

Ask Your MLA



Shirley Bond MLA, Prince George-Mt. Robson

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July 25, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

What a beautiful week we've had here in the most beautiful place in B.C.! It was nice to have such amazing weather for my regular trip to the Robson Valley. I brought newly appointed Minister of Community Development and fellow northerner Blair Lekstrom with me to the Valley this week. As he was telling people, it was mere moments after he was appointed that I was in his office talking to him about our communities and not only our needs but the amazing things we've been able to accomplish over the past few years - I told him he had to come and see for himself. We had a great visit in Valemount with council and the Steelworkers. Minister Lekstrom is very receptive to our forestry issues in the Robson Valley and now that he is responsible for community development, pine beetle funds and the Community Development Trust, he is in a good position to help us find a solution - and he committed to working with us in order to do so. We stopped in McBride on our way back to Prince George, met with members of council and of course showed Minister Lekstrom our pride and joy - the beautiful new community centre. He was pleased to learn that immediately upon opening; the centre had 19 bookings already for the year!

If I'm visiting someone, I always like to come bearing gifts so I was pleased to be able to make an important announcement while in the Robson Valley. Valemount will benefit from a \$400,000 Towns for Tomorrow grant - the

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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

highest possible amount under the program. The grant would be used to upgrade the Cedar Street Waterline Trunkmain helping to ensure clean, reliable water for residents. The Province contributes 80 per cent of the project funding. Grants like these are so important for smaller communities. These communities don't have the tax base to be able to invest in a project as big as this but these projects are essential for the daily life of the community and even to allow more diversification.

On Tuesday I was joined by Minister Lekstrom in Prince George to break ground on another important project. Through the LocalMotion program Prince George will be getting an additional 1300 m of walking and cycling trails. Perhaps even more importantly, this nearly \$120,000 project will connect existing trails so that it is easier for residents to get out and get active. The Highway 16 Trail Connector will be a 585-metre long asphalt trail to connect existing and proposed paths on Ferry Avenue and Highway 97/16. The other part of the project includes a 740-metre long asphalt trail to connect the existing trail system in Carrie Jane Gray Park to the adjacent residential neighbourhood. It will also provide better connections to a trail network at Fort George Park as well as running/cycling trail along the Fraser and Nechako Rivers. I look forward to the completion of these projects so that all of us can get out and get active - every move is a good move!

Earlier this week I had the privilege of playing a special role: Honorary Chair of the Commonwealth Cup. The reason it is such a special role is because the proceeds of the Commonwealth Cup golf tournament go to support children's programs at Exploration Place and this year we also raised funds for Canuck Children's Hospice. We began the tournament with a special opportunity for the kids. We brought in 7 NHL alumni for the tournament and before getting down to fundraising they took some time to sign t-shirts for kids at Exploration Place. Every child got a gree t-shirt sponsored by the generous people at Telus and got signatures from Eddie Hatoum, Jason LeBarbara, Dennis Kearns, Garry Monahan, Stu Malgunas, and John Grisdale. Unfortunately Darcy Rota couldn't be there on Monday nut he came on Tuesday and helped us raise a record amount for the children's programs.

In addition to sponsorship the kids t-shirts, Telus

sponsored the putting and chipping holes so that I could be there all afternoon raising money from the golfers. I'm proud to say that we shattered last year's record of \$2500 and this year our putting and chipping holes raised over \$4600! Thank you to Dan McLaren who spends so much his time organizing this tournament so that our children can benefit from the wonderful programs at Exploration Place, and thank you to everyone who donated or helped with the tournament. As we said all day - it's for the kids.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone and enjoy the beautiful weather we're having!!

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT NEW APPROVAL WILL GREATLY BENEFIT PRINCE GEORGE AND THE NORTH?

The Province has formally approved funding for the Northern Cancer Control Strategy, which includes the construction of a new 4,200-square-metre cancer centre in Prince George.

The announcement was made by Prince George MLAs, on behalf of Health Services Minister George Abbott. The MLAs were joined by representatives of Northern Health and the BC Cancer Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Details of the strategy include:

- A 4,200-square-metre BC Cancer Agency's Centre for the North, which will include two linear accelerators used in the delivery of radiation therapy treatment;
- A 1,000-square-metre addition and renovation to Prince George Regional Hospital to accommodate a new six-bed oncology unit, as well as an expansion of pathology, laboratory and diagnostic imaging services and the creation of additional office space to support the new BC Cancer Agency services;

- Enhancement to up to 11 Northern Health sites in communities outside of Prince George;
- The acquisition of new equipment and information technology at these sites to accommodate expansion of community cancer clinics; and
- The cancer centre will be designed to be energy efficient and achieve LEED gold certification.

“As a life-long resident of Prince George, I have heard countless stories about the challenge of battling cancer away from home and loved ones,” said Prince George-Mount Robson MLA Shirley Bond. “I have always said it was never a matter of if, but when we would have our own Northern Cancer Centre, and this funding ensures that will be the case.”

The construction of the BC Cancer Agency’s Centre for the North is one of the recommendations of Premier Gordon Campbell’s 2006 Consultation for Improved Cancer Care in Northern B.C. report. The report was the result of a broad consultation process, which involved visits to 17 northern B.C. communities and provided the opportunity for almost 1,000 people from across the North to provide input on access to cancer care in the region. Construction of the new facility is targeted to start in late 2009, with a completion goal of 2012, three years sooner than the report’s recommended completion date.

The cost for the new centre, renovations to Prince George Regional Hospital, radiation and diagnostic equipment and infrastructure expansion for cancer care services throughout the North is an estimated \$99.5 million.

The province’s four BC Cancer Agency regional centres are located in Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna. A fifth regional cancer centre is slated to open in Abbotsford in August 2008. The Centre for the North will be the BC Cancer Agency’s sixth regional centre and a critical component of the BC Cancer Agency’s provincial cancer control network.

The new cancer centre will be pursued as a public-private partnership. The next stage in the competitive selection process is to issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) to invite the private sector to participate in the process.

Following the RFQ stage, a short-list of teams will be invited to submit proposals to design, build, finance and maintain the facility. The RFQ for the new cancer centre is expected to be issued by the end of July.

News Around the Province

15 PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT B.C.'S CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION

The Province is funding a suite of innovative clean energy projects throughout B.C., investing \$25 million from the government's Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, announced Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld today.

Clean energy will play a key role in building a vibrant and prosperous green economy in British Columbia. These investments demonstrate our commitment to develop innovative technology that will result in new sources of abundant, clean energy serving the needs of local communities and residents across the province. By delivering on this BC Energy Plan commitment, we're leading the effort to meet our ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction and clean energy targets.

Applications to the fund came from across British Columbia, representing a broad range of technologies and sectors, including bioenergy, geothermal, solar and other alternative energy sources.

Projects selected address specific B.C. energy and environmental priorities identified by the government and will accelerate the commercialization of these clean technologies.

Successful applicants, focusing on bio-energy, solar, geothermal and other alternative energy approaches include a diversity of organizations and projects from:

- UNBC – Prince George
- Alterna Energy – Prince George
- Metro Vancouver – Lower Mainland
- SunSelect Produce – Aldergrove
- Lignol Innovations – Burnaby

- Nexterra Energy Corp. – New Westminster
- Catalyst Power – Abbotsford
- SBC Firemaster – Revelstoke
- UBC – Burnaby
- MSR Innovations – Langley
- T'Sou-Ke First Nation – Sooke
- BCIT – Burnaby
- Fairfield Propagators – Chilliwack
- Terasen Gas – Vancouver
- Halfway Ranch – Kamloops

The \$25-million ICE Fund helps position British Columbia as a world leader in alternative energy and power technology by showcasing B.C. technologies to the world and fostering solutions to climate change. It is designed to accelerate the commercialization of new, clean and renewable energy technologies.

The ICE Fund supports the BC Energy Plan and government's goal of electricity self sufficiency by 2016 and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020.

The fund will be continued, and a second call for applications with a focus on rural B.C. is expected in the fall of 2008. Applicants unsuccessful in the first round are encouraged to reapply with funding decisions expected in early 2009.

For more information on the Province's Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, please visit the website at:
www.gov.bc.ca/empr/popt/innovative_clean_energy_fund.html

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

Dan McLaren and the Commonwealth team and Sponsors for a fabulous fundraising Golf Tournament in support of Exploration Place and Canuck Place.

*Excellent Job!!
Thanks for all your hard work.*

Community Announcements

August 2nd

Prince George Farmers Market Association is hosting Festival 150 Year Celebration at the Market Food court, with local chefs preparing food between 11-12 and birthday cake as well.

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ July 26th - **39th Annual Old time fiddle** contest held at Blackburn Community Centre, Preliminaries at 11am, finals at 6:30 pm Admin. \$5.00
- ❖ July 28th – **Unveiling of new Terry Fox statue** – The City of Prince George is having an unveiling at Community Foundation Park at 11 am.
- ❖ July 28th - Antique Auction at Ester's Inn, Viewing starts at 4pm auction at 6pm.
- ❖ August 2 – **Prince George Farmers Market Association** is hosting Festival 150 Year Celebration at the Market. Food court, with local chefs preparing food between 11-12 and birthday cake as well.
- ❖ August 9th – **Peacekeepers Day Parade** – United Nations Peacekeeper annual parade leaving from the legion at 10:40 am marching to the cenotaph for a short service. Call 250-962-4684 for info.
- ❖ August 17 – **Pamper Me Golf Tournament** – 2nd Annual Tournament held at Ness Wood Golf Course. Funds raised will go to equipment and education for women's cancer issues in our community. For info call Brenda Lothrop (562-4433)
- ❖ August 24 – **BC 150 Rivermania** - Come celebrate the culture and Peoples of the Fraser River. Every BC community is invited to take part in this event. The launch in Prince George takes place August 24. Visit <http://www.bcrivermania.com/index.html> to find out what's going on in Prince George and to see how you can be part of the flotilla
- ❖ September 12th – **Spirit of the North Radiothon** – Join 101.3 the River during a full day broadcast fundraiser in the atrium of PGRH. Come and make a donation to generate much needed funds for our hospital. Contact Debie Byl at 565-2522 for

info.

- ❖ September 20 – **Evening of Pink** – A community fundraiser to support education and equipment in our community for the fight against breast cancer. For info call Monica Peacock (552-4114)

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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