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September 19, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

I have no idea where the week went, it just flew by and was jam packed with meetings, travel and constituency work. Despite working 7 days a week, I just can't seem to fit in everything I would like to do! An important display is in Prince George this weekend and I want to urge all of you to drop by the Telus Tour for the Cure at the Pine Centre Mall. This is an opportunity for you to take your wife, sister, aunt, grandma or friend to learn more about how to ensure their are improved rates for early detection of breast cancer. BC is one of the only provinces that actually provided free mammograms for women 40 and over. And the good news is that if you detect breast cancer early then the chances of survival in BC are 85%. The bad news is that only 50% of eligible women are actually taking advantage of the free service. Please drop by and increase your awareness and help protect someone you love. Thanks to Telus and all the other sponsors who are making this tour possible.

One exciting forestry initiative announcement this past week is an enhancement to suite of programs in the \$129 million Community Development Trust. Over the last few months, staff at the Ministry of Community Development has met with forest workers to receive feedback to improve the programs offered by the Community Development Trust. New programs for forestry workers include first aid and truck driving schools, job search services, covering 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

cost of books and consideration for education/training outside BC. These initiatives will further enhance the quality of programs provided by the Community Development Trust and the key educational and support services offered through the program.

The forestry sector is not the only area where this province is expanding educational opportunities. Three new degree programs are being introduced at the post-secondary level – two of them to be offered right here at UNBC in Prince George. The new degree programs at UNBC are a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography with a major in public administration and community development, as well as a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Human Resource Management. The new geography degree will provide skills to graduates for working in local government in northern communities, while the human resource management degree will aid organizations in maintaining satisfying workplace environments. Since 2001, 160 new undergraduate and graduate degree programs have been approved across the province, improving degree choices and access to post-secondary education.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all of the athletes that participated in the BC Senior's Games in Prince George last weekend. Prince George has once again shown its ability to host provincial events and I am proud of the community and volunteers for making the Games such a wonderful success. I would also like to congratulate BC Paralympians that participated in the Paralympics in Beijing. Fifteen BC athletes reached the podium at the Paralympics. Great work Team BC!

It has been a spectacular Fall week here in Prince George. This weekend once again is full of great events including the UNBC Timber Wolves Breakfast of Champions, The Evening in Pink and the Telus Diabetes Walk for the Cure. Bill and I will be at these events and we look forward to seeing you out and about.

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

HOW HAS THE PROVINCE STRENGTHENED PROGRAMS TO HELP KIDS SUCCEED?

The provincial government has delivered another \$5-million grant to its early childhood development partnership with Success By 6 as part of the ongoing commitment to support the healthy growth and development of young children.

The ministry is focused on strengthening and maintaining programs that prevent vulnerability and promote well-being in our children. Success By 6 is a valuable early childhood development initiative that provides opportunities to prepare children for school while providing families with resources they may not otherwise be able to access.

Success By 6 was established in 2003 with initial government support of \$10 million. Since its inception, and with this latest grant, the Province has invested \$23 million into the program, which is a partnership between the Ministry of Children and Family Development, United Ways, Credit Unions, and community leaders throughout the province. Success By 6 supports early childhood development programs and services around the province, including those in Aboriginal communities. These include early learning and literacy, children's play, nutrition, outreach programs, and parenting and family skills development to reach children from newborn to six years of age.

'Our future depends on how we support our children today,' said Deb Bryant, B.C.'s provincial manager for Success By 6. "We know that each child has tremendous potential, and I believe children are entitled to our care and assistance to help them reach that potential. Success By 6 plays an important role in providing that support."

A portion of this year's grant will be directed to further development of the Success By 6 Aboriginal Enhancement Strategy introduced in 2006. The strategy focuses on having dedicated Aboriginal co-ordinators introduce culturally relevant Success By 6 programs into Aboriginal communities while raising awareness about the importance of early childhood development.

"As a government, the province has invested in early learning and early childhood development since the day we were elected. We know that supporting families and their children is critical to the future of British Columbia," said Education Minister Shirley Bond. "We are proud of our ongoing partnership with Success By 6."

For more information on Success By 6 programs you can visit www.successby6bc.ca or www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood/success.htm.

News Around the Province

ROUNDTABLE WELCOMES TWO NEW SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATES

British Columbia's small business owners and operators will have an even stronger voice with the appointment of two new members to the provincial Small Business Roundtable.

Max Logan, the Retail Council of Canada's director of government relations and membership services in British Columbia, and Judy Wilson, Chief of the Neskonlith Indian Band, each possess a broad range of business, communications and government policy experience.

Prior to his role with the Retail Council of Canada, Logan worked as a communications director in several government ministries. Logan studied political science at the University of British Columbia and corporate communications at Seneca College in Toronto.

"Max's years with the provincial government, working to implement a variety of social, resource and financial policies from inception to execution, are an invaluable asset to the roundtable," said Krueger. "Further, his background with the Retail Council of Canada is an excellent complement to the strong voice needed to represent British Columbia's small businesses at the roundtable."

In addition to her busy political schedule, Chief Judy Wilson is currently working with three First Nations bands in the Chase area of the province on the development of network database and referral software for land-use planning and management. She also has an extensive media background in audio visual production, book publishing, broadcast journalism and web planning.

"Chief Wilson brings considerable business, technological, and communications acumen to the roundtable," said Krueger. "Her passion for public service, her excellent work to promote economic and small business development in her local communities, and her advocacy for First Nations language, culture, Aboriginal rights and title will also add a great deal of range and diversity to the group."

"We are so pleased to welcome Max Logan and Chief Judy Wilson to our roundtable," said Linda Larson, Small Business Roundtable vice-chair. "They both have such a variety of experience and knowledge to share and their participation in the roundtable will be of immense benefit to the small businesses we represent."

"Retail is very much driven by small business; in fact, more than 90 per cent of the Retail Council of Canada's members are small, independent retailers," said Logan. "As a roundtable member, I look forward to hearing from, and speaking for, B.C.'s small business sector."

"I'm thrilled to have been asked to participate on behalf of small businesses in British Columbia," said Chief Wilson.

"I've already been working hard to strengthen small business development in my area and being a member of the roundtable not only allows those First Nations communities to be heard, it also allows me to represent other small businesses in the Interior and across B.C."

The permanent Small Business Roundtable was established in October 2005, to consult with small business and advise government and the small business sector on issues, strategies and potential actions with the goal of becoming the most small-business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

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

Les Waldie and organizing committee
For the excellent job of hosting the
Seniors Games
Thanks for all your hard work....

Community Announcements **Evening of Pink**

Sept 20, 2008~ a community fundraiser event
In support of education and equipment in
our community for the fight against Breast
Cancer

Dinner, speakers, entertainment, door
prizes

For tickets call Monica 250-552-4114

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27<sup>th</sup> Annual United Way Campaign Kick off  
Fashion Show

Monday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Coast Inn of the North Ballroom  
Doors open at 6pm, show begins at 7pm  
You can purchase tickets now from the  
United Way office – 1600 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (5<sup>th</sup>  
floor of the Native Friendship Centre)  
\$30 for individual tickets, \$250 for a  
table of 10

If there are questions regarding the event  
contact United Way at (250) 561-1040

## Mark your calendar...

- ❖ 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 – **Northern Lights- Prince George Symphony Orchestra** featuring David Louie – to perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D, Opus 30. Tickets available online at [www.pgso.com](http://www.pgso.com) or at the PGSO Office-2880 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue~ for more info call ~ 250-562-0800
- ❖ 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](mailto:sharpk@unbc.ca)) at (250) 960-5335 for more tickets and information.
- ❖ September 21 – **Book sale** – Save –on-foods College heights – hosted by Kiwanis Clubs. For info call Glenn: 250-564-7138
- ❖ September 27<sup>th</sup> – **Mennonite Fair** – at the Civic Centre from 10am to 4pm. Wood crafts, baking, used books, clothes, and lunch. For more info call Wendy at 250-963-9276
- ❖ September 27<sup>th</sup> – **BC Rivers Day Music Festival**. Check out the line up of entertainment at [www.riversdaymusic.org](http://www.riversdaymusic.org). or for more info call Pattie at 250-961-9667
- ❖ October 1 – **Jason Scotts-** A solo tribute to Neil Diamond at the Prince George Playhouse – Door open at 6:30pm Show at 7:30 tickets \$22.50 available at Studio 2880
- ❖ October 3-25- **Theatre North West** first play of the season–The Number 14 call 250-563-6969
- ❖ October 17-19 – **West of the Rockies Pro Rodeo**

finals at CN Centre. Rodeo dance, Sat Oct 18 at the Roll-a-dome, tickets at Ticketmaster.

- ❖ October 17- Shattering- Forum Theatre created and performed by people who have struggled with addiction at the Prince George Civic Centre, pay by donation, 7pm for info 250-565-6332

***If you are a non profit organization and would like to advertise an upcoming event or share a story please email [Shirley](mailto:shirley@shirleybondmla.bc.ca)***

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@shirleybondmla.bc.ca). 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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