourage you and your family to come out and participate too! You can bike, run or walk-a-long. The goal is to promote physical activity as a part of a healthy lifestyle and biking, walking or running can help prevent type 2 diabetes, obesity and contribute to good diabetes management, especially for children! I would also encourage everyone to come out for the healthy grill afterwards put on by the Lakewood Jr. Leadership Class, a dietician and a chef. Hope to see you all there!

It seems we have officially skipped over spring and are headed toward summer! I hope you have the chance to get outside this weekend and enjoy the weather, do some gardening or go for a walk with family. Whatever you do this weekend I would encourage you to do something active and remember "every move is a good move"!

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT ARE THE MOST AGGRESSIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS IN CANADA

LiveSmart BC and the Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy: More Action, Less Energy leverage over \$160 million in new investments and identify new targets in energy efficiency and conservation to:

- Reduce average energy demand per home by 20

per cent by 2020.

- Reduce the energy demand at work by nine per cent per square metre by 2020.
- Complete energy plans for all B.C. communities.
- Make public sector buildings carbon neutral by 2010.
- Reduce standby losses to one watt for all electronics when turned off.

Small changes in our daily lives can add up to big energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- Switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs provide estimated savings of \$39 per year.
- Weather stripping windows and doors will save an estimated \$68 per year.
- Installing a high-efficiency hot water heating system provides an estimated savings of \$90 per year.
- Installing low-flow showerheads and keeping showers under 10 minutes will save an estimated \$103 per year.
- Tuning up your vehicle and keeping the tires properly inflated provides estimated savings of \$200 per year.
- Installing crawl space insulation will save an estimated \$243 per year.

News Around the Province

NEW PROGRAM SUPPORTS TRAINING FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

A new \$5-million program will provide financial and other supports to former youth in care who are interested in pursuing education, training or rehabilitative programs as part of a planned transition to adulthood. Youth who were in care sometimes face considerable challenges in making the transition from the child welfare system to independence and adulthood. This new service is flexible and responsive, and allows individuals to pursue an educational or rehabilitative program that best suits their needs, while offering them additional supports.

Effective July 1, eligible youth aged 19 to 24 may

apply for up to 24 months of funding through Agreements with Young Adults (AYA). With a written plan of transition in place, young people may request assistance to: finish high school; enroll in vocational, college or university courses; or complete a rehabilitative program for addictions or mental health issues. Once accepted, the agreement may provide young adults with support services and financial assistance to help them pay for basic needs such as food and rent, as well as tuition and child-care costs while attending their program of choice. This new service complements existing government programs, such as the Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAFF), which provides funding to former youth in care who wish to enroll in postsecondary education. AYA assistance may be accessed in addition to the YEAFF bursary to pay living and other support expenses for individuals wishing to pursue post-secondary education.

During the process of developing AYA, the Province consulted with foster parent associations and youth groups, both of whom were eager to see additional supports for young adults once they transition out of foster care.

Young people have really been struggling in their journey from being a youth in care to becoming an adult on their own and they have been speaking out very strongly about the need for a program such as AYA . This service is something the province can build on to support young people and improve their chances of success in life.

About 700 youth in ministry care will turn 19 this year. Once established, AYA is expected to serve an estimated 425 young adults each year. This commitment is an incredible accomplishment. Please see the ministry website for more information: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/aya.htm.

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

CNC Graduating Class of 2008!!

On this special day many people are sharing
in the pride you feel,
Hoping that the achievement you celebrate
will open the door to a future filled with
happiness and success!

Community Announcements

BIKE-A-LONG & GRILL

at Lakewood Junior Secondary School at 9:00
am for more info call **Canadian Diabetes Assoc**
at 561-9284

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ May 24 – **Children’s Author Robert Munsch**, at the Prince George Civic Centre 11am – 1pm for more info call 614-9100
- ❖ May 24 – AIDS Walk 2008 will be held at the Fire Pit (3rd & George) at 10am. For more info call Vanessa or Jillian 562-1172
- ❖ May 25 – **BIKE-A-LONG & GRILL** at Lakewood Junior Secondary School at 9:00 am for more info call **Canadian Diabetes Assoc** at 561-9284
- ❖ 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
- ❖ May 31 – Charity Yard Sale & Fun Days in Support of **Volunteer Prince George and Railway Museum**. \$2 entry fee. Come out for a day of fun at the Railway Museum on River Rd

- ❖ 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 from 10am to 2 pm
- ❖ June 21- **Sandman Community Garage Sale** with all proceeds to the Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation for the Paediatric outdoor play area at PGRH for more info call Debie at 565-2522
- ❖ 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](mailto:shirley@hbc.com)

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@hbc.com). 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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