

May 14 Agenda  
- Rural Directors  
- At. Dir. Houley  
- BS + FB



C-1

April 8, 2009

Ms. Karen Goodings, Chair  
Mr. Wayne Hiebert, Director  
Mr. Larry Houley  
Board of Directors  
Peace River Regional District  
Box 810  
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

Dear Madam and Sirs:

During our information meeting held on February 19, 2009, Mr. Houley raised an issue that required follow-up by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Specifically, he inquired whether a landowner could register a statutory right-of-way on his/her land.

A "right of way" and "statutory right of way" are two different instruments. The analysis we've undertaken indicates that there is no bar to a fee simple owner applying to register a right-of-way in his or her own name across his/her own land provided that it gives a benefit to a different parcel of land (a "dominant tenement") that is owned by the same person. The classic example is a driveway across the front half of a subdivided lot to access the back half.

If the landowner is a corporation, it may be able to register a statutory right-of-way, or SRW, across its land. An SRW does not require any second parcel of land as a dominant tenement. However, an SRW is only registrable if it is authorized by some legislation, like the Utilities Act or the Pipeline Act.

In either case, if someone owns a registered SRW or a right of way and later purchases the parcel over which their right of access exists, the right of access (the SRW or right of way) remains unchanged on title.

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**Ministry of Energy, Mines  
and Petroleum Resources**  
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<http://www.gov.bc.ca/empr/index.html>

Marketing, Aboriginal and  
Community Relations Division

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During the Community Relations Branch's February information meetings with northeast BC municipalities, we heard about the need for oil and gas companies in the region to operate with a social license. This included fair and open procurement and hiring practices. Recent initiatives announced by Minister Lekstrom this past March that will help to address this issue include:

### 1. Procurement Practices

The Ministry has established a Service Sector Advisory Committee to support the growth of the service sector in British Columbia and to address opportunities and challenges to economic development. The first meeting, held on March 20, 2009, was attended by Minister Lekstrom, and representatives from industry experts, economic development officers, and service sector businesses. Please see Appendix A for a copy of the News Release and the Advisory *(attached)* Committee's Terms of Reference.

Additionally, two procurement help offices will be established in Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson to help ensure that more British Columbia businesses find and secure opportunities in the oil and gas sector. Office staff will assume a liaison role to help companies effectively utilize and administer procurement standards. A new searchable online database of service sector businesses will also be made available to oil and gas companies looking to hire local contractors. The database will include approximately 75 per cent of all British Columbia service sector companies.

### 2. Social License

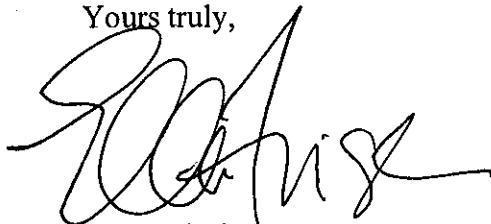
The Ministry, in co-operation with industry, is undertaking a regional "good neighbor" initiative between companies and landowners to focus on matters of community concern such as speed and dust control.

Finally, we would like to meet with the Board members and staff in May, 2009. The purpose of the meeting would be to obtain their thoughts and input on the recently announced "Independent Farmer's Advocate" position in Dawson Creek, i.e. roles and responsibilities of the position, etc. As noted in Minister Lekstrom's March announcement, an independent position will be created to work directly with private landowners regarding understanding property rights, potential agricultural implications and negotiating with industry. The position is expected to provide direct information and support to landowners who are engaging industry. Ms. Lindsay McDonough, Senior Community Relations Advisor, will contact PRRD staff to arrange a meeting time and agenda. We will contact the District to confirm a meeting date the week of May 25 when our team is in the region.

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If you have any further questions on the above noted initiatives or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Richard Sawchuk at 250-952-0165.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Frisch', written in a cursive style.

Ellen Frisch  
Executive Director

Enclosure

pc: Mr. Richard Sawchuk  
Manager  
Community Relations  
Marketing and Community Relations Branch

Ms. Lindsay McDonough  
Senior Community Advisor  
Marketing and Community Relations Branch

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## Appendix A

## NEWS RELEASE

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

For Immediate Release  
2009EMPR0016-000460  
March 20, 2009

**BRITISH COLUMBIA FUELS OIL AND GAS SERVICE SECTOR**

DAWSON CREEK – Initiatives focused on the northeast oil and gas service sector will provide new tools to help drive the industry to the next level, announced Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Blair Lekstrom at the inaugural meeting of the Service Sector Advisory Committee today in Dawson Creek.

“The new Service Sector Advisory Committee, plus a searchable database of B.C. service sector companies, and two northeast B.C.-based Procurement Help Offices will ensure more B.C. businesses find and secure opportunities in B.C.’s lucrative oil and gas sector,” said Lekstrom. “B.C.’s service sector continues to grow and develop and it is imperative that we support the industry with innovative, effective programs and services.”

The Service Sector Advisory Committee is tasked with supporting the growth of the service sector in British Columbia by providing expert knowledge to assist in the identification of priority issues and developing recommendations to address opportunities and challenges to economic development. The committee will consist of industry experts, economic development officers and service sector businesses.

A free, online searchable database of B.C. service sector businesses will be available to oil and gas companies searching for local procurement. It will include at least 75 per cent of all known B.C. service sector companies classified using industry standards. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources provided \$30,000 in a contribution agreement with Energy Services BC to develop this database.

In addition to the database, the ministry, along with Energy Services BC, will establish two procurement help offices, one in Fort Nelson and the other in Dawson Creek, to help service sector companies navigate the complex procurement standards required by oil and gas companies. The offices will act as liaison between oil and gas companies working in the area and local service sector companies.

Media      Jake Jacobs  
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              Petroleum Resources  
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## **SERVICE SECTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **MANDATE:**

The Service Sector Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) is charged to examine the business environment and to support the growth of the oil and gas service sector in British Columbia by assisting the Ministry in identifying high priority issues and developing recommendations to capitalize on opportunities and overcome barriers and challenges to economic growth. As the pulse of the B.C. service sector, it is expected the Advisory Committee will identify best practices by providing expert knowledge. It will continue to monitor and examine the challenges identified by the 2004 Service Sector Committee. The full mandate will be confirmed by Advisory Committee members at the first meeting.

### **COMMITTEE COMPOSITION:**

Members of the Advisory Committee will be oil and gas service sector experts, recognized in their respective communities as innovators, providing a broad perspective while serving a one year term. Membership will consist of approximately 20 individuals and include representation from:

- Service Sector Companies and Associations
- First Nations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Economic and Community Development Officers
- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Other agencies and institutions may be requested to participate at the discretion of the Advisory Committee on an “as required” basis.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY:**

The Advisory Committee will provide a formal confidential report to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources each fiscal year ending March 31, including recommendations to optimize opportunities and mitigate challenges to the growth of the service sector within British Columbia.

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**MEETING FREQUENCY:**

While recognizing B.C.'s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020, the Advisory Committee will encourage the reduction of carbon emissions and promote green meetings by teleconferencing bi monthly. Meeting agenda and minutes will be distributed by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources will act as meeting facilitator or chair.

Following the first meeting with the Minister in Dawson Creek on March 20, 2009, future meetings, via teleconference, will be every two months on the second to last Wednesday of the month and are as follows:

- 10:00 am to 11:30 pm (PST), Wednesday, May 20, 2009
- 10:00 am to 11:30 pm (PST), Wednesday, July 22, 2009
- 10:00 am to 11:30 pm (PST), Wednesday, September 23, 2009
- 10:00 am to 11:30 pm (PST), Wednesday, November 18, 2009

The Committee may choose to hold conference calls outside of full committee meetings and sub-committees may be required to meet outside of full-committee meetings.

**COMMITTEE DURATION:**

After 12 months (March 31, 2010), there will be a re-evaluation of terms of reference and committee membership. Serving members will have the option to renew their commitment for one year. It is expected that members will serve for no more than three consecutive years.

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