



Useful Web Links

August 29, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

Well it's almost here . . . September!! Where did our summer go? It certainly sped by for us here in the constituency office! That was very evident this week as the back to school prep in my role as Minister of Education kicked into high gear. I spent a number of days in Victoria making sure that we are ready to welcome over 540,000 students back to their classrooms. It is also probably my busiest media time of the year with reporters and outlets wanting their back to school story. While it is certainly a hectic time of year – it is also exciting! I am looking forward to the year ahead and continuing to work hard to ensure that all our students have the chance to be as successful as they can be.

We spent more time in the Robson Valley last week and it was fantastic. Along with our regular constituency meetings we were able to visit the libraries in both McBride and Valemount and attend the Canoe Mountain Rodeo – Bull A Rama event. The libraries both provide exceptional service to our constituents and it was great to visit them first hand to learn more about the programs and services they offer. We are always tired when we come home from a Valley visit because we try to fit in as many meetings and events as possible, but I also come home believing I represent the best riding in B.C.

I want to encourage each of you to take part in a process

Capital Report: [Sign up](#) to find out what is happening in 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

that is evaluating the possibility of moving ahead with the Site C Hydro project. You have a chance to have your voice heard in this important discussion. No decision has been made to build Site C, but BC Hydro is currently in Stage 2 of a five stage process for evaluating Site C. Three rounds of public consultation are planned in Stage 2. Pre-consultation concluded in February, and the first round of project definition consultation took place in May and June. A second round will be held this fall. To add your voice and be notified of the fall consultation, please visit bchydro.com/sitec or call 1-877-217-0777. Many of you have asked me about future plans for this project, so make sure you take the time to have your say!

With labour day upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the workers who have built Prince George and the North into what it is today. From our early pioneers who built the logging and forest industries to the workers who've developed the diverse economy we enjoy today, none of the success we've achieved would have been possible without the hard work of our residents. I hope that every worker gets an opportunity to enjoy a little time this labour day weekend with their families. Thank you for making this a great place to work and live.

I love going to the Railway Museum with my great nieces so I wanted to let you know about a special opportunity for families to bring their children to "Family Fun Day" at the Prince George Railway Museum on August 30th. There will be petting zoo, train rides, face painting and much more for everyone to enjoy. The event runs from 11am - 3pm and promises to be a fun time for all. Sounds like a great long weekend event!

I want to take a moment to say thanks to Eric who has been working in our office for the summer. I had many compliments about the great job he did in the office and I wanted to say a big thank you for a job well done. He will certainly be filling in for us from time to time and we look forward to having him continue as part of our hard working team. Great work Eric!!

I hope you will find some time this long weekend to relax and enjoy doing what you like best. I hope to do just that. Bill and I will be meeting Chris, Cristina, Melissa and

Trevor for a family celebration. We are going to celebrate the twins 26th birthday – a little early. Chris and Melissa's birthday is actually September 11th, but with our competing schedules we have made it a family tradition to celebrate over the long weekend - so - Happy Birthday guys, we are proud of you and are looking forward to a fun time together.

Until next week,
Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT NEW FUNDING WILL HELP DISPLACED FORESTRY WORKERS GET BACK ON THEIR FEET?

The B.C. government is investing more than half-a-million dollars in training programs to help displaced forest workers in Mackenzie overcome a lumber and paper manufacturing downturn in their community, announced Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell.

The Province is committing \$549,000 in additional funding to the College of New Caledonia to start new programs as soon as possible at the college's Mackenzie campus, giving forest workers affected by mill closures opportunities to add to their skills.

The College of New Caledonia will use their additional funding to provide training in millwright and industrial mechanics, culinary arts, home support resident care, and college and career preparation. The new programs are expected to start between September and November 2008. Eligibility and enrolment details will be available through the college in the near future.

The College of New Caledonia is based in Prince George and has eight campuses in the northern region serving 5,000 students.

One of the strengths of B.C.'s post-secondary education system is that it reaches all communities, and we can provide programs tailored to the specific needs of workers when they need them.

Today's funding builds on other programs available to help support B.C. communities and forest workers coping with the challenges of a changing industry, including \$129 million from the Community Development Trust.

News Around the Province

NEW GREEN STANDARDS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN BC BUILDING CODES

Every new building in B.C. will meet progressive standards for energy and water efficiency beginning Sept. 5, Housing and Social Development Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

The greening of the B.C. Building Code will provide homebuyers with an environmentally sound choice – a home that will have a lower impact on the environment and that will have the added benefit of saving them money on utility fees.

New houses, multi-family residential buildings under five storeys, and small commercial and industrial buildings must meet new insulation requirements. As an alternative to meeting the insulation requirements for housing, builders can demonstrate equivalent energy performance or achieve an EnerGuide Rating System rating of 77.

The EnerGuide program uses computer software to evaluate the energy efficiency of the building, and designate a rating number based on the results. Builders can choose to use a combination of different building materials and techniques to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 77.

New high-rise residential buildings and larger commercial buildings must meet the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers 90.1(2004) standard. ASHRAE 90.1 is an internationally recognized standard for energy efficiency. It applies to several components of the building: the building envelope; heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems; water heating; power, lighting; and other equipment.

To improve the water efficiency of homes and other buildings, ultra low-flow toilets and other water saving plumbing fixtures will be mandatory.

The new green requirements, which apply to all new construction in B.C., were announced in April, giving industry and local governments time to become familiar with the changes. More information is available online at <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/> by clicking on the 'Greening the B.C. Building Code' button.

The Province is exploring additional ways to reduce the impact of buildings on the environment by further improving water conservation, reducing energy use and promoting the use of more environmentally friendly construction materials.

Greening the B.C. Building Code is one of the extensive steps being taken across government to meet the Province's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below 2007 levels by 2020.

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

Brodie Garrison; an auxiliary constable from Prince George RCMP that is taking part in both the Iron Cops triathlon and the Cops for Cancer Tour de North, raising money for the Canadian Cancer Society.
Good luck Brodie!

Community Announcements

School Supplies Collected for the Needy

The Little Yellow School Bus will be collecting supplies at Pine Centre Mall during the Labour Day Weekend. Distribution will be at the Salvation

Army Church 777 Ospika Blvd at 9am.

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### **PG DPAC Public Meeting**

Prince George District Parent Advisory Council first meeting of the school year. 311 Wilson Cres. In the Van Bien Training and Development Centre. 250-564-3722 or [chairperson@sd57dpac.ca](mailto:chairperson@sd57dpac.ca) for info.

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

- ❖ August 29<sup>th</sup> – **Fun Day** – Hart Pioneer Recreation Centre. All seniors over the age of 50 are welcome to attend. All games free and lunch only \$4. 250-962-6712 for information.
- ❖ August 30<sup>th</sup> – **Red Cross BBQ** – Walmart will be hosting a BBQ by donation to support the Canadian Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. 11 am to 3 pm.
- ❖ August 30<sup>th</sup> - **Family Fun Day** – The Prince George Railway and Forestry museum will be having a petting zoo, train rides, face paint, crane rides, and much more. 250-563-7351, 850 River Road.
- ❖ August 31<sup>st</sup> – **Seniors' Day at Huble Homestead** – Enjoy a trip to the Homestead on a bus for lunch, tours, demonstrations, and entertainment. Seniors wanting to take the bus should call 564-7033. Those wanting to travel themselves can at 11:30. \$10 for activities and lunch.
- ❖ September 1<sup>st</sup> – **Tickled Pink Desserts added to Menus** – Starting on the first, desserts supporting the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure. Restaurants taking part are Ric's Grill, Tastebuds and Co. Café, and Margo's Café.
- ❖ September 3-4 – **United Way Seeing is Believing Tour** – Get an up close look at United Way and see how donations can have a great impact on the community. Tours on both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1pm. Contact Jocelyn or Lesley at United

Way 250-561-1040.

- ❖ September 5<sup>th</sup> - **Cops for Cancer-Tour de North** Starting Line Event at Re/Max Centre City, 1679 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Prince George. Event is on Friday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> starting with a Pancake Breakfast by donation at 8:00 AM hosted by Re/Max Realtors. Everyone invited to come out and meet the RCMP Tour de North Riders and see them off as they begin the 7 day cycling tour to Prince Rupert.
- ❖ September 6<sup>th</sup> – **ECRA Garage Sale** – Fall garage sale and bake sale. 1692 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Call 250-964-1118 or ECRA 250-561-9381 for info.
- ❖ September 9<sup>th</sup> – **International FASD Awareness Day** – International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness day is Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. The Northern Family Health Fair Society and Structured for Success program are hosting a variety of activities and presentation for the Public from 12 to 3 pm. Call Stephanie Curtis at 250-561-2689 for info.
- ❖ September 12<sup>th</sup> – **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 14<sup>th</sup> – **Paws for a Cause** – Go to Forests for the World park to register and walk through the Greenway to the UNBC parking lot. Begins at noon.
- ❖ 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)
- ❖ September 20 – **Breakfast of Champions** – Come and support UNBC athletics at this breakfast held in the Ramada Hotel. The speaker will be Randy Gregg, five time Stanley Cup winner and orthopedic doctor. Call Kelly Sharp (sharpk@unbc.ca) at (250) 960-5335 for more tickets and information.

***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](#). If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, email their name so we can add them to our list.



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