



Useful Web Links

January 18, 2008



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Hello Everyone:

As a community we continue to grapple with the ice jam. I was appreciative that the Premier came to see our situation first hand last Sunday. The Solicitor General also made another visit to get an update on the ice jam. As we visited along River Road, Pulp Mill Road and the Delhaven complex it was evident that countless city and contract workers, provincial employees, volunteers, residents and industry representatives have done an extraordinary job trying to hold back the river. While we continue to have surges and weather changes to deal with in the short term, the hard work to create a long term strategy is also well underway. The province will be a partner in that planning and we look forward to an ongoing and increased partnership with all levels of governments.

I am looking forward to seeing the results of the hot water and ice breaking attempts that will likely begin shortly. Let's hope that these tools are successful in breaking the jam!

This week I was able to announce a first for Canada. I visited Kelowna and took a ride on a bus!! This is the first hybrid school bus in service in the country. The bus uses a combination of an electric motor and diesel to create a more fuel efficient vehicle that also reduces diesel particulate emissions by up to 90%. It is an example of the

Ask Your MLA.

Useful Phone numbers

BC Nurseline: 24 hour,
Toll free 1-866-215-4700

PharmaNet 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

exciting initiatives that make up one of the most aggressive environmental strategies in the world. BC is being recognized globally for its leadership on the environmental front and school transportation is an important consideration. Congratulations Kelowna for partnering with us on this groundbreaking project!

This afternoon Premier Campbell announced in his speech to the Truck Loggers Association that we will be creating a Working Roundtable on Forestry to look at recommendations for BC's forest industry. The group will be chaired by the Minister of Forests Rich Coleman and will also include my colleague Pat Bell, rural MLAs and other stakeholders. This will be an important process and I encourage you to participate as the process unfolds. We know that we all need to work together to ensure the future of this vital sector. We will keep you informed of the mandate and details as they are released. He also announced several initiatives for forestry workers - these include:

*Working with industry and labour representatives to develop new opportunities for older workers to bridge to retirement from the workforce if they wish.

*Working with industry and labour to provide for training, skills and educational upgrades, for workers who are temporarily laid off, through new tuition fee assistance programs. Eligible courses will be determined by a committee made up of industry, organized labour, and the Ministry of Economic Development.

We know that these resources will make a difference for those families who have been directly impacted.

A very busy weekend ahead with most of Saturday filled with meetings and the entire weekend full of events!! One extra special event takes place today and that is my husband Bill's birthday! Happy Birthday Billy - your support and daily encouragement make a difficult job much easier!!

A snowfall warning is in effect today and tonight - so

drive safely and keep your fingers crossed that our flooding situation is improved or at worst - stable. We look forward to seeing you out and about!

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS WILL HELP PROVIDE KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WITH A HEALTHY START?

Protecting children against childhood illness and ensuring they have a healthy future is the focus of the 12th annual Health Day Circuit for local kindergarten students. The program will be running from January 22nd to February 15th, 2008 at the Northern Interior Health Unit in Prince George.

Local partnerships between education and health care providers can help prepare our children for a lifetime of good health. The Health Day Circuit will help ensure that our youngest students are healthy and ready for success at school and in life.

Sponsored by Northern Health and School District #57, the circuit provides a one-stop venue for immunization; vision, dental and hearing screenings; as well as injury prevention and nutritional information. Parents are offered further support if their child is found to be in need.

The kindergarten health day circuit promises to be a lot of fun for all participants. The Health Day Circuit is a fun and effective way to help parents assess the health of their kindergarten-aged children. This 'one-stop venue' brings everyone together - parents, children, and service providers - making for less disruption in the classroom and a more efficient use of time all around.

Approximately 1000 kindergarten children and their parents will be attending the Health Day Circuit. The program will be held in the Northern Interior Health Unit auditorium, located at 1444 Edmonton Street in Prince George. Healthy minds are much more effectively nurtured in healthy bodies and 'The Health Day Circuit' helps young children get off to a

healthy start with their school career, so they can effectively learn as much as possible about the world around them.

For more information about appointment times for the Health Day Circuit, please contact the Northern Interior Health Unit at 565-7381. For any questions concerning immunization, please call 565-7477 to speak with a Northern Health school nurse.

News Around the Province

Province unveils Canada's First Hybrid School Bus

Canada's first environmentally friendly hybrid school bus is set to begin service in the Central Okanagan school district.

B.C. is the first province in Canada to operate a hybrid school bus. The hybrid's ability to minimize its environmental impact not only improves air quality, but serves as an example that there are many different ways we can work to reduce our province's overall greenhouse gas emissions. The new bus will begin transporting students immediately, covering a mixed urban-rural route within Kelowna city limits. This state-of-the-art hybrid bus will eliminate diesel particulate emissions by up to 90 per cent, protecting the health and safety of students while also benefiting the local community.

Hybrid vehicles are known to be more fuel-efficient, which in turn will be saving money for the school district and also helping to protect the environment for future generations.

The hybrid-electric school bus, the first of its kind in Canada according to the manufacturer, combines a diesel engine with a battery-powered electric motor to run the vehicle. The batteries recharge when the brakes are applied. Hybrid vehicles produce fewer fumes while idling, and so that's good for students who may be boarding or departing the bus. We are excited to be the first school district in the country to operate with this new technology and wish to thank the Province for its contribution.

The Province is providing a total of \$180,000 towards the school district's purchase of the bus.

The 72-passenger hybrid vehicle costs about \$240,000.

The hybrid school bus supports the Province's throne speech commitment to reduce B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020.

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

Participants and winners of the Northern British Columbia Business & Technology Awards.

Congratulations to the winners and all the nominees!!

It is through business and individuals such as yourselves that have lead the way in this region's success!!

Community Announcements

Get your team together to help raise money for Big Brothers, Big Sisters annual 'Bowl for Kids Sake' March 9 at Strike Zone. For more info and to book lanes call Tim Bennett at 563-7410

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ Jan 19 – Ralph Klein to Speak at 2008 Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture, Dinner and Dance. Tickets \$100.00 ea for more info call Rob van Adrichem, 960-5622
- ❖ Jan 26 – Prince George Construction Association 50th Anniversary "Gala Evening to Remember" at the Civic Centre – tickets \$75 – for tickets and more info call Jeanette at 563-1744
- ❖ Jan 26 – Feb 2nd- Cold snap 2008 – The Prince George Winter Music Festival- For Venues and artists performing call Books and Company phone 563-6637
- ❖ Jan 27-Breakfast of Reading Champions hosted by Prince George Library is a fun-filled family event to promote reading and literacy. For more info call 563-9251

- ❖ Jan 31-Feb 2 – Dinner Theatre at the Ramada Inn, Play is called Self HELP. For tickets call Books and Co. or Studio 2880. For more info call 961-0615
- ❖ Jan 31-Feb 2 – Theatre North West at Parkhill Centre presents Hockey Mom Hockey Dad. Tickets at Books & Co. or Studio 2880 Call 614-0039 or 563-2880
- ❖ Feb 1 – Northern BC Friends of Children 10th Anniversary Gala at the Coast Inn of the North. Tickets available at The friends of Children office phone 564-2271
- ❖ Feb 1 – “The 2010 Winter Games- Celebrating the Possible” Speaker John Furlong. 11:45 am to 1:30 pm at the Civic Centre - tickets \$20, for more info call Mary Graydon at 614-3766
- ❖ Feb 2 – COLDSNAP 2008 – Please come out and support this great week of music in PG. For info www.coldsnapfestival.com
- ❖ Feb 2 - Feb 9 – Le Cercle des Canadiens Francais. Presents the 23 annual Festival d’Hiver. Call Prince George French Community centre 561-2565 for info on scheduled events.
- ❖ Feb 3 – The 17th Annual Sweetheart Bridal Extravaganza – Prince George Civic Centre 11 am – 5 pm
- ❖ Feb 8 – 23 – Prince George Mardi Gras presents Snow Daze.

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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