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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2000

PHONE 564-0005

Style/Grace



Jennifer Smith exhibits a style and grace rarely seen on the Civic Centre rink on Saturday delighting her daughter Kendyl and Kenzie Ballum. JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

No quick fixes to health crisis, says report

A new report created by a group that was formed from the Citizen's Health Rally June 22, says there's no easy solution Prince George's health care problem.

The report clearly emphasizes the need to try.

"We always say there is a solution but there is no easy solution," says Tom Griffiths, a committee co-chair.

The report details "reasonable health expectations for the citizens of Prince George" and will be released Wednesday

at 7 p.m. at city hall.

Written by Dr. Melba Holm, the report identifies immediate, short, medium and long term goals involved in fixing Prince George's health care issues and then will be handed off to others in the group to identify priorities.

The report details four goals with specific objectives and strategies to get the job done.

Among the first goals to be completed within one year are stabilizing PG Regional Hospital with adequate bud-

gets. The hospital also needs a plan to recruit and retain health care workers in an implementable way, finish the already existing human resources plan at PGRH, and start a continuing education plan for health employees.

The group also wants to establish a Northern Centre of Excellence in Health Care at UNBC, improve the general health in the community, and reestablish Prince George as a fully functioning regional referral and trauma centre for northern B.C.

Husky waits to hear on tariff

By CHRISTIANA WIENS

Free Press staff writer

Pembina Pipeline Ltd. is expected to announce today whether it will accept a B.C. Utilities Commission recommendation to limit tariff hikes to \$7 per cubic meter on its Taylor to Kamloops line.

Pembina had threatened to hike rates from \$4 to just over \$27 per cubic metre, effective September 7, a move which would have effectively cut \$4.5 million out of the refinery's profits this year.

The recommendation is good news for Husky Oil's Prince George operations, which is holding its breath waiting for Pembina to accept or reject the offer.

"We think it's a fair offer," says Melissa Rolfe from Husky's head offices in Calgary. "It still allows them a 15 per cent rate of return and it allows the refinery to operate at full capacity. But I wouldn't begin to suggest what they might do with the recommendation."

Pembina has said the rate hike is necessary to pay for decreased amount of oil travelling through the northern line and the cost of keeping line safe and secure.

Since the pipeline burst near Chetwynd in August, Pembina launched an expensive system of hydrotesting the line. It allowed minimal flow to the Husky refinery this fall, but is still in the process of hydrotesting the Prince George to Kamloops line for safety reasons. Husky has criticized the testing for taking too long and costing too much money.

"We'd like to see the south portion of the line flowing because increased volumes [of crude] through the line lowers our cost per cubic metre," says Ms. Rolfe.

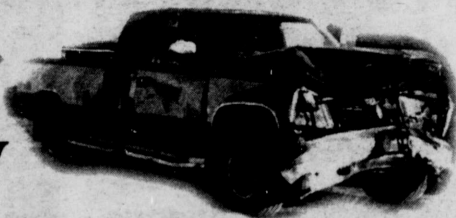
Husky is estimated to have lost about \$4 million in production and trucking costs during the rupture this summer. The massive oil spill on the Pine River threatened Chetwynd's drinking water and caused a massive million-dollar clean up bill for Pembina.

Husky is also said to have offered to buy the ruptured line from Pembina in an effort to cut production costs.

"We are still examining all economically viable options to run more efficiently," says Ms. Rolfe.

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The Carrier Lumber v. Ministry of Forests transcripts and judgment have been posted to our web site at www.dbylaw.com

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