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October 10, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

It's Thanksgiving already! And wouldn't you know it – a little snow fell this week as well! That certainly doesn't change my view about Fall...an amazing time of year in Northern B.C. and one of my favourites!!!

I hope you have been making time to watch Prince George dancer Izaak Smith on the show "So You Think You Can Dance Canada." Izaak is a student with our amazing Judy Russell! Last night Izaak moved on to the top 18 dancers because of the votes he received. Please make sure to watch the show next Wednesday Oct. 15 and then vote right after the show. We want to make sure our hometown dancer stays in the competition. Good luck Izaak and great job as usual Judy!

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) convention in late September brought some significant announcements for local governments. Prince George, the Robson Valley and Northern B.C. will benefit from the removal of tolls on the Coquihalla Highway and the future power line along Highway 37. This week saw another announcement that will benefit communities around the province. Fifty-eight local governments across B.C. will share \$819,400 from the second round of the Province's annual Infrastructure Planning Grant program. Our government believes in strong, vibrant and sustainable communities. The Infrastructure Planning Grant is a key

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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

component of this vision. Each community can receive up to \$10,000 and I am proud that this week the City of Prince George received the full \$10,000 for the “Climate Change Adaptation Plan – Trends and Future Projections” project. This is a very exciting announcement that will help Prince George become a leader in innovation, sustainability and environmental management.

Another “green initiative” announced this month is the partnership between LiveSmart BC and BC Hydro to offer free energy assessments to small businesses. LiveSmart BC and BC Hydro are offering a Small Business Walkthrough program. The walkthroughs are from 30-60 minutes in length and are conducted by an energy expert who reviews electricity and gas consumption. These walkthroughs will help support government’s goal to reduce green house gas emissions by 33 percent by 2020. For more information, please visit the LiveSmart BC website at www.livesmartbc.ca or the BC Hydro website at www.bchydro.com/save. October is Small Business Month in BC. Programs such as the Small Business Walkthrough program help our small business sector and recognize the valuable work they do. Have your local business take advantage of the Small Business Walkthrough program to reduce your business’ energy consumption.

This past week also saw the recognition of nineteen amazing people from across the province for the Solicitor General Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards. These awards recognize excellence in youth leadership, media, local government leadership, crime prevention and community safety, volunteering and community policing. One of the nineteen winners was Prince George’s own Cristal Capostinky. Cristal founded the Prince George New Hope Society in 2005 to bridge the gap in services and security for sex workers and women. A former sex trade worker, Christal turned her life around and completed a bachelor’s degree in social work from UNBC while creating a stable life for her and her son. Congratulations Christal! We are all proud of you.

I am hoping that all of you will take some time this weekend to say thanks to those special people in your life. I am constantly thankful for the fantastic family and friends that I have been blessed with. I am also lucky to be supported by a great staff team in Victoria and Prince George who help

make a hectic life more manageable. Thanks to each of them. So enjoy some turkey and time together and I look forward to seeing you out and about!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

HOW IS THE PROVINCE RECOGNIZING THIS GROWING INDUSTRY?

The Province has proclaimed Oct. 5-11 as Oil and Gas Week in B.C. in recognition of the record-breaking year in positive revenue and industry growth, announced Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld. "Since 2001, the oil and gas industry in B.C. has seen unprecedented growth and investment," said Neufeld. "During the 1990s the province averaged \$464 million dollars in revenue, today we are generating \$2 billion in direct revenue from our oil and gas industry. Capital investment was approximately \$1.1 billion in the 1990s and today it's \$4 billion."

Oil and Gas Week will coincide with the 2008 Oil and Gas Conference which is taking place in Fort St. John this week, and which Minister Neufeld will attend and provide opening remarks.

Revenue from oil and gas land right sales have topped \$2 billion in fiscal year 2008 which is almost double what was received in 2007. July's oil and gas land rights sales shattered 10 key oil and gas land rights sales records.

B.C. is estimated to have 60 TcF (trillion cubic feet) of potential marketable conventional natural gas resources, including northeastern B.C. and offshore. Onshore unconventional resources are estimated to be at least five times the conventional ones, with the Horn River Basin being the largest shale gas play in Canada.

"Our government is committed to encouraging growth in the oil and gas industry, and is continuing to work with companies, industry, First Nations and local governments to ensure that the future provides access to jobs, economic growth and opportunities for all British Columbians," added Neufeld.

For more information on oil and gas land rights sales or additional statistics on oil and gas, please see the attached backgrounder or the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources website: www.em.gov.bc.ca/.

News Around the Province

HONOURING PEOPLE FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Honouring individuals who make a difference in their communities is the goal of the 6th Annual BC Community Achievement Awards launched today by Premier Gordon Campbell and the British Columbia Achievement Foundation chair, Keith Mitchell.

These awards are dedicated to recognizing and awarding B.C.'s spirit of excellence, and British Columbia has outstanding, talented people in this province and it is important we recognize these individuals who have been instrumental in helping our province progress in areas from arts and culture to sports, education, health care, environment, multiculturalism, public life and youth and seniors' leadership. I encourage British Columbians to participate in these awards and nominate someone from their community for the 2009 Awards.

The deadline for nominations for the 2009 Community Achievement Awards is Nov. 15, 2008. Information on the nomination process can be found on the foundation's website at www.bcachievement.com or by calling 604 261-9777 or toll free at 1-866 882-6088 or visiting a government agent office or library.

An independent advisory council of community leaders will review the nominations and select the recipients of the awards based on the impact of the individuals' contribution. The winners of the 2009 British Columbia Community Achievement Awards will be awarded a uniquely British Columbian medallion, designed by B.C. artist Robert Davidson, at a ceremony to be held in Government House in Victoria in early spring 2009.

The province is pleased to announce that beginning with the 2009 awards, Canwest has become the generous sponsor of the BC Community Achievement Awards. The province is extremely grateful for Canwest's interest in supporting these important awards that have such a positive impact on communities throughout our province. Canwest's presence in B.C. includes The Vancouver Sun, The Province, The Times-Colonist, Global BC and

numerous community newspapers.
The British Columbia Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation, established with an endowment of \$8 million from the Province to celebrate excellence in community service, enterprise, arts and the humanities provincially and nationally.

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

Prince George and Area Firefighters
Thank you for the work that you do!

Community Announcements

ECRA Craft and Bake Sale

October 25, 9 am to 2pm

Served Lunch \$5

Raffle, craft items, baked goods,
Entertainment all during the day!

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Free Spirit Conservation Tour is on at the Exploration Place. The traveling exhibit -based on the Free Spirit: Stories of You, Me and BC exhibition at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria- celebrates the province's 150 year-history. It runs from 8am to 9pm Friday and Saturday.

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

- ❖ October 3-to 25 – Theatre North West presents “The Number” – Sunday 2pm and 8pm show. For tickets call 250-614-0039.
- ❖ October 11 – **PGSO- joined by soloist Michael Hope** to perform an evening of songs made famous by Sinatra. Vanier Hall 8:00pm tickets available on line at [www.pgso.com](http://www.pgso.com) or at 250-562-0800
- ❖ October 15- **AiMHi's Healthy Living Fair** – 1pm - 7pm Held at AiMHi- 950 Kerry Street, admin by donation.
- ❖ 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.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca)
- ❖ 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

- ❖ October 19 - Child Development Centre's 20<sup>th</sup> **Annual Dutch Auction**, for info call 563-7168
- ❖ November 8 – **Wine Festival** – Come out and support theatre North West while enjoying a fun evening of delicious wine tasting, appetizers, silent auction and new for 2008- mini wine tasting lessons. 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm Tickets \$35 available at Books and Co. and TNW office.

***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.



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