



# PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

## Board Newsletter

Highlights from the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board and the Peace River Regional District Board Meeting, held February 28, 2008

### RCMP Rural Staffing Levels

Inspector Keith Redl and Staff Sergeant Ward Johnson of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) attended the meeting to discuss the idea of regional policing for the Regional District.

Inspector Redl provided a comparison of the crime rate statistics from 2006 to 2007 and spoke about the detachment's difficulties in maintaining a full slate of members. He stated that the budget was in dire straights and current staffing levels are lower than what the police-to-population ratio was twenty-five years ago. He hopes the federal government's recently announced increase to funding for the RCMP will help. He believes that a regional policing model could be very beneficial for some areas but not for others. However, the new computer system that allows members throughout the province access to files is proving to be very useful.

He is hopeful that the Chiefs of Police, who meet four times a year, will have an affect in lobbying the government for changes to such things as required insurance for off-highway vehicles and reducing the allowable speed limit for passing official vehicles. They also make grant applications whenever possible. He said they would welcome the support of local government in their efforts.



### Proposed Carbon Tax

The Directors will review the full carbon tax legislation as there are concerns that it appears the people in the north will, in effect, be penalized by this tax for such things as heating their homes and the high vehicle usage due to the lack of mass transit options.

Once the Directors have had an opportunity to review the legislation and formed valid conclusions, a letter will be forwarded to the Premier expressing these and other concerns that may arise.



### Other Highlights

- ★ Northern Health announced that both Pouce Coupe Care facilities will be kept open until 2010 for use as transition beds. Northern Health is open to suggestions for future uses of the buildings from the public and would like a simple, two-page proposal from anyone interested in utilizing the buildings beyond 2010.
- ★ The Board increased the grants to both School Districts 59 and 60 (Peace River South and North) from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the Rural Learn to Swim Program.
- ★ The Board will continue the annual \$5,000 grant to Duck's Unlimited for the Webfoot Adopt-a-Class Program for a further three years. This grant is shared equally between the north and south Peace.
- ★ Directors and staff will be attending the North Central Municipal Association meeting in Prince George, BC from May 7 to May 9, 2008; therefore, the Regional Board meeting scheduled for May 8, 2008 was cancelled.
- ★ A letter will be sent to Premier Campbell to advise that the Regional District is in support of the resolutions from the City of Prince George and the North Central Municipal Association (NCMA) that there not be a reduction in the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's) in the north.



### Next Regional Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Regional Board will be held on Thursday, March 13, 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:

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