



CITY OF QUESNEL NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2007

Quesnel gets grant to improve accessibility

QUESNEL, B.C. – The City of Quesnel, working in partnership with the Child Development Centre and the Quesnel Accessibility Committee, has been awarded a \$20,000 grant that will help the community develop a strategic plan designed to improve accessibility and inclusion for people living with a disability in the Quesnel area.

The funding comes from the 2010 Legacies Now Measuring Up and Inclusion Fund, and will help fund a local coordinator as well as some small capital projects identified by the Quesnel Accessibility Committee.

“This is a great step forward for our community,” said Mayor Nate Bello. “I appreciate the efforts of my colleague Coun. Mary Sjostrom and the committee to date. With these additional funds even more can be done.”

Sjostrom sits on a North Central Municipal Association Measuring Up The North steering committee working in partnership with the BC Paraplegic Association and Healthy Communities. It is designed to help communities identify potential projects and strategic plans. The NCMA and BCPA hired Project Director Laurie Ringaert to lead this process, and thanks to Sjostrom’s efforts, Quesnel was the first community she’s visited. It was also one of the first communities to receive the funding from 2010 Legacies Now.

The visit on September 6 included a presentation at City Hall attended by a number of individuals from the community who came out to learn more about the program and how we can make our community more accessible and inclusive.

“We’re showing leadership towards supporting accessibility and inclusion in our community,” said Sjostrom. “We’re excited to be able to work towards identifying our needs and working towards a long-term capital plan that allows us to truly be a livable community encouraging healthy activity and great tourism opportunities for all segments of the population.”

“I’m excited to be working with Quesnel as an NCMA member,” said Ringaert. “This project is about more than helping seniors or people with a disability, it’s about helping the community as a whole and will benefit all residents.”

The Launch of the Measuring Up The North program will be held in Prince George on Sept. 18 and 19 and will include workshops hosted by NCMA and the BCPA.



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The Quesnel Accessibility Committee is a non profit organization formed in February 2004 to work toward the removal of physical and social barriers that impede full participation in community life by people with a disability. The committee includes representation from the Child Development Centre, School District 28, the Northern Health Authority, and local government staff and elected officials, consisting of a mix of service providers, policy makers, and individuals (or parents of children) with a disability.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the committee or local initiatives can contact Mary Sjostrom at 747.2924 or Jeff Norburn at 992.8206.

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This release is available at www.city.quesnel.bc.ca.

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