

High today: 21 Low tonight: 9 Details page 2

# PRINCE GEORGE

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have poorer access to health services.
"It has become a national concern,"

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

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## Kinsley to chair rural national health board

#### Feds dole out more than \$500K to northern B.C.

Citizen staff

Mayor Colin Kinsley has been selected to lead the new national Ministerial Advisory Council on Rural Health. Federal health minister Allan Rock

appointed Kinsley council chair Wednesday during a visit to Prince George, where he said Kinsley has a broad understanding of health issues and is a willing and constructive

partner for the public good and improving lives. While here, Rock handed out more than \$500,000 for health initiatives in northern

■ The Northern Interior Regional Health Board

(NIRHB) received about \$300,000 to reduce the incidence of type-2 (late onset) diabetes in the Cariboo to the Peace Liard health regions. At a reception at Exploration Place, Rock said di-abetes is among the fastest growing diseases and the key is prevention, starting with the young.

The NIRHB also received about \$38,000 to address issues of seniors falling. Rock said each year one out of three people older than 65 suffer falls requiring medical attention, and must be addressed now through the National Falls Prevention Strategy, because there will by five million seniors in Canada by 2011.

Eric Benwell, president of the Prince George Seniors Council, said the money will be used to help prevent falls. "We'll have 100 seniors observing and reporting unsafe condi-

tions in the community."

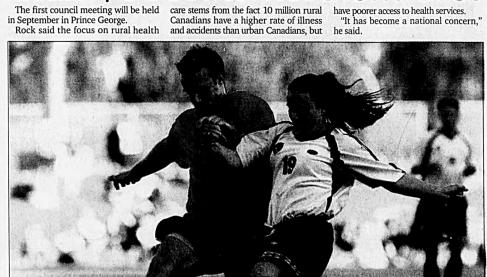
UNBC received more than \$200,000 for Dr. Chow Lee to do cancer research on liver tumours. The grant is the first ever allocated by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, established

last year. "He's a gifted researcher who came here in 1999 and has established his lab at UNBC," said UNBC president Dr. Charles Jago. Lee is researching chemotherapy failure in relation to liver cancer with a hope of determining new therapies, Jago said.

Kinsley said he's pleased to head

Canada's 23-member rural health council.

The appointment shows Prince George and area is on the leading edge in health matters, said Kinsley.



Nathan Zurowski of the Prince George Selects and Diana Arturso of the Vancouver Breakers battle for the ball.

*impressed with* 

## 200 P.G. nurses sign resignation papers

Citizen staff

Although more than 200 nurses in

by Baldwin

YAP, YAP!

Slupid cell phone. One more thing he hated about walking her yappy little dog.

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YAP!

TODAY

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Prince George have signed resignation papers, none have officially quit, says a B.C. Nurses union official. The resignations are tentative,"

said Birthe Cisecki, BCNU northeast region chair. Resgnations are being signed by nurses across the province, she said.

The nurses hope the move will force the Health Em-ployers' Asso-

CISECKI

ciation of B.C. (HEABC) to get back to the table to "bargain in good faith" to get the contract dispute settled, said Cisecki,

"We're short more than 1,000 nurses in B.C. right now," she said, and the ones working are "angry, frustrated and fed up with the gov-

She said the tentative resignations are the nurses' way to give HEABC "a reality check."

"We feel the HEABC has bullied nurses through threats and intimida-tion tactics, but nurses are not going to back down this time around," said Cisecki.

'We don't intend to fold, and if the government thinks that, then they don't know nurses "

Dave Richardson, CEO of the Northern Interior Regional Health Board, said he wouldn't comment on possible resignations because none have been officially submitted.

Citizen Sports Editor The professionals called it a pro-style Kevin Holness, the captain of the Vancouver Whitecaps, was amply impressed with the enthusiasm of the crowd of 1,586 that turned out at Massey Place Stadium on Wednesday to watch a combined Whitecaps/Vancouver Breakers team down a mixed local bunch called the Prince George

This kind of support is amazing. It's a pleasure for us to be a part of this and come up here," said Holness, a former standout in the Regina minor soccer system who has represented Canada.

"Prince George has been tremendous in supporting us, and the sponsors like

(Pacific Western Brewing) have been great. This is fun for us."

While the Whitecaps usually battle in front of crowds of 5,000 peo-ple at home in Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, Holness admitted the Whitecaps don't always see crowds of 1,500 for road games in the A-

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## **Health workers returned** to avoid contempt charge

by BERNICE TRICK Citizen staff
Health Sciences Association (HSA)

nlecaps

by JIM SWANSON

members were back on the job Wednesday following two days of walkouts at hospitals across B.C.
Fred McLeod, HSA director for the

North, said the membership of X-ray and lab technologists, therapists and pharmacists decided to go back to work after being served a notice of motion to appear before B.C. Supreme Court Wednesday.

"We knew we would be found guilty of being in contempt of a Labour Relations Board order issued Friday to cease and desist walkouts."

'Our members did not have a desire to be in contempt of court, so rather than waiting for the court decision, we decided

to go back to work." The HSA knew the Health Employers Associa-tion of B.C. (HEABC) was scheduled to ap-

pear in court at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Despite the HSA returning to work, the HEABC kept its

court appearance. McLEOD

Justice Patrick Dohm received assurance from the HSA it would not engage

in any further illegal job action, said Gary Moser, HEABC chief negotiator. "Whether or nor there's been contempt will be dealt with in the future,'

McLeod said the walkouts were posi-

tive for the membership. "Our membership has become united, we have support from the public and we made our point to HEABC that we are serious about negotiating a con-tract. It was a good time to stop," McLeod said. He doesn't expect any action at the

McLEOD

negotiating table until the court case is settled, but said the HSA is ready to get back to negotiating.

Meanwhile at Prince George Regional Hospital, X-ray, lab and other procedures cancelled Monday to Wednesday

this week due to the job action are being rescheduled.

"It will probably take two weeks to a month to reschedule those who were cancelled," said Renee Foot, communications director.

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### fficials to test crashed plane's engine

Citizen staff

The Transportation Safety Board will be testing the performance of the en-gine of a chartered NT Air light aircraft that crashed Monday north of Prince George, an investigator says.

"We're pursuing some mechanical aspects of the aircraft," Damien Lawson said Wednesday from Vancouver "We'll be investigating the engine per-formance and the fuel system."

Engine failure is believed to the cause of the crash, said Bill Hesse, op-erations manager of NT Air. The name of the pilot and passenger

who survived the crash will not be released, Hesse said Wednesday.

The crash occurred in trees near an old cut block about 6.5 kilometres straight north of the Salmon Valley Bridge, said Doug Wayland, pilot of the Canfor helicopter who took the airplane pilot and passenger to Prince

George Airport.
The TSB had technical advisers go to the wreckage at the crash site Tuesday along with NT Air representatives, Lawson said. The engine had been brought down to the Lower Mainland by Wednesday morning,

The TSB hopes to have the results of an examination of the engine in the next week or so, Lawson said.

"We're taking it to an approved en-

gine-overhaul facility — people who analyse engines and certify whether they're airworthy," he said. "At this point we don't know if it (mechanical problem contributing to crash) is definitely in the engine or not.

"We'll try to run the engine as is, and in doing that we'll have it at the approximate conditions at the time of the accident," Lawson said. "If it does work, we'll have to work on other as pects.

TSB investigators have already done a preliminary examination of the fuel system, and there's nothing to indicate

a problem there, he said. We'll do further work to see if everything else is running, like

props or line," Lawson said. Personnel at the engine-overhaul fa-

cility will eventually take apart the engine to look for any further evidence of malfunction, he said.

"Engine disassembly could reveal

something," Lawson said. "It they find something which mechanically broke in the engine, that would give us something about why the engine stopped. Sometimes it's a detached pulley, or something simple like that."

The report from the engine-disassembly facility will be a highly technical one, he said. "We would review that to see if there's anything to pursue." Lawson said.

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