



Outgoing President's Comment

After four terrific years leading Initiatives Prince George (IPG), I am leaving IPG to pursue exciting new opportunities. Stay tuned!!! My last day will be February 17, four years to the day that I started at IPG.

I note that the Northern Decade of economic opportunity that IPG has advocated for over the last four years is now firmly upon us. Capital projects planned and underway in Prince George's service and supply region tally well into the multiple billions of dollars. Well paid family-supporting jobs abound, and the prospect of real gains in Prince George's population and tax-base is on the horizon.

As I prepare to depart, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to IPG's Board of Directors, led by Glen Wonders and, before him, Clint Dahl. It has been a sincere privilege to work with such a deeply committed group of business and community leaders who generously volunteer their time and talent to IPG's strategic approach to economic development. I also want to thank all members of Progress Prince George for their work, insights and commitment during my time with IPG.

I want to thank our small professional staff for their efforts; Heather, Tara, Sarah, Melissa, Dustin and Leanne, you have all done a great job. I want to pay special thanks to our long-time Manager, Administration Sarah Kirk and IPG's former Vice President, Economic Development,

Development, Katherine Scouten who left IPG last June to join UNBC.

I am also very appreciative of the support I received from Mayors Colin Kinsley and Dan Rogers and their respective City Councils. As Mayor Shari Green and the new City Council begin their term, I wish them every possible success. I am also very appreciative of the great working relationship I enjoyed with City



Tim McEwan

Past President and
Chief Executive Officer
Initiatives Prince George

of Prince George administration, and wish to pay very special thanks to City Manager Derek Bates; Manager, Real Estate Ian Wells; and Manager, Policy Initiatives Wendy Nordin.

Prince George is also incredibly well served by its two MLA's, Honourable Pat Bell and Honourable Shirley Bond. I want to thank them for their extraordinary efforts and commitment to the City of Prince George and Northern British Columbia, and for the great working relationship that we have enjoyed.

Over the past four years, IPG has worked with a number of partners locally, regionally, provincially, nationally and – in a couple of cases – internationally. There are simply too many of you to list in this brief communication. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your collegiality and work in support of our common goals and objectives.

"I encourage those charged with advancing the Great City of Prince George to "Think BIG" about its potential"

I also want to thank my wife Cynthia and daughter Katherine who endured my very long work hours and many times away from home. The most special moment of our time in Prince George was the birth of our granddaughter Ava in July, 2009. While Prince George has done much to enrich our lives, nothing is as meaningful or enduring as this gift.

I encourage those charged with advancing the Great City of Prince George to "Think BIG" about its potential and to leverage its many strategic attributes. Prince George is on the cusp of much greater things, but this will only happen if change is embraced and relentlessly pursued.



New Feature—Business Showcase

Initiatives Prince George is excited to introduce a new feature in our monthly “On the Move” Newsletter—The Business Showcase! Beginning in February every month we will be profiling a Prince George business that is foundational to our economy’s growth and diversification. The showcase will include a brief background on the business, dialogue on how being located in Prince George has benefitted the organization as well as the community, and what plans the business has for the future.

The objective of this showcase is to highlight key Prince George businesses that have played an integral role in the success of BC’s Northern Capital. This will also be an opportunity for the businesses to relay information about their operations so the public can better understand what they have accomplished and how they will continue to grow and improve our community.

If you are interested in having your business showcased in 2012 we encourage you to send your expression of interest in an email to: info@initiativespg.com

Here is a sneak peak of what you’ll see in February’s Business Showcase featuring Geotech Drilling Services Ltd: Geotech is a Prince George based organization focused on continually implementing the most technologically advanced drilling techniques to increase the efficiency and the accuracy of field data collection. Geotech specializes in geotechnical, geothermal, environmental, hydrogeological and exploration drilling services.

Check back next month to learn more!

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation - International Financial Institutions Bootcamp

The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Innovation is organizing a bootcamp in March, just before the GLOBE 2012 conference in Vancouver. The event will bring together western Canadian small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the energy and environmental sectors with international companies who have been successful in securing lucrative contracts with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), for networking, matchmaking and intelligence-sharing opportunities. Representatives from at least three IFIs (World Bank, Inter American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank) will participate. The session will take place over two days and has a cost of \$100.



This bootcamp presents an opportunity for niche technology companies, engineering consultants, management consultants, and specialty goods/manufacturing operations in the northern region who may be interested in the IFI tender process. Though the energy and environmental sectors are highlighted, there are a number of transportation and infrastructure projects which require goods, services, and project management.

Draft schedule & to create a profile/register: <http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/IFIBootCamp/Pages/Home.aspx>
General info on IFI Opportunities: <http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/Export/About/Pages/IFIOpportunities.aspx>

Kyahwood Forest Products Wins Export Award at Pat Bell’s Resource Forum

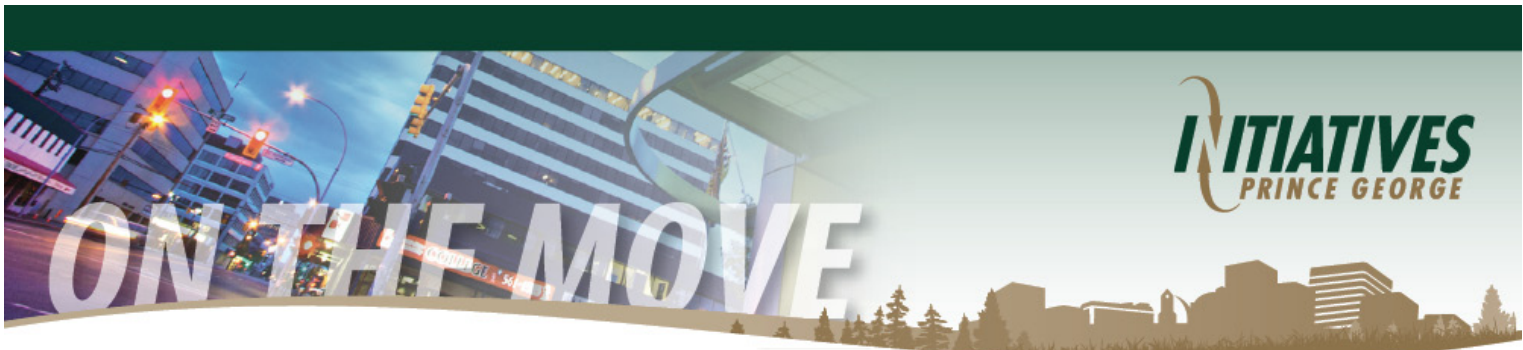
Pat Bell’s 9th Annual BC Natural Resource Forum took place in Prince George on January 11 and 12 featuring a variety of high level speakers, including a keynote speech by Premier Christy Clark on **Canada Starts Here**. The theme of this year’s forum was **2020 North: A Clear Vision for the Next Decade**, and fittingly, the majority of the discussion focused on best practices for local companies to appropriately position themselves to reap the benefits of the oncoming economic boom.

Each year the Resource Forum holds the Northern BC Business & Technology Awards & Dinner. These awards acknowledge leading businesses based right here in the North. At the awards ceremony, Kyahwood Forest Products took home the Export Award sponsored by Initiatives Prince George; the Export Award is presented to an individual, company, or organization who has demonstrated excellence in pursuing international market opportunities.

Kyahwood Forest Products is a lumber remanufacturing company located in the community of Moricetown, BC. The company is owned 100% by the Moricetown Band and provides employment to the people of the Wet’suwet’en First Nation.

Kyahwood injects 6 to 8 million dollars annually into the Bulkley Valley economy and exports finger-jointed lumber destined to markets in North America and China. Congratulations to the management and staff at Kyahwood Forest Products for a job well done!





Changing the Face of Downtown



The 2012 Coldsnap Music Festival took place in Prince George from January 20 to 28, showcasing the city's local musical talent and attracting musicians from across Canada. Seven of the festival performances featured out-of-town artists, with local artists featured on the other two nights. Downtown venues played host to six of the festival's evening performances as well as seven family-friendly workshops aimed at building understanding, self-esteem, and a love of music. Performers included everything from blues to jazz to hip-hop to indie rock, and everything in between.

Coinciding with the music festival, Downtown Prince George once again presented Winterlicious, Prince George's annual celebration of the tantalizing variety of foods and fine dining available in the city. This year, the restaurateurs of Downtown Prince George prepared a variety of lunch and dinner menus to showcase their culinary talents and promote the downtown as a destination for top quality dining experiences.



Did You Know— Downtown Facts

Did you know? - Downtown Prince George offers an ideal location for investment. Here are a few facts:

- **More than 10% of Prince George's employed labour force works in the downtown core.**
- **Property tax exemptions through the new Downtown Incentives Program can equate to up to \$200,000 per million dollars of commercial development (improvements or new construction).**
- **For every million dollars of new residential development, property tax exemptions can equate to up to \$90,000, plus additional incentives of \$10,000 per residential unit constructed.**



For more information on the Downtown Incentives Program visit:
http://www.princegeorge.ca/citybusiness/DowntownIncentives/Documents/Downtown_Incentives_Prog_Info.pdf

CME Northern Job Fair Feb 29, 2012

On February 29, 2012 Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME), in partnership with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and the Engineering Matching & Placement Program (E-MAP), is hosting a free Job Fair for Northern BC in downtown Vancouver.

The event is being held to address the skilled labour shortage being experienced across all major industries in Northern BC (mining, forestry, oil & gas, construction, etc). The Job Fair will give employers the opportunity to educate job seekers about their organizations, provide information on job availability and showcase the benefits of working in the North.

The Job Fair will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver (791 West Georgia Street). Job seekers are required to register and can do so at <https://bc.cmec.ca/mpower/event/loadevent.action?e=84>.

For more information contact: Diane Thompson at 604.736.0319, email: diane.thompson@cme-mec.ca or visit: www.cme-mec.ca/bc



Industry Training Authority Meeting

Skilled trades workers have never been in higher demand in Prince George and the North, and finding the right people has become one of the most pressing issues for employers. On January 12 the Industry Training Authority of BC (ITA) and Initiatives Prince George (IPG) hosted a community dialog to address this issue.

The conversation around facing labour market challenges and seizing opportunities in the North involved questions such as "how can Prince George secure the skilled workers needed to meet these potential economic opportunities" and opened the floor for local business, community and government leaders in Prince George to consider this challenge and explore potential solutions.

IPG would like to thank Mayor Shari Green and Minister Pat Bell who were both in attendance to speak on this topic, as well as the full ITA board who flew into the City for this and other meetings. The outcome of the dialog revealed positive suggestions that will be considered for future labour recruitment and retention initiative planning.

The Industry Training Authority is the provincial crown agency responsible for overseeing B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship system, providing a skilled workforce for industry and career development opportunities for British Columbians.



To learn more about the ITA visit:
<http://www.itabc.ca/site3.aspx>





BC Immigration Task Force

On December 8, 2011 Premier Christy Clark announced the creation of the B.C. Immigration Task Force to review key government programs with the goal of increasing the number of skilled immigrants and investors in British Columbia. Over the next decade, British Columbia forecasts approximately one million job openings, one third of which are expected to be filled by immigrants. *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* will promote economic development in key sectors that will further intensify labour market needs.

The Task Force will examine the current system of economic immigration to Canada and B.C., focusing on the following programs: The B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), Canadian Experience Class (CEC) and the Federal Immigrant Investor Program (FIIP).

The ten-member task force will undertake meetings and consultations with stakeholders across the province and submit a final report – which will be made public – to the Premier by March 31, 2012.



**THE BC
JOBS PLAN**

To learn more, visit: http://www.jti.gov.bc.ca/immigration_task_force/



Youth Mean Business

On Friday February 3, 2012, Community Futures Fraser Fort George will be hosting a free Info Connections & Networking Event to learn about the Youth Mean Business Pilot Program designed for individuals ages 18 – 29 with a great business idea and an interest in entrepreneurship as a career.

Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm ** Light Refreshments Served**

Place: University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) – Bentley Centre

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introduction to the **Youth Mean Business Pilot Program**
- Message from the Province – “*Entrepreneurship – An Exciting Career Choice*”, Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism & Innovation
- Guest Entrepreneurs: A Snapshot of *Local* Entrepreneurial Journeys
 - **Garth Frizzell**, Terra Cognita Software Systems Inc.
 - **Eoin Foley**, Nancy O’s Restaurant
 - **Tom Simpson**, Benchmark Automotive Services Inc.
 - **Shauna Harper**, Live Work PG Online Marketing
- Q & A Time: Open Floor for Your Questions to Guest Entrepreneurs

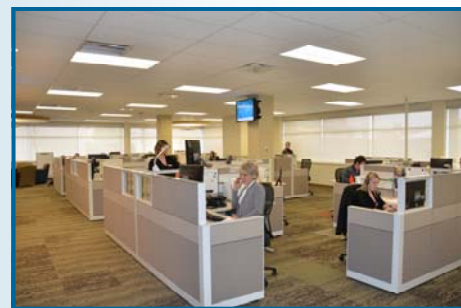
If you are interested, please register with Vera Beerling at Youth Mean Business 250.562.9622, Ext. 112; email at verab@cfdc.bc.ca OR Maria Trujillo at the UNBC Student Career Centre (250) 960-6426; email trujillm@unbc.ca



**Youth Mean
Business**
Developing Entrepreneurial Skills in Youth

FortisBC Grand Opening

The phone lines are open, marking the completion of a two-year project by FortisBC to move to in-house customer service for natural gas customers. 300 new jobs were created between the new service centres located in Prince George and Burnaby. In addition to creating new jobs, the service centres will lead to



benefits for all British Columbians, including growing the provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and increasing tax revenues. Some of the ongoing improvements that the service centres will provide their customers include:

- Expanded communication and service channels
- Customer service representatives with local knowledge of B.C.’s energy market
- Positioning the company to expand their services

The new facilities have been designed and built in an energy efficient manner, in keeping with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) principles and guidelines. Four local companies completed the renovations and upgrades at the Prince George centre. In Burnaby, the new centre is located in Willingdon Park, a facility accessible by foot, bike, car or public transportation. The centres are open to answer customer inquiries Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.



FORTIS BC™