



**Peace River Regional District &  
Peace River Regional Hospital District  
Board Meeting Newsletter**



October 13, 2011    Location: Board Room, Dawson Creek Office

**Site C Clean Energy Project Environmental Assessment Process**

The federal and provincial governments will undergo a harmonized environmental assessment, including a review by a joint panel. The public has 30 days to submit comments on the draft agreement, from October 7, 2011 until November 7, 2011. To view the draft harmonized agreement go to either [www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca) or [www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca). The Board also addressed the issue that the Site C assessment process is mandated to explore alternate energy generation options; however, Bill 17-2010 Clean Energy Act (CEA) currently prohibits the use of natural gas. The Board will pursue a strategy to approach the Province to remove the natural gas prohibition from the Clean Energy Act.

**Where Will All the Workers Stay?**

The demand for worker housing installations to house the many workers in our region can be an attractive business venture to land owners -- but developers beware! Applications for non-traditional use or exclusion of land from the Agriculture Land Reserve are required to comply with provincial legislation, and local government zoning by-laws and land use plans. The application process requires the local government to file a Local Government Report to provide the Agriculture Land Commission (ALC) with information on local planning, such as community plan and zoning designations, and to give the local government an opportunity to make recommendations on a proposal. If the land under application is zoned for agricultural or farm use, or if your proposal requires a by-law amendment, the local government authorizes your application to proceed to the ALC. If authorization is not granted, your application proceeds no further. To find out more go to: [www.alc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca) or [www.prrd.bc.ca](http://www.prrd.bc.ca).

**Transport Canada– Pacific Region Delegation**

The Board appreciated the presentation and discussion of rail issues with Mr. James Horby, Manager Rail Safety and Ana Coady, Railway Works Engineer. The presenters addressed rail safety, roles and responsibilities of the Rail Safety Branch of Transport Canada responsible for operations, equipment, safety management system and engineering. The Surface Branch takes applications for two grant programs: (1) Grade Crossing Improvement Program; and (2) Grade Crossing Closure Program (GCCP). The latter is an incentive to close unnecessary public and private crossings. For info about Rail Safety or the Transportation of Dangerous Goods, contact Transport Canada–Pacific Region at 604-666-0011.

**Invasive Plant Council of BC**

David Borth, Executive Committee Member/ Treasurer of the Invasive Plant Committee of BC, a non-profit society, gave a presentation to the Board about the progress and next steps of the IPCBC. This large provincial/national network is hard at work coordinating invasive species management in British Columbia. The IPCBC Council's Board, and five committees, including the North Peace Invasive Plant Committee:



- Educate public & professionals about invasive species and their risk to ecosystems and economies;
- Fund research relating to invasive species; and,
- Undertake and support actions that improve the health of BC's natural ecosystems.

If you are interested in joining or finding out more about the NE Invasive Plant Committee, contact Elaine Armagost, *PRRD Invasive Plant Program Manager* at 250-784-3227 or [Elaine.Armagost@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:Elaine.Armagost@prrd.bc.ca) or visit [www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca).



**Peace Region Palaeontology Research Centre Funding Strategy Final Report**

The Funding Strategy Report was presented by consultant John Murray of Economic Growth Solutions, and is a result of the Tumbler Ridge Museum Society requesting ongoing taxation funding support from the Regional District for their Peace Region Palaeontology Research Centre (PRPRC).

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), in partnership with the District of Tumbler Ridge (DTR), commissioned the study to evaluate the operational and capital requirements of the PRPRC, identify funding local government should consider, and to identify other funding partners in order to achieve the ultimate vision of the Tumbler Ridge Museum Society.

While the report clearly identifies local government as a potential funding partner in the Peace Region Paleontology Research Centre from an economic development perspective (displays, tours, marketing); however, scientific research, collection and repository storage of specimens are identified as difficult expenses for local government to fund on an on-going basis. Also, funding options need to fit into existing service functions as well as any long term funding commitments of both the DTR and the PRRD, so as to be complimentary and effective. For a copy of the study, contact the Peace River Regional District, Dawson Creek Office.

**Next PRRD Board Meeting: October 27, 2011**