



## Useful Web Links

**June 13, 2008**



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Hello Everyone,

I can hardly believe it is the middle of June already. At least we have seen a little bit of sun lately and that helps everyone feel more optimistic.

I made one of my regular visits to the Robson Valley this week and had the opportunity to attend a presentation by the Northern Development Initiative on attracting new industry and investment to Northern BC. There was excellent attendance at the meeting and it was fantastic to see both the McBride and Valemount mayors and council present. There were also other interested residents from throughout the Robson Valley. The major theme of the presentation was to think beyond our traditional resources and begin to look at innovative ways to attract new business ventures. The session was productive and I look forward to a follow up meeting to continue the dialogue and brainstorming. Thanks to Janine at NDI for a job well done and for giving rural and northern communities some incentives to do their work.

Today was the second annual CNIB Visions luncheon and once again this year it was a sell out!! Thanks to everyone who attended and to Brad and his terrific team at the CNIB for the work organizing this important event. I took the opportunity to announce a grant of \$125,000 to create a new program called

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

“Smooth Transitions” which will provide more assistance for visually impaired children in schools. I am confident that this program will improve the lives of children who are living with vision loss. This program and the Eye Safety program that will be used in BC and eventually across the country were proposed and developed right here in Prince George by Brad Waghorn, Regional Manager of the CNIB in Northern BC and his team. Great job Brad, we look forward to some very positive outcomes as a result of these two significant programs.

This weekend is Father’s Day and along with taking time to celebrate with those special Dads in our lives, there are numerous enjoyable activities scheduled in the community for you and your family. Why not drop by the Arts Council Spring Arts Bazaar and taste the “celebrity chili” (and yes, Team Bond is there again this year!!), purchase beautiful ceramic bowls and participate in a BC150 special event?? On Sunday there is the always-popular Show and Shine in the downtown! Drop by and vote for your favorite entry and join us at City Hall as we light the torch for the 2008 BC Seniors Games to be held in Prince George in September.

I hope the weather cooperates as we enjoy the weekend out and about!!

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

### **WHAT NORTHERN BC RESIDENT WAS RECENTLY RECOGNIZED WITH A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD?**

Aboriginal artist Mary Michell has been named by Premier Gordon Campbell and Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation, as the recipient of the 2008 BC Creative Lifetime

Achievement Award for Aboriginal Art. The award recognizes BC First Nations artists whose dedication to their work has had a profound impact on both their community and First Nations culture.

“Mary Michell is an inspiration to her community, First Nations and all British Columbians,” said Premier Campbell, a director of the Foundation. “She has demonstrated a lifelong pursuit of artistic excellence and she is very deserving of this prestigious award.”

“Mary has been producing beautiful crafts and clothing her entire life, and the BC Achievement Foundation is thrilled to present the second annual Lifetime Achievement Award to such a deserving artist,” said Keith Mitchell.

Mary Michell is an 82-year-old Carrier artist from Burns Lake. Her work includes using moosehides and beads to create beautiful crafts and clothing. She began to learn how to prepare and tan moosehides at the age of 13 and has continued to make crafts her entire life. She creates all her work by hand, and each item can take up to three weeks to complete. Through the traditional clan system, Michell has created wedding dresses, vests, jackets, purses, mukluks, moccasins and gloves.

In May 2008, Mary presented the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Steven Point (Xwě lī qwěł těl), with a jacket she made. Other dignitaries who wear jackets made by Michell include: Department of Indian Affairs Minister David Crombie; First Nations politician Elijah Harper; Grand Chief Ed John; Tribal Chief Justa Monk, Tribal Chief Joseph Michell; and Nisga’a politician Harry Nyce.

Michell’s lifetime of accomplishment will be honoured in conjunction with the presentation of the BC Creative Achievement Awards for Aboriginal Art, a juried competition launched in 2007 to recognize the important role of First Nations art in British Columbia's history and cultural identity. The event takes place on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver.

The British Columbia Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation established and endowed by the Province of B.C. in 2003.

The Creative Achievement Award for Aboriginal Art, inaugurated in 2007, is one of five

initiatives of the foundation. The others are: the BC Community Achievement Awards, recognizing those who have made a significant contribution to their community; the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, recognizing excellence in literary non-fiction; the BC Creative Achievement Award for applied artists and designers; and Time to Read: the BC Achievement Award for Early Literacy.

## **News Around the Province**

### **THREE BC SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE SEISMIC UPGRADING**

Three more schools – Chilliwack Central Elementary Community, Douglas Road Elementary and Lake Cowichan Secondary – will benefit from a total of more than \$12.3 million worth of seismic upgrading as part of the Province’s seismic mitigation program.

“The safety of students and staff is a priority for government and school districts. We are working quickly, in co-operation with districts, on high-priority seismic schools,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “This is part of our ongoing 15-year, \$1.5-billion plan to seismically upgrade schools.”

Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School has capacity for 355 students, Douglas Road Elementary, located in Burnaby, has capacity for 290 students, and Lake Cowichan Secondary has capacity for 600 students. All three were identified as high-priority seismic projects as part of the thorough examination of 700 schools across the province. Work on these schools will include:

- Upgrading the diaphragm to shear walls.
- Reinforcing these walls and anchoring them with bolts to concrete foundation
- Upgrading roof diaphragms

“This is important work,” said Connie Denesiuk, president of the British Columbia School Trustees Association. “It is critical that students and staff in all of our schools are safe, and we are

pleased to see the ministry has worked with the boards of education to bring about the improvements for these schools.”

“We are the first government in B.C. to take a comprehensive approach to seismic upgrades at schools,” said Bond. “The government’s goal is to ensure that staff and students continue to have safe, healthy learning environments.”

Since 2001, the Province has spent \$1.3 billion to complete 26 new schools, 41 replacements, 147 additions and 25 renovation projects. By the end of 2008/09, the Province will have invested more than \$3.1 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across the province.

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

The Scotia Bank team for your participation  
In the Wheels in Motion and  
The CNIB Luncheon.  
Thank You for all you do in our Community.  
We appreciate your Support.

## **Community Announcements**

Spring Arts Bazaar  
And  
The Chili Celebrity Cook-off  
See you at Studio 2880 on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bring you lawn chair and join  
in the food and entertainment.

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

- ❖ June 15 – **ECRA Father’s Day Breakfast**  
1692 -10<sup>th</sup> Ave, 8am –Noon, \$5.00
- ❖ June 15 - 34<sup>th</sup> **Annual Father’s Day Show & Shine** 10AM -3PM, Downtown Prince George and Cruisin’ Classics
- ❖ June 15 – Exploration Place Family Sunday

- 2-4pm; sensational Sketches
- ❖ June 15 – **Communities in Bloom**, Walk in the Garden at Centennial Park from 10am to 2 pm
  - ❖ June 19 – **Prince George Folkfest Society** fundraiser at Art Space. Tickets on Sale at Books and Co/ \$15ea
  - ❖ 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 Debbie at 565-2522
  - ❖ June 21 – **National Aboriginal Day** events in the Canfr Atrium & Fort George Park.
  - ❖ June 21 – **Railway Blues Festival** – all day event at the Railway Museum.
  - ❖ June 22 – **Walk for ALS** Prince George at Masich Place stadium, registration 11:30 am – Walk 1-3pm, Build your own team or pre-register. Go to :[www.walkforals.ca](http://www.walkforals.ca)
  - ❖ June 29 – **Exploration Place** - Sunday 2-4pm – T-Shirt painting – Bring you own plain t-shirt
  - ❖ July 1 - **Run for Canada** – Fundraise for Canada’s Athletes. For more info on this event visit [www.hbc.com](http://www.hbc.com) or call 1-866-July1<sup>st</sup>(585-9178).
  - July 1, **Canada Day at Fort George Park--[The 2010 Legacies Now Connecting Communities Tour](#)**, presented by Bell and the Province of British Columbia, visits Prince George on Canada Day—the tour joins community events and festivals to share the Olympic and Paralympic spirit and encourage British Columbians to create their own legacies leading up to 2010 and beyond. The tour consists of a 200 square-foot display of information panels and a miniature curling rink, along with other interactive activities, to inspire British Columbians to become more involved in their communities through arts, literacy, sport and recreation, physical activity and volunteerism
  - ❖

***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.



**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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