

Vanderhoof

Cattle rustlers strike on Kenney Dam Road

It's an honest to goodness case of modern day rustling.

Vanderhoof RCMP are investigating the theft of between 56 and 63 cows and calves from Kenney Dam rancher Lynn Weinhardt.

"We're just devastated," says Ms. Weinhardt. "It's been a horrible year but we're trying to maintain our sense of humour."

RCMP believe the 34 calves and 22 to 29 cows were taken some time the last week of August and the first week of September. Ms. Weinhardt gathered her herd from her pasture at about 41-kilometre from Kenney Dam Road on September 15 and realized something was wrong. "I knew some were missing," she says. "But I hoped they were just in the bushes and would come back."

An air search eliminated the possibility that predators or broken fences were responsible for the missing animals.

"We suspect that the cattle were moved out of that pasture by fairly sophisticated means," says RCMP Constable Jim MacLellan. "There would have to be a cattle liner to move that number of animals."

The loss is estimated at \$85,000.

Fort St. James

Future of multi-level care facility still vague

The 30-day window in which the health ministry promised to announce whether it would fund the construction of a multi-level care facility has ended without a word.

But Fort St. James Mayor Jim Togyi and Vanderhoof Mayor Len Fox are con-

Around the NORTH

tinuing to keep a positive outlook. "(The health minister) has not given answers to the question in the 30 days he said he would but I am still hoping for a positive response," says Mayor Togyi.

But soon is not quick enough for Liberal Paul Nettleton. "This is typical of an NDP government that has played a cruel game of heightening expectations and then pulling the rug out from under our communities," says the Prince George-Omineca MLA.

Quesnel

Citizens group vows to keep up the pressure

The news that doctors would be returning to normal hospital privileges was praised by the organizers of last week's rally in Victoria.

But that doesn't mean they plan to stop putting pressure on the provincial government.

Noting that the premier refused to talk to doctors while they were away from work, rally spokesperson Anne Schneider said the ball is now in the provincial government's court.

"We are grateful that doctors have heeded the premier's request and are returning to work," she says. "Now the premier must return this show of good faith and start talks with Quesnel doctors."

Dr. Gerry McPetridge says the decision to return to work was made because physicians did not want to see any further deterioration of services at G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital.

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