

## ▼ From Front

## Growth needs to be 'thoughtful'

George (cabinet ministers Lois Boone and Paul Ramsey) and says the talks have been conducive, if not productive.

"They're stuck between a rock and a hard place," he says.

The mayor plans to fight any changes to the legislation governing the transfer of funds to municipalities and discussed the matter with the NDP MLAs. However, he says "there is no indication" the pair will be voting against the plans of the provincial government.

But if the province does go ahead with its planned cuts, the city will have to look at where to trim from its \$70 million budget.

"We have to look at delivering services with



John Backhouse's last act as mayor was to hand over the chain of office to Colin Kinsley.

JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

possibly fewer resources," he says.

One area that will not be on the chopping block is the

extension of water service to the Blackburn area.

Mayor Kinsley says the plans will go ahead. "That's a commitment that's been made and that's the direction that we'll go," he says.

Calling for productive and thoughtful growth, Mayor Kinsley is adamant expansion at Parkwood Mall will go ahead.

Some have suggested that the possible development of the intersection of Highways 16 and 97, known as Ruby Park, is causing problems for Parkwood, but Mayor Kinsley is solid in his belief that Parkwood must be developed.

"I won't even support (the Ruby Park application) going to public hearing," he says.

## Regional District takes indirect hits

The affect may be subtle, but the slashing of grants to municipalities by the NDP will impact on the Fraser-Fort George Regional District.

Technically, the provincial government isn't touching the budgets of the regional district but as administrator Dave Wilson notes the long arm of the cuts can't be escaped. "It will affect every regional district in the province because our budget is shared by every municipality," he says.

It's too early to say exactly what the cuts might mean but the municipal representatives on the regional district will be keeping an extra-vigilant eye on expenses this year at budget time. Prince George is losing \$1.8 million in funding and smaller communities, like Mackenzie and Valemount, are facing big financial hits as the provincial government turns over responsibility for some highways.

And regional district direc-

tors will have some tough decisions to make in terms of funding for certain programs. In the past, the province has provided 25 per cent of the cost for the district's weed control program. That's been eliminated. "It will be a political decision as to whether we will be making that service

available this year," says Mr. Wilson.

As well, the regional district provides funding for the Prince George Region Development Corporation and the Fraser-Fort George Museum and both groups face reduced grants from the province.

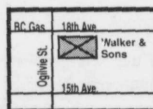


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"Thanks to everyone at PPN I have 2 wonderful little boys who used to act like monsters. The support and ideas I got from PPN helped me tremendously. Thank you."

"I think PPN is an excellent program to learn alternative ways to raise healthy, happy children. They have an excellent program and they teach everything from nutrition to street proofing your children."  
A Single Dad

"I joined to meet other parents with children the same age as mine. I also enjoyed learning more about first aid, nutrition, and different discipline ideas."  
A Mum

"I found and still find PPN to be very helpful. I would recommend this program for any single or married mother. It deals with everyday problems that you and your children go through and helps you deal with them. PPN has been very helpful to me during some stressful times just because of the way I grew up. I would recommend this program for absolutely everyone."  
A Mum

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- Lifeline:** a 24 hr. personal response program
- Parenting Skills Training:** Project Parent North and Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program helps parents with self-development and lifeskills
- Respite Care:** provides relief for informal caregivers
- Home Support:** helps maintain independent community living
- Adult Day Centre:** stimulates physical, social and intellectual abilities
- Facility Care:** Parkside and Rainbow provide a safe secure homelike environment
- Wellness Program:** helping seniors help themselves

**Prince George Regional Community Care Society**

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## HEALTH NEWS

Suzie Oltmann  
Certified Nutritional  
Consultant

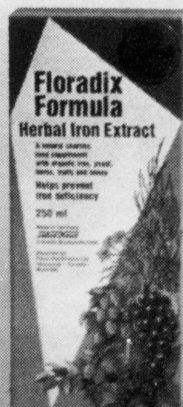
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