

Winter/Blues

The main channel of the Nechako River cuts its path through the ice near Cottonwood Island Park. JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

Zayonc takes over Reform BC

If all goes well, it will be a short-lived presidency. Prince George realtor Bob Zayonc took the reigns of the Reform BC party Tuesday when he stepped into the party's vacant president's chair.

Mr. Zayonc, who was vice-president, fills a spot left by outgoing president Chris Delaney who left to run for the leadership of the newly created Unity BC.

Mr. Delaney will most likely run against former Premier Bill Vander Zalm and several others for the leadership of the party which is a coalition of five parties.

Reform BC is expected to fold its membership into the Unity Party in mid-February.

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New school signs could be costly

City of Prince George officials say provincial changes to school zone signs will cost them extra money this spring.

They're just not sure how much.

"We'll spread out the cost as much as we can," says transportation engineer Glenn Stanker.

The city launched a school-by-school investigation into blue school zone signs earlier this year to see if they are adequately placed, if they are having the effect they need, and how many they will be forced with replacing once national transportation guidelines come into affect.

"Right now they are just guidelines," he says. "Municipalities that decide not to follow them do so at their own peril. Drivers expect a certain standard."

The guidelines are also expected to be included in

the provincial Motor Vehicle Act in the new year.

If each school in the city required only two bright new yellow signs, the regulation would cost the city at least \$4,880 to cover public elementary and secondary schools

from its maintenance budget next year.

ICBC is expected to pick up incremental costs to \$10,000. That's good says Mr. Stanker because most schools border more than one side street and will need at least four signs.

The new signs have already been installed in Mission and Delta but other communities like Chilliwack are waiting until the changes to the Motor Vehicle Act come into play before they spend any money.

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