

# FRBC money can't go to communities

The communities that paid into Forest Renewal B.C. should be consulted about where its surplus money should be spent, the Northern Forest Products Association has told Premier Clark and all MLAs.

"The FRBC directors have apparently underestimated the public's expectations and possibly compromised the credibility of the corporation. We therefore strongly urge your government not to take these funds into general revenue," says Greg Jadrzyk, president of the NFPA.

As a way of at least saving face, the NFPA, whose members contribute more than a third of FRBC's annual funding, urges the government to spend the surplus on projects in the province's 126 forest-dependent communities.

Although accepting the FRBC money will require amending legislation, Prince George North MLA Paul Ramsey gave the idea short-shrift.

"It's really impossible to tag this money to communities in that way," says Mr. Ramsey who also sits on the FRBC board.

While people in his riding may not notice the money funding local projects, he says that they would notice if the money wasn't used for the province's general revenue.

"I guarantee that without it ... sheltering health and education from cuts would be a lot harder," says Mr. Ramsey.

## No choice on welfare rules, says Ramsey

Newcomers to B.C. will once again have to wait three months before being eligible to collect welfare after the requirement was reinstated this week.

The NDP had no qualms about reinstating residency requirements for welfare, says Paul Ramsey.

"We had none, not at all. We felt that it was a good policy to begin with," says the Prince George-North MLA. "We simply can't afford to pay welfare for the entire country."

A provincial Supreme Court judge had struck down the policy as being outside the powers of the cabinet to make on its own. New legislation passed in the summer but not proclaimed until this week gives the government authority to reinstate the requirement, says Mr. Ramsey.

"The Attorney General has said we are on a sound legal base and I have confidence in him," he says.

The move is expected to save the province \$25 million a year.

## Lots of dolls/At antique fair



Doll collector Doris Jensen had many different dolls on display at the antique fair held at John McInnis Secondary on the weekend.

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