



Useful Web Links

November 28, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

While we are busy preparing for the Christmas season, who could not be affected by the horrific act of terrorism in Mumbai. The people of British Columbia and India are closely connected through family, social and economic ties. More than 230,000 British Columbians are of Indian origin, and many of us have family and friends living in India. Our thoughts and prayers are those personally affected by this terrible tragedy.

I am back in Victoria for a legislative session devoted to passing a number of measures to protect our economy through this uncertain economic time. Despite a \$804 million decline in provincial revenues for 2008/09, the Province still has a projected \$450 million surplus in the 2008/09 budget. The surplus remains \$400 million ahead of what projected when this year's budget was introduced. The second quarterly report also includes a \$500 million forecast allowance in the event of further deterioration to government's fiscal position. British Columbia is in a much stronger fiscal position than many jurisdictions in North America. Nonetheless, our ten point plan to mitigate the economic decline will improve BC's competitiveness, reduce costs and provide an additional \$485 million in tax relief and support for businesses, families and individuals over the next three years. Globe and Mail columnist Gary Mason has written an insightful article on BC's economic position and the initiatives and policies of the provincial government. If

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

you are interested in reading this article, please visit:
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081122.BCMASON22/TPStory/TPComment/?query=>

This week the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General announced that communities across BC are receiving an extra \$750,000 in support of crime prevention and victim services programs this year alone due to ongoing civil forfeiture successes. In April, 27 applicants received up to \$20,000, including the Carrier Sekani Family Service in Prince George, through this initiative. As in the previous round of funding, local governments, community and youth organizations, school districts, police departments, victim service programs, Aboriginal organizations and First Nations bands may apply for a share of the funding. Since BC's civil forfeiture legislation came into force in April 2006, the Province has seen 54 cases completed, \$5.25 million forfeited and more than \$1.3 million made available for victim compensation and crime prevention grants. Crime prevention is a priority of this government, and using money from civil forfeitures in an excellent way to keep our streets safe and communities healthy. I want to encourage my constituents to consider applying to these additional resources. For more information, please visit the website of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/pssg/>.

Another highlight of this week is the 8-1-1 service for health advice. By simply dialling 8-1-1 British Columbians can access health information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A trained health service representative will answer all 8-1-1 telephone calls, and where appropriate, calls will be transferred to a registered nurse, pharmacist or dietician for further information and advice. The service is also available online at the HealthLink BC website. This website provides information on over 4,000 health topics, symptoms, and over-the-counter and prescription drugs and offers tips for maintaining a health lifestyle. The site also offers an integrated search and mapping function to over 2,500 health services to help British Columbians find health services close to their home communities. The 8-1-1 service will add to the wide array of services offered by Healthlink BC. These services enjoy wide support, as they are endorsed by the British Columbia Medical Association, the BC College of Family Physicians, the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia and the College of Pharmacists of British

Columbia.

This week I also had the incredible privilege of welcoming the Aga Khan to British Columbia. His Highness is the spiritual leader of more than 15 million Ismaili Muslims and his belief in the importance of education is inspiring. The opportunity to discuss issues like early learning is something that I will not forget.

I would also like to congratulate Prince George's own Izaak Smith for his performance on "So You Think You Can Dance Canada." I was very disappointed on Thursday to discover Izaak had not made it through to the next round, but we should all be proud of his top six performances. I voted often for Izaak, and I know many Prince George residents did as well. Congratulations Izaak!

Finally, I would like to send my deepest condolences to the family of former senator Ray Perrault. Senator Perrault was leader of the British Columbia Liberal Party from 1959 to 1968 and served as a senator from 1973 to 2001. He was also a Liberal MP for the riding of Burnaby Seymour from 1968 to 1972. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Perrault family at this difficult time.

Until next week.

Shirley

Question of the week:

HOW IS THE PROVINCE HONOURING B.C.'S OLDEST LIVING FORESTER?

Lorne Swanell, the province's oldest living forester, at 100 years, was honoured with the creation of a \$1,500 bursary to the University of Northern British Columbia's Ecological Science and Management program in his name. The Province created the bursary to recognize and thank Swanell, who was the province's chief forester from 1965 to 1972, for his contributions to B.C.'s forest industry.

The creation of this bursary in Lorne Swanell's name is a fitting honour for a man whose dedication and commitment to our forest industry is to be commended.

The Government thanks Mr. Swanell for his long service to his province and his country.

Lorne is a true icon in the forest industry and has advocated for sustainable forest management as far back as 1932 when he worked at the site of the province's first reforestation project on West Thurlow Island. This bursary has been created to thank Lorne for his dedication and service to B.C.'s forest industry and to hopefully inspire and encourage upcoming forestry students to follow in Lorne's large and illustrious footsteps.

Lorne Swanell was born in Victoria on Sept. 2, 1908. He attended the University of British Columbia and completed a bachelor of arts degree in May 1930 and a bachelor of applied science (forest engineering) with honours in May 1931.

He began his career in Victoria with the Land Branch of the B.C. Forest Service, became a ranger for a year and then started work as a junior forester in Kamloops, which was experiencing a serious mountain pine beetle epidemic. He moved to Prince George in 1939 to become the assistant district forester. From 1939 to 1945, Lorne served in Europe during the Second World War as part of the 2nd Survey Regiment.

Upon his return from the war, Swanell resumed his duties as assistant district forester in Prince George, eventually becoming district forester. While in Prince George, Swanell met and married Grace, his lifelong companion for 55 years until her passing in 2004.

In 1965, he became chief forester of B.C., holding this prominent position until retiring in 1972.

His designation as Registered Professional Forester #6 (retired) now makes him the oldest living forester in British Columbia.

News Around the Province

B.C.'S FIRST COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORKERS OPENS DOORS

People who receive registered social work services in B.C. will be better protected thanks to the creation of a new B.C. College of Social Workers. The Province's first priority is to protect British Columbia's most vulnerable citizens, and a new college will help us do that by protecting and representing the public interest while serving the professionalism of registered B.C. social workers. The self-governing college was established yesterday following cabinet's approval of a new Social Workers Act.

The legislation replaces the almost 40-year-old original act, bringing it up to date with other modern statutes for professional self-governance.

Under the new act:

- Public protection will be enhanced by strengthening the college's disciplinary powers and by requiring employers to report terminations for misconduct, incompetence or incapacity to the college.
- All registered social workers will be required to report suspected abuse of clients by another registered social worker.
- A business associate who has reason to believe a registrant might harm a member of the public and dissolves their business association as a result will also be required to report that to the college.
- The college will be required to provide public notification of disciplinary decisions.
- The college will have the authority to make bylaws in all areas necessary for professional governance.

B.C. social workers have worked hard to realize the changes to the act announced and they are very pleased the government has passed this legislation creating a College of Social Workers.

The new act modernizes the regulatory requirements to match today's responsibilities, and improves the professional foundations to guide the practice of social workers provincially. The college will have a board with two-thirds of its members elected by registrants and the remainder appointed by the minister, increasing the board's accountability to the social workers it regulates. Registered social workers were consulted on how to better protect the public and strengthen regulation of their profession. These changes are enhanced by their advice.

Registered social workers provide a wide range of services in schools, hospitals, mental health and treatment facilities, private practice, acute and long-term health settings, child and family programs, resource and counseling centres, and non-profit and government organizations.

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

All the Service Clubs and organizations collecting non perishable food items and clothing for those less fortunate in our city!

*There are too many to mention but once again
Prince George you have shown your generosity to
those in need.*

*Thank you for giving where you can!
You make a difference to our community!*

Community Announcements

**Kettle Volunteers needed!
The Kettle Campaign starts
November 21 through to December 24
Call 250-564-4000 ext 224 to help!**

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**Third Avenue Cares**  
November 28 - 30 customers will be  
asked to bring donations of non-  
perishable food, toys and clothing to  
any business on Third Ave. Items  
disturbed through Salvation Army

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Mark your calendar...

- ❖ November 20 - December 11- Theatre Northwest's presentation of "**A Christmas Carol**" Tickets on Sale at Books and Company, \$28 for Adults, \$22 for youth, for info call 250-614-0039
- ❖ November 27-28- **Festival of Trees** – open to the public Nov 27 and 28 – Info calls Debie Byl, 250-565-2522
- ❖ November 28 to January 2 – **Northern Lights Festival** on Connaght Hill, Sun to Wed, 5-9 pm, Thurs to Sat 5-10pm, \$10 at entrance or \$8 for downtown businesses.
- ❖ November 29 – Vivaldi's Four Seasons presented by the **PGSO at Vanier Hall**, 8pm, tickets at 2880 15th Ave or call 250-562-0800
- ❖ November 29 – **Jingle Bell Dance** – Civic Centre – tickets available at 250-565-2515
- ❖ November 29 – **Kelly Rd Craft Fair** –10am to 5pm and Sunday Nov 30 10-4pm, 250-962-6887 for more info.
- ❖ November 29-30 -**Blackburn Christmas Craft Fair** – call Claudia at 250-963-3292
- ❖ November 29-30 – **Angel Valley Tree Farm Grand**

opening, Homemade crafts and free hot chocolate, Sleigh rides by PG Carriage Tours, weekends open 9-4:30pm, 12-4pm Dec 6th&7th, 12160 East Beaverly Rd 250-964-0465

- ❖ November 29-**Mayilyn Wheeler signing copies** of robson Valley Story – *A Century of Dreams* at Books & Co. 1pm to 3pm, for info call 250-569-2749
- ❖ November 30 - Karl Stobbe at the PGSO at 8pm at Vanier Hall, Four Seasons of Buenos Aires, tickets available at Studio 2880 or call 250-562-0880
- ❖ December 5 – **Winter Wonderland Christmas Lunch** from 11:30 to 1:30 pm at the Civic Centre. \$19 per person for info call 250-561-7723
- ❖ December 6 – **Hart Pioneer’s Craft & bake sale** 9am-4pm for info 250-962-6712
- ❖ December 6 – **Disney High School Musical**; the Ice Tour at the CN Centre – tickets go on sale call Ticket master
- ❖ December 6 – North Central Guide Outfitters Assoc Hunter **Banquet auction/Fundraiser** and dance at the Blackburn Community Centre, live and silent auction, door prizes, raffles, midnight lunch, 6pm - tickets \$35 at Northern Hardware.
- ❖ December 7 – **Kidney Foundation Christmas Capers** Luncheon at the Legion- All renal patients, families and caregivers and renal staff welcome. Please contact Karen 250-563-2998 if you wish to attend.
- ❖ December 7 – **Borealis Chamber Choir** at St. George’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, 8pm tickets \$15 ea, available at Studio 2880, Books & co. and PG Conservatory of Music.
- ❖ December 13 – Gospel concert at Prince George Playhouse – **Sacred songs of Elvis Presley**- tickets at Studio 2880 for info call 250-563-2880
- ❖ December 18-24 - **PG Railway Museum** is presenting its Celebration of Lights with Santa, a Christmas village and rides on the Cottonwood Railway. Chocolate and hot dogs around the bonfire- open 11-8pm.
- ❖ December 19-21 – **Hansel and Gretel with UBC Opera**, tickets available at the PGSO office on 15th for info 250-562-0800
- ❖ January 24 to Feb 1 – The **Coldsnap Festival**; six mainstage events are \$25 or three for \$60. Tickets go on sale Nov15 at Studio 2880, Books and Co,

and Meow Records.

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](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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