



Useful Web Links

February 15, 2008



[Watch Shirley's latest video message](#)

[My website](#)

[BC Government Caucus](#)

[Ministry of Education](#)

[City of Prince George](#)

[Regional District of Fraser Fort George](#)

[Prince George Public Library](#)

[Two Rivers Gallery](#)

[Act Now! BC](#)

[2010 Commerce Centre](#)

[Spirit of 2010](#)

[Prince George Community Foundation](#)

[Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

[The Exploration Place](#)

[Railway and Forestry Museum](#)

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

Ask Your MLA Archive: [Click](#)

Hello Everyone,

Wow, what a week it has been! On Tuesday we heard the Speech from the Throne read by our very own Lieutenant Governor Stephen Pointe. I was proud to watch the first ever Aboriginal Lieutenant Governor read our Speech from the Throne. And what an amazing job he did. Looking back over 2007 and even the past 5 years, we have developed a Province to be proud of. The government has not only laid out a strategy for 2008 but also for the next 50 years! One of the parts of the Throne Speech that really surprised me, but also really hit home, was the statement that most of the MLAs in the Legislature will not live to see 2050. Perhaps the most important message of the day is that we are committed to creating a sustainable province for our children and grandchildren who will be inheriting it in the future.

I am excited about many of the initiatives laid out in Tuesday's Throne Speech that will create a sustainable economy and future for all of us. Our current economic focus is diversification and a key component to diversifying is our Biomass Strategy. The Premier hailed Prince George as the Biomass capital of the world! We are going to use that to our advantage and create jobs and sustainable growth for Prince George-Mount Robson. To complement the strategy we are creating a new energy corridor from Prince George to Prince Rupert will potentially

[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

bring significant investment to our community.

We are optimistic that these new developments will stimulate additional job growth. The jobs will be a new kind of job and we will need to educate and train young professionals to help drive this growth forward. We will need the best and brightest to research and plan. What better place to cultivate them than Canada's first Green University, UNBC! We will also need skilled workers and CNC is already well on its way to being northern B.C.'s leading institution for trades and technology training. There are many interesting community and government initiatives emerging to meet the demand for "green-thinking" academics.

The Premier has certainly had a full schedule during his visit in Prince George this week. Today the Premier is hosting the Climate Change Forum, along with our colleague Minister Rich Coleman. Forestry representatives from around the Province are meeting in our city to share and discuss forestry-related climate change initiatives and innovations. I believe this Forestry Climate Action meeting is a positive step in the right direction towards a cooperative and multi-lateral approach to combating climate change.

In addition to all the other great events going on in Prince George this week, there has been some exciting new developments in the construction of our Cancer Clinic. It is wonderful to hear that the business plan is completed, and has been sent to the province. The next step of the Cancer Clinic building process is underway, as Northern Health is hiring a company to put together a master site plan. As I am sure you are, I look forward to hearing about the future developments of this fantastic project that will benefit the North.

I would like to specifically mention three athletes from Prince George. This week, the Premier recognized 99 of BC's top athletes. I was extremely proud that Jennifer Simm was recognized for her outstanding talent at Freestyle Ski, Kenny Lally for his excellence in Boxing, and Matthew Neumann for

his ability and dedication to Biathlon. Congratulations Jennifer, Kenny and Matthew, keep up the great work! You have made our whole community proud.

Good news this week on the continuing ice jam saga! The emergency status has been lifted, as the water levels have lowered. We're hoping the weather will cooperate for the families who are returning to their homes and the continued flow of water through the corridor in the jam. As the weather is warming up, the road conditions can be unpredictable. Please drive safely this weekend as you spend time with your family and friends.

Until Next Week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT NEW PROGRAM WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES LONGER AS THEY AGE?

A \$100,000 grant from the Province's Housing Endowment Fund is being awarded to the SAFERhome Standards Society to create safe, healthy and sustainable homes. The program encourages builders, architects and residents to include features that allow people to stay in their homes and live comfortably as they age. This will be the first program of its kind in Canada, and is the sort of innovative thinking the Housing Endowment Fund was created to support.

The grant will allow the Society to establish a certification program which entails cost-effective, 19-point design criteria for any new residential or commercial building plans. The program sets minimum dimensions for doors, hallways and stairways, specifies electrical outlet and light switch placements, and bath and shower controls, so that they can all be comfortably accessed by people of different ages and mobility levels. The criteria

include some plumbing, electric and construction guidelines as well. The funding will also help provide educational programs, publications, seminars and conferences on the adoption of SAFERhome building standards and practices.

SAFERhome certified houses are designed to be ergonomically safer, electronically innovative and environmentally beneficial through design. One main focus of the criteria is to allow the consumer to age in place in their home by looking at changing needs of consumers and seniors' safety features in the home.

Partnership with the Province will give us the ability to more effectively promote the adoption of housing standards and practices in B.C. that are safe, healthy and sustainable for everyone in the community. A

SAFERhome provides a better standard of living through design and the built-in ability to support consumer's needs from toddler to senior.

The \$250-million Housing Endowment Fund was established in the 2007 Provincial Budget. The fund will generate investment revenue of approximately \$10 million a year, which will be used to fund new ideas and support innovative housing solutions that meet the diverse housing needs of British Columbians.

News Around the Province

COMMUNITIES AROUND THE PROVINCE ARE CELEBRATING BC 150, JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION

All year long, British Columbia will be celebrating BC150 – 150 years of fascinating history, cultural diversity, and countless achievements. Celebrations will take place in every corner of the province, with each event being fashioned around one of five pillars: heritage, communities, cultural diversity, Aboriginal people, and arts and culture. However, it's fair to say that one of those pillars truly is a thread that runs through each of the others – our province's rich heritage is a colourful mosaic of culture, innovation, community strength and business acumen.

Starting Feb. 18, B.C.'s Heritage Week 2008 also

recognizes BC150 by exploring how trade, commerce and business have been central to the history and development of every British Columbia community.

For example, some of the earliest British Columbia trade and commerce activities took place in the 19th century between our province's First Nations people and European fur traders. One of the first fur trading posts, Fort St. James, which is now over 200 years old, became the centre of the northern fur trade district, then known as New Caledonia. In 1858, the district was placed under formal British colonial authority and renamed the Colony of British Columbia, with Sir James Douglas as governor. This decision allowed the British government to protect its interests in the face of an influx of American prospectors during the Fraser River gold rush.

Today, the community of Fort St. James remains proud of its rich history – including the legacy of the great Carrier Chief Kwah who regulated both the fur and fish trading that occurred between his people and the fur traders – with the former fur outpost now a National Historic Site. However, instead of the fur trade of the past, Fort St. James' economy now relies on its established forestry and growing tourism industries.

In 1857 and 1859, the Hudson's Bay Company, Canada's oldest corporation and an integral part of trade and commerce in British Columbia, established a sales shop and a sales shop/warehouse in Fort Langley and Fort Victoria respectively. In later years, HBC reached out to other British Columbia communities, setting up shop in Vancouver and Vernon (1887), Nelson (1902) and Kamloops (1911). British Columbia is home to many other communities – Chilliwack, Maple Ridge, Nanaimo, Dease Lake, Nelson, Revelstoke, Yale, and Fernie, to name just a few – and businesses that have been established for over a century, yet have managed through vision, innovation and hard work, to evolve, grow and adapt to the rigors of the 21st century.

The BC Fruit Growers Association, established in 1889, and Hanna and Hanna Orchards in Salmon Arm have both been honoured with provincial

Century Farm Awards for their contributions to British Columbia's rich agricultural heritage. Victoria's Rogers' Chocolates have been tempting taste buds since 1885, while Pemberton Holmes real estate has been serving Vancouver Island customers since 1887. And Alfred Horie Construction Co. Ltd, which was founded in 1893 and is responsible for the construction of the Entrance Island lighthouse near Nanaimo, has also withstood the test of time. BC150 salutes Heritage Week, and invites every British Columbian to explore their own, and their community's heritage, in 2008. From British Columbia's first Provincial Heritage Fair being held in Kamloops May 29, and the National Historical Fair in Victoria in July, to the CP BC Spirit of 150 historic rail tour and traveling museum exhibition that will visit B.C. communities in June, to Rivermania, a flotilla of boats that will travel down the Fraser River this summer, honouring the river and its communities – there truly is something for everyone to experience and enjoy. This is the year to celebrate British Columbia's heritage, while also looking forward to the future. Our heritage is everywhere – in centuries-old buildings and communities, as well as in the collective histories of every British Columbian – just waiting to be discovered. For more information about Heritage Week 2008, please visit Heritage BC's website at www.heritagebc.ca. For more information on BC150, see www.bc150.ca.

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

The City of Prince George!!

The City got a five-star rating as an entrant in the Canada-wide WinterLights Celebration program.

*Congratulations Citizens of Prince George
We are proud of you!*

Community Announcements

Donate now to help Flood Affected

Residents to the
Canadian Red Cross
Prince George Flood Response

Items to donate:

- food
- Household goods
- Occupational needs
- Transportation

Financial donations can be mailed to:

Chamber Office
890 Vancouver Street
Prince George, BC V2L 2P5
Or call 562-25-454 for more info.

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ Feb 16-24- Snow Frolics at Pineview Hall and Malcolm McLeod Park – Adult dance tickets available at Pineview Store. for more info call 963-8214
- ❖ Feb 16- Fall in Love with Opera concert at St. Michael and All Angels' Church starting at 8pm
- ❖ Feb 22-Mr. Prince George Pageant at the Ramada Hotel 7:30 PM Tickets \$30 for more info call 564-3737
- ❖ Feb 23-Wildgame Banquet & Fundraiser, at PG Civic Centre. Tickets available at Northern Hardware, Northern Troutfitters, and Hobby Brews, \$40 for more info call 962-6455
- ❖ Feb 24 – the Seniors Fun Fair at the Hart Pioneer "Centre from 10AM to 5PM Free admission with food at minimal cost.
- ❖ Feb 25- Toastmasters demonstration meeting at the Civic Centre – 855 Dominion St, 2nd Floor. 7:30PM – 9:30PM
- ❖ Feb 27 - United Way launches forestry support seminars at the Civic Centre 7-9pm for more info call Jocelyn Snih at 561-1040
- ❖ Mar 1-Dunster Community Association Mid Winter Buy and Sell- 11AM -2PM at Dunster Community Hall, Silent Auction, White Elephant, Bake Table-For more info 968-4334

- ❖ Mar 1 – Can West Can Spell National Spelling Bee 2008 at Vanier Hall. More info to come....
- ❖ Mar 4-6 Vision Loss workshop- CNIB -490 Quebec St. For info call Sharon-563-1702
- ❖ Mar 7-9 – The Rainbow singers and musical friends present Musical Eastcoast Kitchen Party at ECRA, Admin: \$10

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

Toll Free: 1-866-612-7333
Phone: 250-612-4181
Fax: 250-612-4188

www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca
shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca

1350 5th Ave,
Prince George, BC
V2L 3L4