

Short STORIES

► Woman injured in mall attack

A Prince George woman was injured during an attempted robbery in the parking lot of Pine Centre Mall.

The woman was injured when an unidentified male wearing a hooded kangaroo jacket attempted to steal her purse while she was walking with her husband.

The incident occurred at 2:40 p.m. on Saturday, February 12.

Anyone who saw the incident is requested to contact the RCMP or Crimestoppers.

► Harris on tour

Reformer Dick Harris is conducting a series of townhall meetings over the course of the next few weeks.

The Prince George-Bulkley Valley MP will visit Fort St. James, Hixon, Valemount, Houston and points in between.

He will be in Prince George February 21 at the Prince George Curling Club. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.

► Plants seized

The Prince George RCMP seized about 160 marijuana plants totaling one pound during a search of a Beverly area residence, west of Prince George.

Police also seized another pound of processed marijuana during the search, conducted February 9.

New TSA plan doesn't satisfy Carrier Sekani

By MICHELLE LANG

Free Press staff writer

The chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council isn't impressed with recent Ministry of Forests recommendations on the controversial Timber Supply Area agreement.

While the ministry intended the recommendations to address concerns from First Nations and communities west of Prince George, Mavis Erickson says they do little to quell her worries about the TSA.

"We haven't had our experts go over (the recommendations) yet but at a preliminary glance, it looks like nothing has changed. We initially rejected the reallocation and we still do," she says.

First Nations and communities west of Prince George have strongly objected to the TSA agreement, saying it transfers forest company cutting rights out of the Prince George area into the Vanderhoof and Fort St. James forest districts. First Nations say the TSA allows

harvesting on their traditional territory. They have threatened blockades and, in the case of the Nadlel Whut'en, have begun harvesting timber to protest the government's slow reaction to their concerns.

The Forests Ministry made several recommendations last week to address those concerns, including asking licensees to harvest only 1.95 million cubic metres in the Vanderhoof forest district - 250,000 cubic metres of timber less than they had planned. Licensees will make up the lost timber by

harvesting more volume in the Fort St. James area, according to the recommendations.

The ministry's recommendations also include an assurance to First Nations that a shift in timber harvest from Prince George to Vanderhoof and Fort St. James "should not increase the compensation payable to third parties as the result of a treaty."

But Ms. Erickson says the reallocation still puts licensees in Carrier Sekani traditional territory and that licensees never should

have left the Prince George Forest District.

The recommendations are receiving a warmer welcome from industry and communities, however. Canfor, for example, is not opposed to the recommendations.

"We're generally supportive of what we've seen," says Mark Feldinger, Canfor's general manager of woodlands. "The targeted cut in Vanderhoof is down but the number is still reasonable."

Len Fox, mayor of Vanderhoof, has also expressed his pleasure with the recommendations, saying the reduced cut is much more sustainable for his community.

The provincial government has been in negotiation with First Nations over the TSA for months. Further talks are scheduled for March 2 and 3.



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