PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
Board Newsletter

Highlights from the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board and the Peace River Regional District Board Meetings, held April 24, 2008

NEW FORT ST. JOHN HOSPITAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Blair Lekstrom, MLA Peace River South, Dr. Mark Thomson, Chief of Staff Fort St. John Hospital, Janice Isberg, Executive Director Fort St. John Hospital Foundation, Richard Neufeld, MLA Peace River North, Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Health, Jim Eglinski, Mayor Fort St. John, Dr. Charles Jago, Chair Northern Health Board, and Karen Goodings, Chair Peace River Regional District were on hand Tuesday, April 22, 2008 to announce the provincial funding approval to replace and expand the Fort St. John Hospital.

There will be three buildings on the forty-acre site. The new hospital will have fifty-five beds, which will include eleven more acute care beds. A one hundred twenty-three bed residential care facility for seniors will share the site and a centralized food and laundry services building will supply both facilities to increase operational efficiency. Construction of the new facility is scheduled to start in the spring of 2009 and is expected to be completed by 2011.

Fair Share Payments

Prior to the meeting commencing, Chair Goodings distributed Fair Share fund cheques as follows:

Chetwynd	$ 1,633,645
Dawson Creek	8,479,706
Fort St. John	12,152,470
Hudson's Hope	582,493
Pouce Coupe	666,906
Taylor	535,304
Tumbler Ridge	903,658
Electoral Areas ($398,205 each)	1,592,821

Telus Presentation

Shaun Greffard, General Manager Customer Solutions Delivery, Telus advised the Board that staffing in the northeast will increase from seventy-seven percent to ninety-two percent.

They also advised that Telus is working on improving wireless coverage for the entire region. In the 2008 budget, $1.2 million has been identified for customer-driven upgrades and for upgrades and maintenance for the existing plant.

Other Highlights

- The following Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) applications were supported and authorized to proceed to the Agricultural Land Commission:
  Subdivision - 129/2007 (Schaefer); and
  Subdivision - 48/2008 (Arnold/Dyck).
- The Regional District will be applying to the UBCM for West Nile Virus Reduction funding.
- The Dawson Creek 50th Book and DVD will be launched on Saturday, May 10, 2008 at Unchagah Hall with Roy Forbes in attendance.
- The official unveiling of the Charlie Lake Memorial Monument will be held at 11 a.m. May 21, 2008.
- The Grasslands of the North Workshop will be held in Dawson Creek from June 7 to 9, 2008.
- Rural Directors were authorized to attend the 50th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration in Taylor from August 15 to 17, 2008.

Next Regional Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Regional Board will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 10 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Peace River Regional District office, at 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.

For Further information, please contact the Peace River Regional District at:

P.O. Box 810, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8,
Telephone: (250) 784-3200; Fax: (250) 784-3201
prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

9912-106 Avenue Fort St. John, BC V1J 2N9
Telephone: (250) 785-8084; Fax: (250) 785-1125
prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

Toll-free Telephone: [800] 670-7773 [Web site: www.prrd.ca]