



Fred James
Chief Regulatory Officer
Phone: 604-623-4046
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May 29, 2019

Mr. Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary and Manager
Regulatory Support
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Mr. Wruck:

**RE: British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
Application to Amend Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule (RS) 1289
(Application)
Compliance with BCUC Order No. G-103-19A**

BC Hydro writes to advise the BCUC of its compliance with BCUC Order No. G-103-19A (**Order**).

Directive Nos. 2 and 3

BC Hydro placed copies of the documents on its websites.

Copy of the Application	https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/corporate/regulatory-planning-documents/integrated-resource-plans/current-plan/rate-schedule-1289-amend-application-apr-2019.pdf
Copy of the Order	https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/corporate/regulatory-planning-documents/regulatory-filings/nm/bchydro-rate-schedule-1289-exhibit-a-2.pdf

BC Hydro confirms that the Application and Order was provided to all registered interveners and interested parties in the 2018 Amendment Application proceeding; all current Rate Schedule 1289 customers; those with net metering service applications in progress; and all participants in BC Hydro's two webinars dated March 18, 2019 and April 1, 2019.

Directive No. 4

BC Hydro published Appendix B on its Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook social media platforms as follows:

Twitter	https://twitter.com/bchydro/status/1132057416806346758
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/bchydro/photos/a.340992621409/10157453467256410/?type=3&theater
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6537822904388767744

BC Hydro will publish weekly reminder notices on each of these platforms until the conclusion of the intervener registration period on June 12, 2019.

Directive No. 5

BC Hydro is providing copies of Appendix B as published in the following news publications:

No.	Publication Name	Publication Date
1	Alaska Highway News	May 23, 2019
2	Alberni Valley News	May 22, 2019
3	Cranbrook Townsman	May 22, 2019
4	Kamloops This Week	May 24, 2019
5	Kelowna Daily Courier	May 23, 2019
7	Kimberley Daily Bulletin	May 22, 2019
8	Northern Sentinel	May 23, 2019
9	Prince George Citizen	May 21, 2019
10	Prince Rupert Northern View	May 23, 2019
11	Terrace Standard	May 23, 2019
12	The Province	May 22, 2019
13	Vancouver Sun	May 22, 2019
14	Victoria Time Colonist	May 21, 2019

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British Columbia Utilities Commission
Application to Amend Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule (RS) 1289
(Application)
Compliance with BCUC Order No. G-103-19A

For further information, please contact Chris Sandve at 604-974-4641 or by email at bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

Yours sincerely,



Fred James
Chief Regulatory Officer

cs/ma

Enclosure (1)

LOCAL NEWS

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE

what
are
your
ideas?

2020 BC BUDGET CONSULTATION PUBLIC HEARING*

FORT ST. JOHN

Wednesday, June 19
8:00 am to 11:00 am

Meeting Room,
Best Western Plus Chateau
Fort St. John, 8322 86 Street

Online registration for public hearings
opens **May 27, 2019.**

Teleconference opportunities and
interpretive services are available.
*Schedule subject to change.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA
Select Standing Committee on
Finance and Government Services

bcleg.ca/FGSbudget



DAVE LUENEBOG PHOTO

Wayne van Volkenburg answers questions from Marsha Anderson and her grand kids Charly, 10, Delany, 6, and Katy, 8 during a community display May 11, 2019. van Volkenburg is a beekeeper and a member of the North Peace Bee Club, which brought an observation hive (seen here) as part of its educational display.

Peace Region Electricity Supply Project Open House

Come to our Open House on May 27, 2019 in Chetwynd and learn about the project and on-going construction.

We are building two parallel 230 kilovolt power lines between the Site C Substation that's under construction near Fort St John and the existing Groundbirch Substation, located about 30 km east of Chetwynd. These new lines will help to ensure that we can reliably provide electricity to our industrial customers who want to power their facilities with clean energy. Doing so will help avoid significant greenhouse gas emissions.

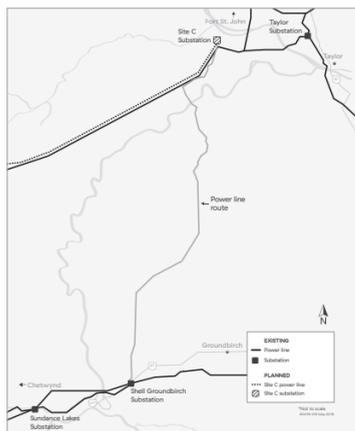
You can drop in any time between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on:

Monday, May 27, 2019

Chetwynd District Recreation Centre
4552 North Access Road, Chetwynd
Tamarack Room

We look forward to seeing you there.

Can't make it? Contact us at **1 866 647 3334**
or projects@bchydro.com, or visit bchydro.com/pres.



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Seniors Advocate here May 23

B.C.'s Seniors Advocate will host a town hall meeting in Fort St. John May 23.

Isobel Mackenzie will meet with the Fort St. John Senior Citizen's Association and local residents to talk about her work, and about the most pressing issues facing seniors in the city and province.

"This is part of my ongoing commitment to engage with

seniors, in the communities where they live, to participate in a conversation about improving the lives of seniors in B.C.," Mackenzie said in a statement.

"Please come and share what is working and what is not working for seniors in the Fort St. John area."

The open house takes place Thursday, May 23, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the seniors hall.

Parks open house set May 28

An open house on developing new plans for Kin and Surerus parks in Fort St. John will take place on May 28.

The city is upgrading both parks as part of its master recreation plan, and is looking for input from residents about the state of the parks, and how they can be improved.

Kin Park has six baseball diamonds, a playground, an outdoor green gym, a BMX bike track, concession stand, outdoor ice rink, and washrooms. The road running along the west side of the park is need of upgrades and redeveloping the park may impact some amenities, the city says.

Surerus Park has eight baseball diamonds, two soccer fields, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, a playground, clubhouse, walking trails, and washrooms.

The city is developing new site plans for both parks simultaneously. Once approved by council, any funding for upgrades and redevelopment will be subject to capital budget planning.

The open house takes place Tuesday, May 28 at the North Peace Cultural Centre from 5 to 8 p.m.

Interactive workshops are planned at Kin Park from 5:30 to 6:30, and at Surerus from 6:45 to 7:45.

Former student honoured with teaching award

A University of Saskatchewan professor who grew up in Fort St. John has been honoured with a teaching award.

Dr. Joyce McBeth, from the Department of Geological Sciences, received the New Teacher Award in BSc Programs, the university announced this week.

McBeth joined the department in 2013, with a research focus on microbial communities in natural and industrial environments.

McBeth says she focuses her teaching using hands-on learning experiences for students, and works to empower them to "take risks, become fearless

and voracious learners, and evolve as scientists and human beings."

McBeth says she's an ally for "enhancing Indigenization" in the curriculum and school community.

"I believe efforts to Indigenize my classroom helps all my students and pushes me to become a better instructor," she said.

McBeth attended Airport School for kindergarten, Bal-donnel School for elementary, Dr. Kearney for junior high, and North Peace Secondary for high school. Dr. Ashleigh Androsoff and Dr. Christopher Todd were also recognized by the school.

Where to
recycle?



Check the BC RECYCLEPEDIA
www.rcbc.ca

RECYCLING COUNCIL OF B.C. MEMBER



bcuc
British Columbia
Utilities Commission

We want to
hear from you

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Mattress recycling opens

ELENA RARDON
Alberni Valley News

A new program in Port Alberni will allow residents to recycle their old and unused mattresses, while also providing work experience in the community.

Recycle Matters is a job creation partnership through INEO Employment Services, which combines skill development and employment experience with a mattress recycling service. Between 90-95 percent of the mattress materials are recycled, freeing up “valuable space” in the Alberni Valley Landfill, says INEO owner and operator Terry Deakin.

Deakin said the idea for Recycle Matters came about when she started thinking about social enterprise ideas, where INEO could employ and train people who need the extra help and support.

“Mattress recycling came up, and I

thought there’s nothing north of Victoria to do mattress recycling,” she said.

Deakin talked to both the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the landfill, then wrote a proposal for a job creation partnership through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and got some funding to try a pilot project.

The pilot project started in February of this year, and began with renovations of the INEO offices on Second Avenue to set up a mattress recycling facility. The facility started receiving its first mattresses in April.

Now, Deakin has received funding from the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy through the federal government, which will allow INEO to transition the pilot project to a social enterprise.

“So then we can focus on employment and training for our community members who are most at risk of being

marginalized and living in poverty,” she said.

INEO hopes to start collecting, processing and dismantling upwards of about 3,000 mattresses per year from the local landfill—and maybe even more, if service can be expanded.

Stephen Oosthuyzen, who works in the facility, says that the oldest mattress received so far was manufactured in 1969.

“It was quite exciting,” he said. “We remember putting the mattress down and we got on and just jumped on the springs that were 1969 springs.”

The facility has end markets for most of the mattress parts. The metal springs are sent to Alberni Foundry, while the foam is shipped off the Island and the felt is repurposed into underlay. The textiles are sent to a company that makes aggregates for cement.

“We’ve found all of the markets that we can,” said Oosthuyzen. “Only about

Continued on A33

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Request for Expressions of Interest (“RFEOI”)

ALBERNI DISTRICT CO-OP NEW LOCATION, PORT ALBERNI REGION

Colliers International, as the real estate advisor for Alberni District Co-Op, is requesting information on industrial properties suitable to purchase in the Port Alberni area.

Site area is estimated to be between 2-10 acres with existing zoning or the ability to rezone to accommodate a bulk fuel/tank farm and cardlock facility.

Properties with prominent exposure and signage opportunities will be preferred.

This is not a tender process, nor a Request for Proposals (“RFP”), but only an inquiry as to the availability of suitable properties. Colliers International may issue a RFP for this requirement based on information it receives as a result of this advertisement.

This RFEOI does not form an agreement of purchase and sale and shall not be construed as an Offer to Purchase. Alberni District Co-Op is under no obligation to enter into negotiations or contract with any party responding to this RFEOI.

Written responses to this RFEOI are required no later than 5:00 p.m., Port Alberni time, June 3rd, 2019 to:

Jason Winton and Brad Bailey
Colliers International (Nan)
335 Wesley Street, Suite 105
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2T5
Canada
Tel: +1 250 740 1060
jason.winton@colliers.com
brad.bailey@colliers.com

Colliers Macaulay Nicolls Inc.

We want to hear from you

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GET MORE INFORMATION

<h4>BC Hydro Regulatory & Rates Group</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16th Floor, 333 Dunsmuir Street Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3 • E: bhydroregulatorygroup@bhydro.com • P: 604.623.4046 	<h4>British Columbia Utilities Commission</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suite 410, 900 Howe Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3 • E: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com • P: 604.660.4700
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Fernie beer named Canada's best pale ale

Phil McLachlan

Fernie Brewing Company (FBC) is celebrating their new title as creator of Canada's best North American Pale Ale.

The brewery's Campout West Coast Pale finished first at the Canadian Brewing Awards, held in Toronto on May 4.

At the competition, there were 55 style categories, which attracted thousands of beer submissions from breweries around the country.

"It's great – obviously nice to be recognized," said FBC head brewer Jeff Demaniuk.

He said this is a special accomplishment for the Fernie brewery, coming out on top in a very popular category, which garnered hundreds of entries.

Formerly named Base Camp, Campout launched in 2017 and is described as a "hop forward, light copper coloured Pale Ale with oats added to enhance the body and mouth-feel".

Demaniuk said when FBC entered the awards, they didn't know what to expect but they knew they had something special.

Campout has always been a favourite among brewery staff.

Back in 2017, before the launch of Campout, Demaniuk saw that the style of beer was missing from their lineup.

Inspired, he took his favourite flavours from other pale ales he had tried and combined them to make what was thought of at the time as just a



Fernie Brewing Company head brewer Jeff Demaniuk poses for a picture at FBC. Pictured in the background is a tower of cans ready to be filled with the now award-winning beer, Campout West Coast Pale. Phil McLachlan/The Free Press

summer seasonal. It was such a hit that it stuck around.

FBC recently released a traditional German sour, First Ascent Gose, a refreshing

summer beer. The kettle-soured wheat ale is described as refreshingly thirst-quenching

with notes of coriander and a pinch of salt.

50% of B.C. drivers struggling financially amid high gas prices

Cole Schisler

This summer is shaping up to be a long and painful one at the gas pumps.

B.C. currently has the highest gas prices in North America. An Angus Reid poll released Friday found that nine-in-ten drivers in B.C. have noticed a major increase in gas prices, and 59 per cent feel the provincial government isn't doing enough to address the issue.

Most importantly, 50 per cent of B.C. drivers say rising gas prices are making it harder to afford basic necessities. One-in-three of those who have been affected by the rising prices say they have been driving less, and another quarter say they have been filling up less.

People are quick to point fingers in any direction to get to the heart of the issue. Some blame the carbon tax, while others blame oil companies for allegedly gouging consumers for pure profit.

The truth, according to a market snapshot released by the National Energy Board, is that there are multiple factors for B.C.'s high gas prices.

As per April 2019 statistics: in Vancouver, the price of crude oil is 51 cents per litre, 10 per cent below the national average. However, the cost of refining the crude oil into gasoline is 52.1 cents per litre, roughly double the Canadian average refining margin.

The marketing margin for gasoline, the costs associated with selling it to consumers at the pump, is 10.5 cents per litre, approximately 69 per cent higher than the Canadian average. Finally, taxes on gas were 53.9 cents per litre, approximately 21 per cent higher than the Canadian average.

On average, B.C. consumed 96 thousand barrels a day of gasoline in 2018.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of Cranbrook is considering adopting "City of Cranbrook Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3972, 2019".

The proposed amendment of the Zoning Bylaw will change the zoning of land legally described as Lot 14, District Lot 2872, Kootenay District, Plan NEP 21414, from "Single Family Extended Residential Zone: R-1" to "Comprehensive Development Zone 8: CD-8 Single Family Residential – Secondary Suite".

The purpose of the zoning amendment is to enable development of a single-family dwelling with a secondary suite. The subject property is located at 1652 Mount Pyramid Crescent as indicated on the reference map below.



"City of Cranbrook Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3972, 2019" may be inspected between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, up until May 27, 2019, as posted on the bulletin board in the foyer at City Hall, or contact Planning Staff.

The Public Hearing will commence in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 40 - 10th Avenue South at 6:00 p.m. on May 27, 2019.

All persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed Bylaw Amendment may submit written presentations to the City of Cranbrook prior to the date of the Hearing and they may also submit written and/or verbal presentations at the Hearing, thereby allowing all persons an opportunity to be heard on this matter.

SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING.

For More Information:
250-426-4211
1-800-728-2726

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We are moving...stay tuned for exciting announcements!

Former Westside boy wins Top Chef Canada



Food Network Canada

Top Chef winner Paul Moran

Special to the Westside Weekly

A former West Kelowna man is the top chef in Canada.

Paul Moran has taken home \$100,000 and title of Top Chef Canada after beating out his culinary competition in the show's finale Monday night.

Moran, executive chef for 1909 Kitchen at the Tofino Resort and Marina, came out on the winning end of a head-to-head battle against runner-up Phil Scarfone.

The seventh season of Top Chef Canada is a homegrown version of the hit Top Chef, now in its 16th season airing in the U.S.

In addition to the \$100,000, Moran will get a design-inspired Café kitchen, a culinary tour for two of Italy and \$5,000 worth of Cuisinart products.

He also won a number of other prizes for winning individual sessions of the 10-week show.

Moran faced off against 11 other chefs as they compete in gruelling culinary challenges and are judged by a panel of professional chefs.

For their final challenge, the two chefs were asked to create a five-course meal that encapsulated their lives, and Moran took inspiration and techniques from places like Vancouver, Montreal, France and Dubai.

Some of his standout dishes included an appetizer of side stripe shrimp with stuffed mushrooms and a main dish of confit and grilled squab, with the judges lauding both for their intricacy.

"I'm ecstatic, I don't think anything's really set in," Moran said moments after being declared the winner. "It's been a lot of hard work just in this competition, let alone my career, to get to this point."

1909 Kitchen hosted a viewing party at the restaurant Monday night, where those who know the chef got to watch as he clinched the competition.

"Paul is an inspiration for all aspiring chefs in Canada and is proof that, if you work hard at what you love, you can accomplish anything," the restaurant said in an Instagram post.

The Tofino restaurant and marina is owned by former Vancouver Canuck Willie Mitchell.

Moran said the win would help him pursue his dream to run his own eco-resort and wilderness lodge, probably on Haida Gwaii.

Moran grew up on the Westside and graduated from Mount Boucherie Secondary School.

His mother, Westsider Mary Jane Banks, said Moran was already interested in cooking at seven years old. By the time he was 14 years old, he was working at Amerigo's, a small Italian restaurant on Main Street.

Banks said having a big appetite definitely drew him to cooking, but so did developing a passion for ingredients.

His family had a vegetable garden and fruit trees and canned the produce.

As well, Moran's father's side of the family has a long history of foraging including mushroom picking and gathering wild fruit.

One of his favourite pastimes is free diving for food and then cooking up his catch, either on the beach or in his restaurant.

"I think getting exposed to all those ingredients at a young age got me interested in being in the kitchen," he said.

Not long after graduating high school, Moran moved to Vancouver to apprentice under Chef David Hawksworth. He then worked in Dubai, Nice, Paris and Montreal before returning to B.C.

As the winner of the Hawksworth Young Chef Scholarship in 2013, Moran completed his international stage at Chef Enrique Olvera's Restaurante, Pujol, in Mexico City ranked as the 17th best restaurant in the world according to San Pellegrino's The World's 50 Best Restaurants.

When Moran lived in France, he applied to be on Top Chef France and before Top Chef Canada began, he applied to be on Top Chef USA.

Moran has wanted to be on Top Chef Canada since the first season.

Moran competed for Canada at the S. Pellegrino Young Chef 2015. Held in Milan, Italy, he placed fifth in a competitive field of 20 other young international chefs.

He has competed in the regionals for the Canadian Culinary Championships.

Moran said having had good success in a lot of past competitions has helped push him forward to do more.

As well, competition is a good way to get his name out there.

"I just have a competitive nature, I guess," he said.

Moran figures his background in competitions was one of his strengths in Top Chef Canada.

Although there were four chefs from B.C. competing on the show, the other three were from the Vancouver area.

Tofino has a really defined type of cuisine, with the ingredients used and the type of food prepared.

"I think that sort of defined ultra-West Coast terroir gives me a bit of an edge," he said.

One of Moran's passions is foraging, especially while free diving and his catch often ends up on the menu.

He is also helping teach an open water course in Tofino on free diving.

As for any lessons he learned while living on the Westside, Moran said, "There's no substitute for hard work."



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Today in history Bonnie and Clyde ambushed

In 1275, King Edward I of England ordered the cessation of the persecution of French Jews.

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

In 1541, French explorer Jacques Cartier sailed from St-Malo on his third voyage to Canada.

In 1701, Capt. William Kidd, a Scottish sailor, was hanged in London after he was convicted of piracy and murder.

In 1785, in a letter to a friend, Benjamin Franklin revealed his latest invention -- bi-focals.

In 1844, in Shiraz, Persia (present-day Iran), a young man known as the Bab announced the imminent appearance of the Messenger of God, Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith. A festival is held each year to mark the declaration of Bab.

In 1873, Canada's North West Mounted Police force was established by an act of Parliament. The force merged with the Dominion Police in 1920 to form the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In 1887, the first CPR intercontinental passenger train arrived at the new terminal of Vancouver.

In 1915, Germany declared war on Italy during the First World War.

In 1929, the first non-stop Winnipeg-to-Edmonton flight was made in six hours and 48 minutes.

In 1934, bank robbers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were shot to death in a police ambush on a road in Bienville Parish, La.

In 1943, William Aberhart, the inaugural leader of Alberta's Social Credit party, died in Vancouver. He had led the Socreds to power in 1935.

In 1945, Nazi S.S. chief Heinrich Himmler committed suicide at Luneburg, Germany — three days after his capture by the British.

In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was established.

In 1956, the Presbyterian Church in the United States began accepting women ministers.

In 1960, former Nazi SS officer Adolf Eichmann was captured by Israeli agents in Argentina. He was later flown to Israel, where he was convicted of war crimes and executed.

In 1974, New Brunswick became the first province to draft statutes in both English and French.

In 1986, the U.S. imposed a 35 per cent tariff on imported Canadian cedar shakes and shingles.

In 1999, pro wrestler Owen Hart died when he fell 25 metres from a cable as he was being lowered into the ring at a show in Kansas City.

In 2008, the B.C. legislature unanimously passed a motion apologizing for the 1914 Komagata Maru incident in which 376 Indian immigrants were forced to return to India after spending two months on their ship anchored at Vancouver harbour.

the PEP roll and for those who work in highly sensitive offices of government, regardless of the position they hold.

How much should the government know about the outside activities of some employees? More than they seem to know now.

Was the Legislative Assembly Management Committee kept fully apprised of James' work with McGill University and Dublin-based consultancy firm AARC Ltd.? Hansard transcripts of their meetings would suggest not.

It's a delicate balancing act between the right to privacy and the right of citizens to expect that senior employees are free of undue influence from inside government or elsewhere.

Disclosure reduces the risk of conflict-of-interest. It's the knowledge that allows others to judge decisions that might be made by an office holder or appointee.

When pertinent facts about key decision makers in government are unknown, viewed as idle gossip, or overlooked entirely, it points to dropping the ball.

Being a PEP may be burdensome for those designated as such, but one of its goals is an added layer of protection for Canada's political structure from criminal elements. That same layer is needed in government.

Something little-known about gangs and organized crime is the fact they like to ingratiate themselves in diverse social arenas, including politics. That's a story for another day.

Dermod Travis is the executive director of IntegrityBC

A blot on the legislature

Dear Editor:

Re: Barisoff has some explaining to do (editorial, May 21)

The recent editorial by Joe Fries is at once timely and fully warranted.

It is to be hoped this matter (the alleged delivery of liquor from the legislature to Barisoff's home in Penticton) is being thoroughly investigated.

Such conduct is a blot on the Legislative Assembly and the many honest individuals who uphold its policies and history.

Gordon Clark, Summerland

Ships should be built here

Dear Editor:

So Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came out to B.C. for another photo opportunity to announce that the West Coast will be getting two new Coast Guard ships.

The real photo opportunity will be when he goes back to Halifax, if he wasn't already there first, to announce the jobs and money that will be heading their way as that is where these ships will be built.

This has been initiated to avert job layoffs back east. This is more about buying votes in Nova Scotia with our tax dollars but nothing new there.

Are there no ship builders in Vancouver, I know that there were years ago as I had a friend who worked in the ship yards. The two new ships will have no effect on the B.C. economy.

Nova Scotia is the big winner with this recent announcement. October can't come quick enough.

Guy Bissonnette, Lake Country

Attacked for pot stance

Dear Editor:

I became involved in a bylaw opposition regarding the opening of a non-medical cannabis retail establishment in downtown Summerland.

Most of the downtown merchants and School District 67 showed real concern about the location of the retail store within close proximity to schools, parks and youth-sensitive areas.

I attended the May 13 council meeting at which all councillors and the mayor voted in favour, stating there is no danger or any issues having non-medical cannabis retail store(s) in downtown Summerland. I must respect their decision and move forward.

From this experience, what did I learn? Well, that by simply asking

LETTER OF THE DAY

Norman affair is really the Conservatives' fault

Dear Editor:

Why don't Conservatives fess up about the Norman fiasco?

Vice-Admiral Mark Norman convinced the Conservative cabinet under Stephen Harper to proceed with an uncontested contract for refurbishing a ship to be used as a supply ship for the Royal Canadian Navy.

Neither the Liberal Party nor the RCMP were aware of this secret approval by the Conservatives.

When the Liberal government became aware of this uncontested contract, an RCMP investigation began — and rightfully so — given the information available to the government.

The Liberals had no idea of the approval given to the vice-admiral.

At the outset, all the Conservatives had to do was advise the Liberal government of the approval for Norman to

proceed. Why would Chief of Defence Staff Jonathan Vance relieve the vice-admiral of his duties if he knew of this approval?

The Conservatives are responsible for what Norman experienced. Now, they come forward, realizing that the approval signed on the eve of the election for an uncontested \$668-million bid is about to become public.

This is politics at its lowest — with a clear intent of embarrassing and discrediting the Liberal government.

No thought to the reputation of this military officer.

Shame on all who support the Conservative party in this matter.

All focus is on Vice-Admiral Norman — and not the real issue: an uncontested contract worth \$668 million of taxpayers' funds.

Patrick MacDonald, West Kelowna

a question or raising a concern, such as, is it appropriate to have these establishments so close to parks and schools, I suddenly became a villain to many individuals who I thought I knew well, just because I dared to ask.

I invite you to check the meeting agenda to see letter(s) of support and one in particular written by Anthony Leardo, in which I was described as a hypocrite and having a double standard because I was apparently the owner or have part interest in the new brewery on Victoria Road in Summerland.

This information is untrue, and I do not have personal or financial interest in the brewery.

Unfortunately for me, Leardo's letter was published on the district website and picked up by news media across the province and published with inaccurate and false information based on Leardo's false statement.

I am fortunate Leardo did not accuse me of a more serious crime; however, it has affected not only my business, but my own reputation. It has been proven to be even more difficult to have the media correct or amend this inaccurate information and today will remain forever on the internet.

I met with Ron Mattiussi, the acting CAO of the District of Summerland, on May 15 requesting that Leardo's letter be removed from the website and to have council strike the remark from Sergio Pawar, the owner of B.C. limited 1135648, stating that I was the owner of the brewery.

In today's world, is it so easy to destroy a man's integrity and reputation for simply asking one question?

On the other hand, I am truly thankful for the support I have

received and the kindness of the people that truly know who I am.

Roch Fortin, Summerland

Execution beats prayers

Dear Editor:

A doctor murdered his wife by bludgeoning and strangling her to death as their kids slept nearby, the defence, the prosecution and the judge at his trial all agreed that 14 years was a fair and just punishment for the crime.

If that isn't judicial collusion what is?

A better by far punishment for this creep would have been state execution, but that's never going to happen in this fair country, is it?

Now, this killer of women, this wife beating murderer gets to bum around at taxpayers' expense getting fed and housed and looked after whilst his kids go through their full life without a mother, her family without a daughter and her friends without their friend, not counting society's loss of a gifted medic.

The judge telling society that in his opinion 14 years is a fair and just punishment — that it's not too long and not too short for this crime.

Nothing's gonna change is it?

Maybe someone will say a prayer for the kids and family. I'm sure that will make them feel a lot better.

Don Smithyman, Oliver
Editor's note: Toronto neurosurgeon Mohammed Shamji was sentenced to life in prison for killing his physician wife, Elana Fric. He will be eligible to apply for parole after serving 14 years.

PEP

Continued from page A8

Not so much in B.C. when it comes to issues surrounding conflict-of-interest and other such matters.

Unlike Alberta's 88-page conflict-of-interest legislation for MLAs, B.C.'s legislation — all 4,600 words of it — doesn't speak to possible conflicts when they involve an MLA's family or close associates.

Imagine how deficient it could be for some of the posts in B.C.'s public sector?

Consider this real-life scenario: one job applicant, qualified for two vacant posts: one in a non-sensitive ministry, another in a sensitive unit in a highly sensitive ministry.

Would the applicant's entanglements with senior members of a street gang factor into your decision as to which job to offer, particularly when organized crime would have an interest in the inner workings of one of those two posts?

The sensitive ministry, responding to questions, didn't offer much comfort.

B.C.'s public service security screening policy first set in 1988, and revised in 2010, still places more onus on self-reporting than it does on thoroughly vetting applicants and carrying out periodic checks on senior mandarins.

Do revised policies need to apply to each and every member of the public sector and be made public? No, but it should for some, especially those who find themselves on

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LOCAL NEWS

Kimberley RCMP nab 13 impaired drivers in first few months of 2019

The quarterly report shows less offences compared to that of 2018.

By Corey Bullock

Kimberley RCMP are reporting a busy quarter for the first few months of the year, having conducted nine road-side checks and answering to many calls for service.

Sgt. Chris Newel presented the quarterly report to Council at a regular meeting last Monday.

In 2018, there were over 100 road checks and Newel says these will continue to happen on a regular basis.

“In the first three months of 2019 Kimberley RCMP had over 112 traffic contacts, this is down considerably from the quarterly average last year of approximately 175,” Newel wrote in the report to Council. “Thirteen impaired drivers were removed from the road, which is again lower than the average last year, which was almost 30. There were nine road checks; the stats are consistent with the years prior to 2018.”

He adds that traf-

fic enforcement and stats can fluctuate during the year as it is often dependent on other calls for service, weather and resources.

Newel says that police visibility will continue as part of their strategic priority.

“We will continue to conduct foot patrols of the Platzl, ski hill, hockey games and other locations,” Newel said. “In addition, we do bar checks and school visits.”

In this last quarter the detachment conducted 42 foot patrols, five bar checks and 18 school visits. Newel adds that the Regional District of East Kootenay has similar goals, with their prime concern being Wasa. 34 patrols were made to Wasa over the past three months.

The Crime Reduction unit between Kimberley and Cranbrook has also been busy over the past few months, investigating or assisting 12 cases.

“The investigations they get involved in are

often more complex and usually involve drug trafficking and/or organized crime,” Newel explained. “A large percentage take place in Cranbrook

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JOHNSTON, TIM
The current

KALLA, DANIEL
We all fall down

LEITHAUSER, BRAD
The promise of elsewhere

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Continued on A7



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Committee recommends big changes to Fisheries Act

North Coast leaders celebrate Parliamentary report's focus on independent fishers

By Quinn Bender

North Coast leaders are calling the sweeping recommendations of a Parliamentary committee a win for independent fishers.

The all-party Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans released its study on the state of the West Coast fisheries May 7, recommending numerous changes to the Fisheries Act that aim to lower financial barriers for those wanting to enter the profession, and limiting the number of licences held by any single group.

"I think it is clear from this report that it's time for action on the West Coast to support independent commercial fishers so that everyone can share in the benefits from the incredible fisheries we have in B.C.," said Skeena-Bulkley Valley MP Nathan Cullen in a press release.

"The committee heard evidence from dozens of witnesses about the problems with quota licensing and we now have a whole set of recommendations for this government to take on board and start implementing."

Bill C-68, adopted in June of last year, paved the way for an overhaul of the Fisheries Act, whereby the ministry considers not only ecology in its decisions, but the social and economic impacts on the communities dependent on the fishery.

During its consideration of the bill, the House of Commons Standing Committee adopted a motion to conduct a study on B.C.'s fisheries after hearing testimony on the harm DFO's quota licensing system has caused here.

Critics have long argued the bulk of B.C. licences are either consolidated under corporate ownership, or owned by overseas investors. The impacts are far reaching, they say, but in either case the benefits of the fishery don't reach the communities that serve it.

During testimonies to the committee, fisherman Dan Edwards said another generation of skilled fishermen will be lost if changes aren't quickly made.

"Who would enter a fishery where they work so hard, and often in very difficult conditions, but make a pauper's wages with no hope for better?" he said. "It's not because the fishery is not lucrative; it's because so much of the wealth is captured by somebody onshore

holding a piece of paper. This management failure is a result of ignoring the socio-economic side of the policy equation over decades."

Several advisory committees and subcommittees have been established to provide advice to DFO on the management of fisheries, but Prince Rupert's Joy Thorkelson, president of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union, was quoted in the report as saying this had little impact on the imbalance.

"DFO Pacific is consulting with fewer and fewer active fishermen. They consult with quota owners and licence-holders, who increasingly do not fish," Thorkelson said in the report.

In a joint statement with Cullen, North Coast MLA Rice agreed the committee's work made it clear the quota licensing system in B.C. is in need of an overhaul. "Current DFO policies treat fish, a Canadian common resource as a commodity. If these recommendations were implemented our resources would benefit B.C. coastal communities, fish harvesters and First Nations. Seafood harvested in British Columbia should support local jobs and local economies not large scale corporate and non-Canadian interests.

"This report provides excellent guidance on how we can develop a made-in-BC framework that puts community, social and economic benefits at the forefront," added Rice.



More than 200 commercial fishing boats — or most of the B.C. fleet — were in and around the central coast this week waiting for a brief commercial fishery opening. Local First Nations were granted the right to fish ahead of that opening. Bella Coola Valley residents said the fleet was in the area because there are so many closures on the coast due to conservation concerns. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans did not return calls for comment.

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German singer Jomila has deep roots in city

Frank PEEBLES Citizen staff
fpeebles@pgcitizen.ca

Singer-songwriter Jomila knows her way around Prince George uncannily well for a foreigner. She may be from Germany, but this is one of her many second homes.

She has been a resident of Tel Aviv, Warsaw, travelled extensively in the Asia-Pacific region, and now she is performing for the first time in Prince George.

Performing, but not visiting, Jomila is the daughter of John Werlberger, a longtime Prince George resident who moved to Germany (now in Austria) and married Barbara. They had three children, Marie, Mark and this wanderlusting minstrel who is here on her own for this musical journey.

It's actually not fair to say she's on her own. Her aunt and uncle, Christina and Matt Reid, her cousins Victoria and Dean, and her grandparents Eva and John are here in P.G. helping to make this a homecoming as well as a tour stop.

"In 2010 I did a school year at D.P. Todd," said Jomila. "I was 14 and decided it was time to go to Canada, this place that was so connected with me, and explore life a bit. I stayed with my aunt, who also went to D.P. Todd, dad went to D.P. Todd, and my cousin is graduating from D.P. Todd so I'll get to be here for that."

Jomila was back to P.G. in 2012 for a brief visit but hasn't returned until now.

Since then, she has gotten her undergraduate degree and a masters in psychology. She applies her degree towards the mentality



German singer-songwriter Jomila will be performing at Nancy O's tonight at 8 p.m. Jomila has family ties to the city, and attended D.P. Todd Secondary School.

of business, working for Deloitte in Berlin. She loved that Prince George also had a branch of that international company.

She also gets to apply her psych knowledge to songwriting, her true passion.

"So many people work their asses off and then do nothing at the end of the workday, but I might work on a song or perform a show, so I love having that balance between business and creativity,"

Jomila said.

She said she primarily writes songs in English, even though she could make a long career out of performing exclusively in the German regions of Europe, or reaching out to the Germanic diaspora worldwide.

The reason she creates in English, though, is because the songs come from such a personal internal space that she likes having a layer of protection from that

vulnerability. Here, though, is where that introspection comes to the surface, where everyone in the audience will know exactly what it all means, at least linguistically.

"I don't know how it really happens. I just sort of feel it," said Jomila describing the composing process.

"I'll put my phone on, improvise for an hour, hour and a half, then later I'll listen through it all again and start making arrangements

and adding depth to the ideas. I have songwriter friends who sit down and map out each line, formulating rhymes, making it all formal. That's really more poetry, to me. I'm more spontaneous. If a word comes to me that doesn't fit so well but it feels right to me, then I'll still go with that word."

She is 23 and of the generation of performers that doesn't automatically design their work with the end goal of producing an album.

She hopes to one day have one, but so far her songs have circulated the globe via Spotify, YouTube, and the oldest musician's trick in the book: live performance.

She will be doing that in Prince George tonight at Nancy O's starting at 8 p.m. Admission is by donation.

When it happens, she said, her dad – who grew up playing drums in local bands, and, along with their singing mother, passing music on to all of his children – is going to get a big surprise.

"I can't believe I'm sitting here with The Citizen, and you found me, I didn't go to you. Because every week, even still, we get links sent to us from dad of all the news in The Citizen that he wants us to know about Prince George. I never know what to do with that information. I'm not telling him about this, my family is keeping it to themselves as well, because we know his daughter is suddenly going to pop up in his readings of The Citizen and I wish I could be there to see his face when it happens."

At least in Prince George we can all be there to hear her songs when they happen in her debut local concert.

Northern Health part of push for fresh, local hospital food

The Canadian Press

Wild salmon with lemon dill sauce, blueberry soup and bone broth may be high-end restaurant meals but they're also on the menu at some Canadian hospitals aiming to meet recovering patients' nutritional and cultural needs.

The recipes are among dozens that have been developed by 26 people, including food-service managers, chefs and dietitians who were offered two-year fellowships at hospitals from British Columbia to Newfoundland and Labrador as part of a campaign called Nourish Health.

Its goal is to help create institutional policies through nourishing meals made from locally bought ingredients for patients who may have been accustomed to powdered mashed potatoes as a mainstay of "hospital food."

Norish Health spokeswoman Hayley Lapalme said the initiative, predominately funded by the McConnell Foundation, also aims to elevate the role of food as an important part of healing, though food services are categorized with other expenditures such as laundry and parking.

Two hospitals in Haida Gwaii have been part of the program that has allowed staff to use traditional ingredients such as wild salmon, cod and halibut in the region where half the population is Indigenous.

Shelly Crack, a dietitian for Northern Health, said much of the food served at the facilities was brought in from other provinces and countries, adding to transportation and environmental costs when fish, berries and vegetables were available locally.

"A lot of our elders like the salmon served lightly seasoned with salt and pepper, with sauces served on the side," said Crack, adding traditional foods have helped people connect to positive experiences from their early years, and that has promoted healing.

"It almost brings them right back to the land and memories of family and harvesting food. It's that connection to culture and family, this feeling of well-being."

Health-care policy leaders, doctors and those involved in the national fellowship met at the Food for Health Symposium in Toronto last week to showcase

sustainable recipes that could be included on hospital menus in 2030, decades after governments across the country contracted out food services at most facilities as a cost-saving measure.

Alex Munter, CEO of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, said the Ottawa facility became the first in Canada to introduce room service 15 years ago.

He said offerings like dim sum, butter chicken and tacos drove up patients' satisfaction with food from 30 per cent to 98 per cent while lowering expenses because food was being eaten, not tossed in the garbage.

"We're about healing and nourishing and not about feeding," Munter said of the room-service model most common in the U.S.

"Since 2015, we've been providing local and sustainable menus for patients and families," he said.

"If your child is here you can order off the menu as well as in the cafeteria."

Munter said the hospital's chef, Simon Wiseman, is among the 26 "innovators" in the Nourish initiative and created a tofu dish in a competition at the symposium.

The focus was zero waste, and even the plate was made of wheat, Munter said.

Toronto chef Joshna Maharaj said she helped create a healthy menu at the Scarborough Hospital in Ontario as part of a one-year pilot project in 2011, when she cooked food on site with staff whose cooking skills had gone to waste after years of reheating trucked-in frozen meals.

However, she said the program was not continued due to unrelated policy changes.

Maharaj said food served at most hospitals may be deemed nutritiously adequate, but it falls far short of what is healthy for sick people, as she recently learned after a day surgery that required a tube to be put down her throat.

She said a slushie or a sorbet would have been ideal but she decided ice cubes and ginger ale would suffice after "a most pitiful egg salad sandwich with dry corners" got stuck to the roof of her mouth.

"The deep insult of it was what hit me," Maharaj said, adding she's decided to spend her career advocating for healthy, enjoyable hospital food.

Province, Northern Health look to reduce redundant bus services

Jeremy HAINSWORTH
Glacier Media

Finding efficiencies in duplicated northern bus services remains under discussion for B.C.'s Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Northern Health, Minister Claire Trevena says.

"We continue to talk with Northern Health to ensure we are being cost effective," Trevena said. "We don't want to duplicate services."

A Glacier Media investigation published May 1 found B.C. taxpayers have paid more than \$31 million since 2012 to subsidize almost-daily northern bus services by a private company on runs Greyhound ran at market costs but abandoned last year partly due to subsidized competition.

It was the Northern Health Connections (NHC) service run by the health authority since 2007 that Greyhound cited as an example of unfair, taxpayer-

subsidized competition when it abandoned its western Canadian services in 2018. Greyhound said NHC fares for routes significantly undercut its own.

Between 2012 and 2018, Diversified Transportation, a subsidiary of Calgary-based Pacific Western Transportation, which operates both BC Bus North and NHC, received \$21.3 million from Northern Health, vendor payment documents show.

Greyhound said subsidies to NHC covered 80 per cent to 90 per cent of fare costs, competition Greyhound cited as unfair.

Greyhound's final one-way fare from Prince Rupert to Vancouver was \$213 compared with the \$40 NHC currently charges.

NHC riders are supposed to present valid medical certificates for travel.

The province pumped \$2 million into BC Bus North last June at Trevena's direction to have an interim solution between Greyhound's departure and the

establishment of a full service.

The provincially funded BC Bus North partially duplicates or fills gaps in the NHC service.

Health authority spokesman Steve Raper said while the two services cater to different passengers, work is underway to optimize the two.

"The idea is that you're not going to have the buses operating at the same times," he said.

Raper explained that the health bus operates to dovetail with the health system and to get patients to appointments during office hours. He said the service tries to keep overnight medical trips to a minimum.

Raper said routing has also changed as services become available in different communities.

He said it was once the case that anyone needing an MRI in the north would need to travel to Prince George. With that technology now available in Fort St. John and Terrace, travel needs have shifted.



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First-ever Indigenous Symposium for teachers

By Shannon Lough
Prince Rupert Northern View

When author Nicola Campbell went to school she didn't learn about herself as an Indigenous woman, or the history of her people — now as an adult, she's sharing her story in Prince Rupert at a full-day symposium dedicated to teaching Indigenous ways to educators.

On May 17, inside Charles Hays Secondary School, Campbell spoke with educators from the school district on her work and about the public school system she remembers.

"We didn't learn about ourselves," she said, "The public school system had no responsibility and no interest in really learning themselves or teaching about who Indigenous people were right here in B.C."

For the first time, School District 52, from Prince Rupert to Port Edward, has dedicated a full day to Indigenous education and knowledge put on by Wap Sigatgyet, the Aboriginal education department.

"It's events like this, you know, I think they're very important. They're very important because educators, you know, they work with our children. They open hearts and open minds every day through the teachings that they share, as well as our elders," she said.

Campbell is half Métis and half Interior Salish, she was named after Nicola Valley where she grew up.

She writes for children and adults, her most recent book is *Yayah*, published in 2017.

In the afternoon, Sara Davidson, who co-authored *Potlatch as Pedagogy: Learning Through Ceremony* with Robert Davidson, spoke to educators.

But the day was full of other activities as well. Sessions included weaving cedar bracelets, learning about the clan and crest system of the Ts'msyen people, a drumming workshop with Marlene Clifton and Mercedes Palozzi, lessons in basic Sm'algayax and so much more.

Roberta Edzerza, the district principal of Aboriginal education, shared the personal story of her father, Charlie Carlick, who went to residential school.

"My dad and I are doing a truth before reconciliation and how we can move forward in our healing journey," Edzerza said.

As one of the lead organizers for the Wap Sigatgyet Symposium, she said they had the two authors come to share their knowledge and to inspire others to be writers, and to look at rich literature by Indigenous authors.

"We're just excited to share our knowledge and we're proud and we're honoured to be, you know, amongst everybody, and so enthused about learning and Indigenous ways of knowing to increase our success for our Indigenous students and to increase our knowledge for all learners about Aboriginal education," she said.



Ed Evans / The Northern View

Entry points to the Butze Rapids Trail were blocked off on Tuesday, May 14, with no information as to why. On May 15, Recreation Sites and Trails BC responded, stating that a section of the trail near the water that has been eroding is being re-gravelled. "The crew is slinging in bags of gravel with a helicopter to minimize impacts to other parts of the trail from back and forth traffic," said Bryan Last, district recreation officer. "It is expected that the re-gravelling work will take a couple weeks at most, and the closure is just for the slinging of gravel into place, so the trail should be open again shortly while crews are working on it."



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Keep highway money in region, officials say

At stake is more than \$30 million from shelved overpass project

By Rod Link

Area elected officials say money budgeted for a now-shelved vehicle bridge over the CN tracks where they cross Hwy16 between Terrace and Prince Rupert should stay in the region for other highway projects.

At stake is more than \$30 million from the federal and provincial governments first committed four years ago for an overpass that would eliminate a twisty 'S' curve bisected by CN's tracks on Hwy16 approximately 28 miles west of Terrace.

The project was shelved last week after the provincial government revealed construction would be far more expensive than first contemplated.

The original commitment was \$17.5 million from the federal government and \$19.5 million from the province and with the federal commitment capped, that left the province to come

up more money if required.

Current projections would have doubled the provincial cost to \$40 million, something it said wasn't feasible. It instead is spending \$5 million on new guardrails and improved signage at the location.

That leaves the original \$17.5 million federal commitment and \$14.5 million from the province once it spends \$5 million on safety improvements this summer. And it's this amount, \$32 million in total, which both Skeena Bulkley Valley NDP MP Nathan Cullen and Skeena BC Liberal MLA Ellis Ross say should stay in the region.

"First, I should say I'm disappointed at this news," said Cullen of the news the overpass project won't go ahead.

The level crossing is the last of its kind along Hwy16 within B.C. and replacing it with an overpass was touted as a safety measure and in recognition of the growing volume of rail traffic

to and from Prince Rupert's port operations.

Cullen said he favours having both the federal and provincial monies stay in the region.

"They've already allocated that money," Cullen noted specifically of the federal department called Infrastructure Canada which parcels out money across the country in cost-sharing partnerships with provincial governments.

In a letter sent to federal transport minister Marc Garneau, Cullen said there are "numerous other projects which could benefit from federal support along Hwy16."

"I ask that you work with Terrace Council to identify other infrastructure improvement projects that could benefit from the already-allocated funding and that you consider moving this money to support those efforts," Cullen wrote.

One project in the area that could

meet the spirit and intent to improve safety in relation to CN's tracks surfaced last year when the City of Terrace commissioned a design and potential costs of a pedestrian overpass over CN's railyard in Terrace.

That design envisioned a pedestrian overpass near the George Little House adjacent to the former Terrace Co-op location but it also was shelved because of the probable \$11.2 million cost and the refusal of CN to consider selling property for its construction.

While not commenting specifically on any one project, Cullen did say residents have raised the desire to improve walking and cycling connections between the north and south sides of Terrace.

"When I used to hold pre-budget consultations that came up consistently in Terrace—walkability and cyclability," Cullen said.

Also expressing disappointment was Ross, saying the news of the overpass cancellation was unexpected. "I had been in touch with the [district office of the provincial transportation and infrastructure ministry] all along. That certainly wasn't the impression I was getting," he said.

While Ross said he'd also pursue having the money stay in the area, he suspected, at least for the provincial amount, it had already been spent somewhere else.

"The government giveth and the government taketh away," he said.

And although Terrace is getting \$8.2 million from a recently-announced one-time grant program, Kitimat is getting just \$1.5 million and both communities need more for infrastructure because of LNG development.

A statement from the provincial highway and infrastructure ministry said its \$14.5 million original overpass commitment, the amount left after making the \$5 million in safety improvements at the location this summer, "will be reallocated as appropriate".

An Infrastructure Canada statement said its programs are "designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of our partners."

"In the event that the Government of Canada is informed of a project that has been cancelled, the federal funding which has already been approved for that project could be invested in other eligible public infrastructure projects that a province or territory deems a priority."



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One of B.C.'s first private surgery facilities for sale

Centric's False Creek clinic is one of five it is looking to unload

PAMELA FAYERMAN

One of B.C.'s first and biggest private surgery facilities, the False Creek Healthcare Centre in Vancouver, is for sale, according to company reports.

It would appear to be a consequence of changing government policies and the uncertain outcome of the continuing B.C. trial into the constitutionality of paying privately for expedited surgery in such clinics.

False Creek was opened in 1988 by an entrepreneurial anesthesiologist, Dr. Mark Godley. In 2011, Godley sold the Vancouver centre and a sister facility to Centric Health for \$24 million.

Centric Health Corp. owns five surgery centres, in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto and Mississauga. It would appear from company reports to shareholders that all five centres are for sale.

David Murphy, president and CEO of Centric, said he would not respond to questions. A proposed sale has not been formally announced, but it is mentioned in the company's latest quarterly report. Elsewhere in the report, Centric cites risks related to the private surgery business, including the B.C. trial and NDP government policies that are challenging the business model of such clinics.

Douglas Loe, a managing director and analyst at Echelon Partners who specializes in the health care and biotechnology sectors, said Centric has "allocated its surgical business into discontinued operations, thus overtly — and no

longer obliquely — signalling that the business was available for sale."

Centric's liabilities exceed its assets and the company is refocusing its business on health-related services for seniors, according to reports to shareholders. The company wants to focus on such things as pharmacy services and medical marijuana.

Loe said the company last reported that its surgical and medical centres (including False Creek) generated annual revenue of \$43.7 million.

Health Minister Adrian Dix said recently the government might consider purchases of private surgical centres as it wrestles with waiting lists for surgeries. "We have to look at that absolutely to increase the capacity of the system to perform surgeries."

The Ministry of Health has said that waiting times for medical imaging, such as MRIs, have been much reduced and it has partly attributed that to the province's purchase of two private imaging clinics.

A Health Ministry spokeswoman, Kristy Anderson, said the government was not aware that False Creek was for sale.

The False Creek sale follows the bankruptcy and closure two years ago of a North Vancouver private surgery centre. Delbrook Surgical Centre was the only multipurpose private surgery clinic on the North Shore and it had been in business for 17 years.

For several years, Vancouver Coastal Health used Delbrook for contracted-out day surgery procedures, just as False Creek had been used

until last year when Dix announced that VCH was instructed to sever its contract with False Creek because of an audit that showed that some of its patients were paying privately to get expedited access, contrary to provincial statutes.

The number of private surgery facilities across B.C. has been dropping over the past three years, according to figures from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. In 2015-16, there were 64 and there are currently 53. In the past year, five have closed and only one new facility opened.

The NDP government has put a major crimp in private surgery business; recently, the government insisted that surgeons must sign compliance letters promising they won't have dual practices — operating on patients in public hospitals at the same time as operating on patients who are paying privately for their medically necessary surgeries in clinics.

Susan Prins, the spokeswoman for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C., was surprised by the news of the intent to sell the clinic. She said such clinics are accredited by the College and are therefore required to inform the College "of any change in ownership prior to it occurring."

The fact that the College has not been notified suggests a sale has not yet taken place.

Sources say the asking price for the clinics is about \$40 million.

pfayerman@postmedia.com
Twitter: @MedicineMatters



The False Creek Healthcare Centre, a private surgery clinic, is now for sale by the Toronto-based company that bought it several years ago. — ARLEN REDEKOP



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hear from you**

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City cop charged with dangerous driving

SCOTT BROWN

A Vancouver police officer has been charged with dangerous driving causing bodily harm after a crash put a cyclist in hospital.

The accident occurred at 10 p.m. on May 18, 2018. Const. Luke Bokenfohr was on duty and driving a Vancouver police vehicle when it collided with a female cyclist at

the intersection of West 46th Avenue and Oak Street.

According to the Independent Investigation Office of B.C., which investigates incidents of death or serious harm involving police officers, the woman was taken to hospital with what were at the time believed to be minor injuries.

However, on May 1, 2019, the IIO was told by the Office

of the Police Complaints Commissioner of B.C. that "further information received indicated the injury constituted serious harm."

The file was then forwarded to the B.C. Prosecution Service for consideration of charges. Crown approved the charge against Bokenfohr, born in 1972, on Friday.

sbrown@postmedia.com

Jailing poor elderly man with a brain injury for stealing food simply wasn't necessary

Judges keep prolific offender behind bars in misguided attempt to protect the public



IAN MULGREW

"Regrettably, Willoughby Perry Lott Drake is a 58-year-old prolific offender." And so begins a B.C. Court of Appeal ruling that reads like a tale from the Great Depression.

Drake, who has a Grade 8 or 9 education, suffered a traumatic brain injury and by all accounts, the province's highest court said, has been considered a "slow learner" most of his life.

Over the years, he held down the odd job on a fishing boat or construction site.

But Drake never had much luck — he broke his foot in a ladder accident in April 2017. It was repaired with pins.

Drake's criminal record includes 137 convictions, 83 for property offences, with numerous jail sentences over the years ranging from three to 12 months.

He has successfully overcome a drug addiction, but he continues to battle alcohol addiction, although he wasn't drunk when his latest run-in with the courts occurred.

"He was impecunious at the time of the offence and was then relying on 'social assistance and the food bank,'" the court said.

On Nov. 19 in Provincial Court in Courtney, Drake pleaded guilty to:

- On Jan. 9, 2018, he shoplifted meat, cheese and vitamins — \$131 worth — from the local Thrifty's;
- On March 19, he was back pocketing \$75 worth of meat;
- On June 17, he stole two extension cords worth \$218 from the Canadian Tire;
- And on Sept. 12, it was cheese, meat and a backpack from the Walmart in Campbell River.

Drake was sentenced to 22 months.

He appealed, arguing it was disproportionate to his previous stints of incarceration.

He argued the judge (who was not identified) failed to consider rehabilitative factors, failed to apply the totality principle, failed to ask him to say anything before sentencing, miscalculated the credit for time served, and imposed an excessive three-years' probation.

In spite of their salutary-sounding opening, the conservative law-and-order minded division — Chief Justice Robert Bauman, Justice Mary Newbury and Justice Gregory Fitch — had little sympathy.

"Ironically, this court's view of Mr. Drake's potential for rehabilitation in 2007, unfortunately, has been borne out in subsequent years and gives strong support for the judge's conclusion here in late 2018," the unanimous panel said.

After being arrested on the first theft, it noted, Drake was granted interim release and committed the other three offences.

Drake pleaded that he had tried to turn his life around, but his spotty attendance with Vancouver Island Addiction Services a few years ago didn't impress the trial judge.

"In my view, this evidence, generated while Mr. Drake was either on bail or in jail, with four more outstanding charges hanging over his head, in combination with his criminal record, suggests that these attempts are far too little far too late to establish a change in attitude. I also note that Mr. Drake's poor attitude continued well after September 2015, as evidenced by all the continued offending after that date. By my count, there have been 16 more substantive offences that he was convicted of and three to four breaches after this earlier 2015

report was prepared. During this period, Drake had numerous opportunities, either while in jail or through probation orders, to seek treatment, and he has not done so."

The appeal court agreed and said the judge did not misunderstand or misapply the "step-up" principle.

"It applies generally where an offender's rehabilitation is a significant factor," the three justices said.



In spite of their salutary-sounding opening, the conservative law-and-order minded division ... had little sympathy.

"Here it is not. On the contrary, as the judge concluded, denunciation, deterrence and the need to separate this offender from society are the more significant factors in this case."

It added that a total sentence of 22 months for four charges of theft was equal to or lower on a per-charge basis than some of the sentences previously imposed on Drake.

In 2007, the court previously upheld a one-year sentence handed to Drake for two similar charges of theft under \$5,000. In that case, now-retired appeal justice Kenneth Smith said: "In light of the appellant's lengthy related criminal record, I think the sentencing judge was correct to emphasize the protection of the public over rehabilitation in the circumstances of this case."

As well, the high bench pointed out, it has regularly affirmed jail terms of six months to one year for prolific offenders of theft under \$5,000.

B.C. crews sent to battle raging Alberta fires

SCOTT BROWN

The B.C. Wildfire Service, responding to a request for assistance, is deploying personnel to Alberta, where crews are battling raging wildfires that have displaced thousands.

There are 30 active fires burning in Alberta. One out-of-control blaze

near High Level, a town 7½ hours north of Edmonton, has forced more than 4,000 residents to flee their homes. The Chuckegg Creek fire, just five kilometres south of High Level, has consumed about 690 square kilometres of forest.

Reception centres have been set up in Slave Lake, High Prairie, Grand Prairie and the Misery

Mountain Ski Resort to accommodate High Level evacuees.

The B.C. Wildfire Service says 230 firefighters, three agency representatives, 14 supervisors and a 19-person incident management team will be sent to Alberta today and Thursday.

sbrown@postmedia.com
twitter.com/browniescott

Police seek help to find missing man

SCOTT BROWN

The RCMP is asking the public for help finding a North Vancouver man who has been missing for nearly a month. Timothy Marc Delahaye, 29, was last seen April 29 in Cultus Lake Park. Police believe he may have travelled in the back country into Washington state.



Timothy Marc Delahaye

Delahaye is a white male, six foot four, with a slim build, red hair and blue-green eyes. He was wearing a dark-blue jacket, turquoise shirt and green pants. Anyone who sees Delahaye, or has information on his whereabouts, should contact police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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Growing wildfire prompts evacuation of High Level, Alta.

Highways south and west of community of 4,000 closed due to nearby blaze

The Canadian Press

HIGH LEVEL, Alta. — A northern Alberta town with about 4,000 residents was being evacuated on Monday evening due to the threat of an encroaching wildfire.

People were being told to leave High Level on Highway 58 east of the town, since highways south and west of the community have already been closed due to the blaze.

The Chuckegg Creek fire has been burning for several days, but grew substantially from Sunday, when it covered about 25,000 hectares, to an estimated 69,000 hectares on Monday.

At the time the evacuation was ordered, the flames were about three kilometres from the town.

"The winds are pushing the smoke away from the town of High Level. It looks very scary on the horizon, but in the town of High Level the skies are blue and sunny and windy," Mayor Crystal McAteer told a telephone news conference on Monday afternoon.

Reception centres for evacuees were set up in High Prairie and Slave Lake, and officials were arranging transportation for residents who can't get out on their own.

McAteer said the evacuation was being co-ordinated in zones. People should expect to be away for 72 hours, she said.

Earlier in the day, the town had warned on its website that people should fuel up their vehicles and collect important documents in case they were ordered to leave at short notice. Power was knocked out because of the fire, but was expected to be restored Monday evening.

Mandatory evacuation orders for residents south and southeast of the town, and south of the

Bushe River Reserve, were issued early Monday.

Provincial officials said the evacuation of High Level would take a maximum of eight hours, but since some people had already left, they said it could be completed sooner.

Scott Elliot, an incident commander with Alberta Wildfire, told a news conference that the wildfire was mostly headed away from High Level, but that officials, in conjunction with the mayor and council, decided it was best for everyone to leave since the flames were so close.

Crews are using sprinklers on structures on the edge of the town closest to the fire.

McAteer said people were complying with the evacuation order.

"People are, of course, afraid because they remember the wildfires of Fort McMurray, but we talked to a lot of the residents and reaffirmed that we were being proactive," she said.

In 2016, a wildfire in Fort McMurray, Alta., destroyed one-tenth of the city and about 88,000 people were forced from their homes.

Slave Lake, where a reception centre has been set up for residents of High Level, was also evacuated because of a wildfire in 2011 that destroyed parts of the community.

The Alberta government issued a fire ban and restricted off-highway vehicle use for numerous parts of the province late last week due to forecasts that called for little precipitation and strong winds.

Highway 16, a major thoroughfare between Edmonton and Prince George, was closed Sunday when a wildfire crossed the roadway west of Edson, Alta., but was reopened early Monday.

Fly me to the moon



A WestJet Airlines Boeing 737-800 aircraft passes in front of the moon late Sunday after taking off from Vancouver International Airport on a flight to Toronto. DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. standoff ends in fire and arrest

Vancouver Sun

ABBOTSFORD — A standoff in Abbotsford ended Monday afternoon in a blaze and the arrest of a 35-year-old man.

Const. Jody Thomas, of the Abbotsford Police Department, said police went to the home at 10:30 a.m. to do a routine follow-up with the female occupant, who had been the victim of a recent domestic violence incident.

Thomas said that when officers arrived at the home, they learned

"the male that was involved in the investigation was in the residence."

"We learned that he was in the house in breach of his conditions and we evacuated everyone to effect his arrest," she said.

The woman, her 11-year-old child and the basement suite tenants were escorted from the home, at which point the man barricaded himself inside.

Police surrounded the residence and a crisis negotiator was called in.

Thomas said that at 1:50 p.m., the Emergency Response Team officers saw a window break and then saw smoke and fire inside the master bedroom.

"The lone barricaded male then exited the residence and was taken into police custody," she said. "The male suffered from smoke inhalation and was transported to hospital for treatment."

Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service responded to the fire, which caused extensive damage to the house.

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Alaska ferry service to pay RCMP for security at B.C. terminal

The Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — Alaska will pay armed Canadian police to provide protection to U.S. personnel at the ferry terminal in Prince Rupert, state transportation officials say.

The Alaska Marine Highway System was notified in March that unarmed U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents checking ferries leaving Prince Rupert will require assistance from RCMP officers, CoastAlaska reported.

Without armed police at inspections, the port faces closure, officials said.

The Mounties will be contracted through the ferry service, which is facing budget cuts by Alaska's legislature.

U.S. federal officials mandating the change "never offered" to help the state fund the contract, but Alaska officials consider it the cost of doing business, said ferry system general manager John Falvey.

"I don't think it's going to be a large sum of money," Falvey said.

Alaska officials have an Oct. 1 deadline for finalizing a plan, he said.

Passengers and vehicles boarding Alaska ferries in Prince Rupert, 188 kilometres south of Ketchikan, Alaska, are routinely checked by U.S. agents.

The "pre-clearance" system allows passengers to disembark without presenting paperwork again, officials said.

U.S. personnel cannot carry firearms while doing passport and contraband checks in Prince Rupert, said Jerry McGee, customs service assistant area port director in Anchorage.

"It's a sovereign nation and we don't have that authority," McGee said.

Passengers are allowed to carry hunting rifles and shotguns, which are legal in both countries.

"Therefore, theoretically our staff would be the only ones that are not armed," McGee said.

An agreement allowing U.S. agents to carry firearms in Prince Rupert is several years away, officials said.

Trudeau: Immigration boosts tech sector

The Canadian Press

TORONTO — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told hundreds of attendees at a conference in Toronto on Monday that Canada's thriving technology sector is a result of the country's openness to immigrants and that he hopes Canadians will continue to view immigration positively.

Trudeau was the first keynote speaker at the four-day conference, called Collision, which is being held in Canada for the first time.

Organizers are calling the event North America's fastest growing technology conference, and this is the first time it is

being held outside the U.S.

While being interviewed by Shahrzad Rafati, founder and CEO of Canadian entertainment company BroadbandTV Corporation, Trudeau stressed that Canada has become a major source of tech talent and that it is attracting entrepreneurs to the country.

He cited the federal government's investments in education and research as reasons for success in Canadian companies and startups.

He said while many countries, including the U.S., are "are closing themselves off more to immigration," Canada is staying open.

bcuc British Columbia Utilities Commission

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BC HYDRO'S APPLICATION TO AMEND NET METERING SERVICE

On April 29, 2019, BC Hydro filed its Application to Amend Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule 1289 (Application) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). The Application contains several proposals, including changes to: the price of any energy in the generation account balance; the program anniversary date; and the size of the qualifying generating facility.

More information on the application can be found at www.bcuc.com on our "Current Proceedings" page and a hard copy of the application is also available for review at the BCUC's office and BC Hydro's head office.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Submit a letter of comment
- Register as an interested party
- Request intervenor status

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday, June 13, 2019 – Deadline to register as an intervenor with the BCUC

For more information on getting involved, please visit our website (www.bcuc.com/get-involved) or contact us at the information below.

GET MORE INFORMATION

BC Hydro Regulatory & Rates Group

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- E: bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com
- P: 604.623.4046

British Columbia Utilities Commission

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