

B.C. WEATHER OUTLOOK

Prince George: Today, cloudy with showers. Temperatures remaining near 2. Tonight, snow developing. Low near 0. Friday, periods of snow mixed with rain. Risk of freezing rain. High near 2. Probability of precipitation in per cent 80 today, 60 tonight and 80 Friday.

Central Interior: A ridge of high pressure along the British Columbia coast is sheltering the Central Interior from disturbances moving in from the Pacific. As a result very little precipitation is expected today except for the northeastern sections where the arctic front will play a role. On Friday the ridge will break down allowing a system to cross the coast mountains. There is a possibility of freezing rain over the next couple of days.

Cariboo: Tonight, cloudy with a 70-per-cent chance of flurries. Risk of freezing rain. Low near -3. Friday, cloudy. Periods of mixed rain and snow developing. Risk of freezing rain. High near 2. Probability of precipitation in per

ULTRAVIOLET Index for PRINCE GEORGE

Clear sky value (index can be reduced by up to 50% under cloudy conditions)

LOW index: more than one hour to sunburn
MODERATE: about 30 minutes
HIGH: about 20 minutes
EXTREME: less than 15 min.

cent 100 today, 70 tonight and 60 Friday.

Parsnip: Tonight, periods of snow. Risk of patchy freezing rain. Low near -12. Friday, periods of snow. Risk of freezing rain. Snowfall 10 cm. High near -9. Probability of precipitation in per cent 90 today, 80 tonight and 80 Friday.

Bulkley Valley: Tonight, cloudy with periods of snow. Risk of freezing rain. Low near -3. Friday, periods of mixed rain and snow. High near 3.

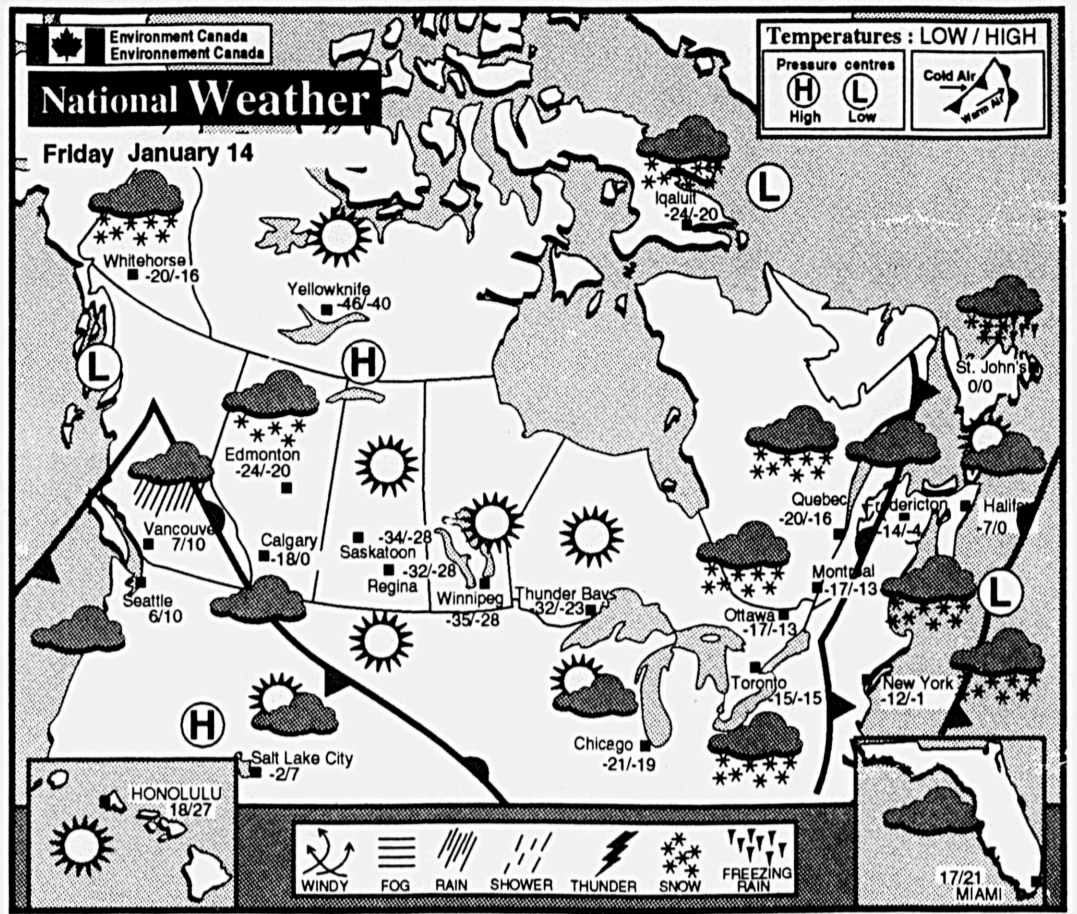
Coast: The soggy saga continues for most of Coastal British Columbia as a warm and moist southwesterly flow persists over the regions. Temperature records were broken in Sandspit and in Terrace on Wednesday and read-

ings are not expected to be very different for the next two days.

Vancouver: Tonight, cloudy. Fog and drizzle. Low 7. Friday, cloudy. Patchy fog and drizzle. Periods of rain developing in the afternoon. High 10. Probability of precipitation in per cent 90 today, 60 tonight and 90 Friday.

Victoria: Tonight, mainly cloudy. Patchy fog and drizzle. Low 7. Friday, cloudy. Patchy fog and drizzle. Periods of rain developing in the afternoon. High 11. Probability of precipitation in per cent 90 today, 40 tonight and 80 Friday.

Fraser Valley: Tonight, cloudy. Fog and drizzle. Low 5. Friday, cloudy. Fog and drizzle. Periods of rain developing in the afternoon. High 10.



WEATHER UPDATES
Public Forecast 963-9130
Weather Consultation 963-7552

PRINCE GEORGE FORECAST

Today: Mainly cloudy with occasional light rain this morning. Temperatures steady at 2.

Tonight: Few flurries or showers near dawn. Risk of freezing rain. Low near 0.

Friday: Periods of rain mixed with snow in afternoon. Risk of freezing rain. High of 2.

Saturday: Periods of snow. Low of -9. High of 3.

Sunday: Mainly cloudy with 60% chance of flurries. Low of -16. High of 8.

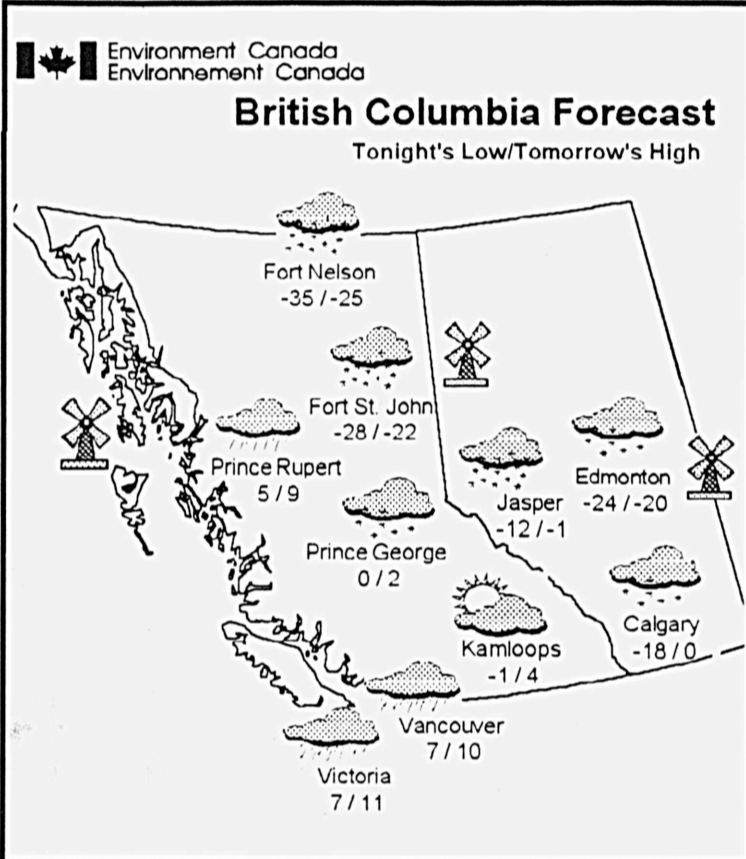
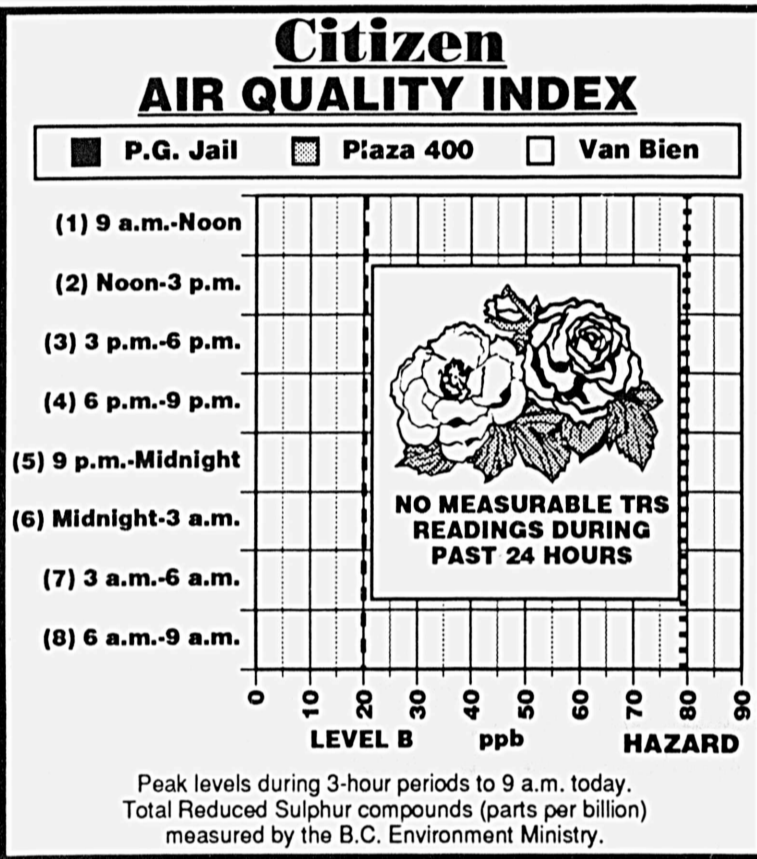
Monday: Periods of snow. Low of -16. High of 6.

SMOKE

The concentration of minute smoke particles in the air averaged 23 micrograms during the past 24 hours, which is rated **GOOD** by the environment ministry.

TEMPERATURES

TORONTO (CP) — Temperatures in Celsius; precipitation in millimetres:	Dease Lake	-24 -26	004.8	The Pas	-28 -35	000.0
Vancouver	Peace River	-21 -22	003.7	Kenora	-21 -32	002.2
Victoria	Whitehorse	-41 -45	000.0	Thunder Bay	-14 -27	000.0
Comox	Yellowknife	-39 -44	000.0	N. Bay	-4 -19	006.2
Port Hardy	Inuvik	-26 -31	000.0	Toronto	0 -4	000.0
Prince Rupert	Resolute Bay	-28 -39	000.0	Ottawa	-12 -15	000.0
Terrace	Eureka	-25 -34	000.0	Montreal	-12 -15	000.4
Pentton	Alert	-25 -34	000.0	Fredericton	-7 -11	000.0
Kamloops	Cambridge Bay	-29 -34	000.0	Charlottetown	-4 -14	000.4
Abbotsford	Calgary	-8 -13	000.0	Halifax	-1 -4	003.8
Crabbrook	Edmonton	-18 -22	009.4	St. John's	1 -10	000.0
Revelstoke	Lethbridge	10 -15	000.0	Seattle	10 -9	003.0
Blue River	Medicine Hat	-12 -17	001.6	Spokane	6 -4	001.5
Puntzi	Swift Current	-16 -23	000.8	Portland	10 -8	007.1
Williams Lake	Regina	-18 -28	002.0	San Francisco	17 -6	000.0
Prince George	Saskatoon	-23 -30	000.7	Los Angeles	25 -11	000.0
Mackenzie	Prince Albert	-22 -28	000.2	Las Vegas	12 -5	000.0
Fort St. John	N. Battleford	-24 -28	001.0	Reno	12 -5	000.0
Fort Nelson	Winnipeg	-20 -31	000.0	Phoenix	20 -6	000.0
	Brandon	-20 -31	000.0	New York City	1 -0	011.4
	Churchill	-35 -37	000.4	Miami	28 -18	001.5



ALMANAC

First Quarter: 19/01, Full Moon: 27/01, Last Quarter: 03/02, New Moon: 10/02

Sunrise: 8:22 am Fri, Sunset: 4:18 pm Fri, Moonrise: 9:08 am Fri, Moonset: 7:04 pm Fri

Yesterday	A Year Ago Today
High: 4.0	High: -24.2
Low: -1.6	Low: -34.8
Rainfall (mm): 0.5	Rainfall (mm): 0.0
Snowfall (cm): Trace	Snowfall (cm): Trace
Sunshine (hrs): 4.3	Sunshine (hrs): 3.1

B.C. GOV'T LIVING IN 'FANTASY WORLD'

More shots fired in B.C.-Alberta war of words

by Canadian Press
EDMONTON — British Columbia's NDP government is living in a "fantasy world" and is the only province blocking a pact to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers, Alberta Trade Minister Ken Kowalski said Wednesday.

"I guess they're just sort of believing they live in their own fantasy world," said Kowalski, who is also the Conservative government's deputy premier and minister of economic development.

"I guess they don't want to compete. I guess they believe their citizens cannot compete with other Canadians."

The 10 provinces and the federal government are hoping to reach an agreement by next June to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers.

Negotiators for each government reached a draft agreement late last year to ease import quotas, labor requirements and other restrictions that hinder the free flow of goods and services between provinces.

The deal has to be ratified by the governments.

Kowalski said British Columbia is the only province putting up opposition to the deal.

"There's harmony in nine provinces and the federal government, and B.C. is off-side," Kowalski said.

He said he believes B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt is trying to pick a fight to bolster his own flagging political fortunes.

"He's not liked, he's very low

in the polls, and he seems to want to distract the citizens of British Columbia from reality," Kowalski said. "It seems to me it's an act of desperation."

Kowalski's spirited attack is just the latest salvo in the war of words between the Alberta and British Columbia governments within the past month.

Harcourt has accused Alberta of exporting its welfare recipients by giving them one-way bus tickets to British Columbia, where welfare

rates are higher. B.C. also has a program where welfare recipients are given bus tickets to other provinces.

He has also said he will take steps to see that Alberta contractors are barred from bidding on a major B.C. government-backed construction project.

In retaliation, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein said just before Christmas that Albertans should avoid B.C. on their holidays, although he later admitted he cut

through the southeast corner of the province — without stopping — while driving to Arizona for his Christmas vacation.

Klein said Wednesday that Harcourt isn't living up to his commitment in November to interprovincial co-operation.

The B.C. premier, along with the other western premiers and territorial leaders, agreed in a meeting in Canmore, Alta., to cooperate and to eliminate trade barriers.

EDUCATION GROUP WANTS CLASSROOM SPACE

Natives occupy Hazelton school

HAZELTON (CP) — A northwestern B.C. native education group broke into and then occupied a vacant high school Wednesday after the local school district refused a request to use the building.

Several members of the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en Education Society, backed by 35 supporters, pried open the doors of the old Hazelton secondary school and entered the building as the security alarm sounded in the afternoon.

The Terrace school district closed the building in 1992.

Marjorie McRae, a spokeswoman for the native society, said her group is in desperate need of classroom space for a fledgling First Nations high school program.

"We are occupying the school because it is an investment in our future for the youth," she said.

Negotiations with the school district on the mothballed high school began in March 1992 but went nowhere, said McRae.

RCMP Sgt. Kerry Solinsky said he had been contacted by district officials but would not be taking any action against the native group until discussing the issue further today.

McRae said she received word Wednesday from district superintendent Frank Hamilton that trustees had turned down the native society's request to use the school.

But Barry Piersdorff, secretary-

treasurer of the school district, said he only received the natives' request Monday. The school board turned down the application at a meeting in Terrace on Tuesday night, he said.

The old high school has been replaced by a new one in Hazelton, 740 kilometres northwest of Vancouver.

Piersdorff said there are plans to build an elementary school on the site of the natives' occupation.

POLICE SEIZE MARIJUANA

VICTORIA (CP) — Six B.C. men, including four from Vancouver Island, were arrested Wednesday on drug-related charges after police seized more than 200 kilograms of marijuana.

The seizures were made in Campbell River, 220 kilometres northwest of Victoria, Vancouver and Merritt, 200 kilometres north of Vancouver, during a 10-month period, RCMP said.

Warrants were outstanding Wednesday afternoon for two men from Lantzville, B.C., and Clearwater, B.C.

STOP LOOKING PRINCE GEORGE

Dave & Leanne Waddell would like to announce the opening of "Nightshift Racing Products" located at 2073 1st Ave. Phone 563-4349, Fax: 563-4341. We would like to thank our manager Wade Waddell & fiancée Tina Sketchley for all the long hours getting the new store operating. Our office hours are Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We would like to wish Nightshift's racing sponsors Good luck in the New Year.

Two-thirds cut in Island logging seen

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Island could be facing a two-thirds cut in logging once all environmental restraints now being considered come into effect, says a prominent Island forester.

The decrease is based on constraints now in place in the Nahmint Valley, Janna Kumi said Wednesday at the annual Truck Loggers Association convention.

Kumi works for MacMillan Bloedel and is also president of the Association of Professional Foresters of B.C.

MacMillan Bloedel is logging in the Nahmint Valley, a long narrow valley southwest of Port Alberni, under an integrated resource management plan prepared in co-operation with the community.

Kumi said that under the local plan, the Nahmint is under a higher level of constraint than would be the case, otherwise.

"But the Nahmint is the direction we are all going and we have to

look critically at the Nahmint and ask: 'Is this where we want to go?'" she said in a later interview.

She said the Nahmint resource use plan has resulted in a 48-per-cent reduction in what the company could cut without constraints such as biodiversity, soil conservation and extended leave strips for lakes and streams.

Kumi arrived at the two-thirds figure for the Island by adding lands to be set aside for visual quality and lands being considered under the government's pledge to increase parks.

Environmentalist John Broadhead said the solution is not more bickering over jobs versus the environment but changes to the tenure system and more emphasis on getting the most value out of the timber resource. The system — in which companies have long-term licences to harvest timber on Crown land — has contributed to the British Columbia's reliance on commodity markets rather than higher values for wood, he said.