MV Columbia Sails into Service on Upper Arrow Lake
Submitted by Callum Campbell, Inland Ferry Manager

Shipbuilding in the B.C. interior is alive and strong with the successful completion and launch into service of the ministry's latest inland ferry, MV Columbia.

The new ferry replaces two 40-year-old vessels on the route between Shelter Bay and Galena Bay, on Upper Arrow Lake. It is larger and faster than those vessels and enables more efficient loading and unloading of vehicles.

Just in time for peak Canada Day long weekend travel, the MV Columbia began service on June 26. Since then, the new ferry has met our expectations by handling the additional traffic travelling to the beautiful Kootenays during the summer.

The name of the vessel represents the geographic location of the ferry (Upper Arrow Lake is a widening of the Columbia River) and commemorates one of the first sternwheelers to ply the river, the SS Columbia, launched in 1891. Built entirely in Nakusp, construction has provided employment for approximately 65 workers from the Southern Interior and across B.C., over the last two years. Nakusp has a long history of shipbuilding, from sternwheelers, to tugs and workboats. The ministry’s newest inland ferry continues that past success.

MV Columbia was designed and built to ministry specifications by Waterbridge Steel of Prince George. When the contract was awarded in June 2012, the contractor’s first task was to establish a modern shipyard capable of assembling and launching the 1,100-tonne vessel. A critical component of the new shipyard was an enormous cradle built to support the hull during nine months.

Callum Campbell and Project Manager Maryse Langevin aboard the MV Columbia on its first day of public service.

More on Page 3...
Editor’s Note

From hulls to hulks, the August 2014 Road Runner is an overview of summer accomplishments and hijinks.

The MV Columbia made its first public-carrying voyage across Upper Arrow Lake, at the start of the Canada Day Long Weekend. The 1,100-tonne, locally built vessel is a major achievement for our ministry. As customary, a bottle of champagne was cracked on the bow of the vessel, at the launch of the vessel’s hull last year. (Sorry, no photos available).

Summer attire went from awe-inspiring to zany at a number of events where employees assumed new identities. On “Dress Like Mike Lorimer Day” Southern Interior Region staff stepped out in the customary plaid shirts and black-framed glasses of their Starbucks-drinking regional director. (No word if it’s expected to be an annual event).

Public Service Week’s “Celebrating You, the Superhero” revealed powerful, new aspects of our co-workers. Who knew that inside each of us are larger-than-life beings like Thor, Catwoman, Elektra and Wolverine? (You can discover your inner superhero at http://hero-me.com/).

Along with the dress up-antics, there were ant ties. It turns out that industrious minds think alike, when two Transit Branch employees turned up for work wearing the same ant-themed ties (though in different hues). Ants are admired in the branch, for their infrastructure building talents and complex social organization. Read more in these pages, and perhaps you too, will become a passionate advocate for National Leafcutter Ant Day!

Nancy McLeod, Editor
More on Page 4…

MV Columbia Sails into Service on Upper Arrow Lake… Continued from Page 1

of steel work and fit-up. The cradle was also used to slide the vessel into the lake during the annual summer high-water in July last year. Work then shifted to machinery, piping and electrical installations. Once the MV Columbia successfully completed an expansive set of sea trials, the ministry took possession of the vessel at the end of May.

Now that the MV Columbia is transporting people and vehicles across Upper Arrow Lake, we encourage everyone to visit this beautiful part of the province and ride our newest inland ferry. MV Columbia offers scheduled departures from Shelter Bay, every hour on the hour, and departures from Galena Bay, every hour on the half hour, 20 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The project was led by two Marine Branch Managers: Maryse Langevin assisted by Callum Campbell.

Cool Superhero Frozen Treats
Quickly turning into an annual tradition, the ice cream event was dubbed Cool Superhero Frozen Treats, and took place on June 19. Employees could choose from frozen delights like vanilla or chocolate/strawberry swirl ice cream cups, or

More on Page 4…
Flix and Mix
The final event in our HQ series of PSW activities was Flix and Mix, where superhero-themed movie clips were shown in a boardroom. Everyone knows what the best part of watching “flix” is… the popcorn! So, this too was offered to the audience. Continuing the theme of diversity, different flavoured toppings were available in shakers, to “mix” with the popcorn.

Compliment Tree
To express our ministry theme, “Celebrating You the Superhero,” we did something a little different with our Compliment Tree this year: Superhero Compliment Cards displaying cartoons and comic strips.

By the end of the week, four (artificial) trees in HQ were in full bloom with more than 700 vibrant and colourful cards. For PSW Planning Committee members, the best part of the Compliment Tree was distributing the cards and seeing the happy faces of the recipients.

This year, recognizing colleagues in offices across the province became easier, with the Online Compliment Tree.

Giving Back
In the spirit of giving back, we continued our tradition of supporting our local community by collecting food donations for the Mustard Seed Food bank, and clothing and household items for the Women In Need Community Cooperative. Donations were accepted for two weeks (going beyond the one week PSW time period) as in previous years.

Employees select their cool superhero frozen treat.

Sharon Cowden, the Lone Ranger (aka Kevin Richter) and Vina Sianen and serve hero sandwiches.

Employees select their cool superhero frozen treat.

Superheroes Melinda Morris and Susan Kwan made a mighty entrance at the Superhero Summit.
Amazing Race Meets Cross Training at Thompson Nicola PSW
Submitted by Megan Cullinane, Development Approvals Technician

Public Service Week got off to a great start in the Thompson Nicola District with the first annual Amazing Race competition.

Organized by Joan Brickwood and her crew of schemers, the Amazing Race pitted four teams against the clock – and each other! The teams were comprised of employees from all of the district’s work groups, including development approvals, operations, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) and the Provincial Sign Program. Each challenge was worth a predetermined number of points, and teams received more points the sooner they returned to the office.

The first challenge was a stop at the Red Bridge in Kamloops, where Bridge Area Manager Bill Glen provided the participants with details on the history and construction of the truss bridge. The teams frantically completed a quiz on what they had just learned while driving (not speeding!) to their next challenge.

Service Area 14 Operations Manager Dennis Kurylowich anxiously awaited the teams on the Yellowhead Highway 5. After providing an excellent overview of what area managers look for when monitoring, he sent the teams off to complete a monitoring record of their own, en route to the next challenge.

The competitors were then faced with a mini-challenge — identifying and counting certain guide and warning signs — on their way to find Service Area 15 Operations Manager Trent Folk in the tiny community of Whitecroft. There, the teams had to use the radio to contact the office back in Kamloops.

Next was CVSE Manager Glenn Taylor, waiting on the rural Heffley-Louis Creek Road. Glenn provided an insight into the work of mobile CVSE staff, before assisting the teams in weighing their vehicles with the portable scales. After ensuring they weren’t overweight, the competitors raced north to Agate Bay Road, where Provincial Approving Officer Joan Brickwood was ready for them.

Joan described the many site factors that she and the development approvals team consider when reviewing a subdivision. She then provided the competitors with a mock subdivision and report to complete right on site.

Next, the teams headed toward Highway 5 and the community of Barriere, to a gravel pit on Agate Bay Road. Program Manager Shawn Clough described the different aggregates used by the district for projects and road maintenance. The teams then had one more quiz to complete before racing to the finish line, back at the office.

Overall, the Amazing Race was an excellent opportunity for staff to learn the business of other work groups while celebrating Public Service Week (and have a lot of fun too)!

At the end of the day, the Merritt & Co. team of Bob Alexandruk, Roxanne Lorette, Stew Miller and Jurgen Lutter took the number one spot.

All of the participants echoed thanks for the excellent event put on by the organizing committee, and look forward to next year’s race!
The annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance International Road Check was held June 3 to 5, at four locations in Hope and one in Dawson Creek. This road check was established not only to inspect trucks but to contribute to an annual snapshot of the condition of vehicles, motor coaches and drivers, within the North American trucking industry. The check ran from 10 p.m. Tuesday to 10 p.m. Thursday.

This year, as in the past, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) sent out invitations to partner enforcement agencies to participate and work together to improve road safety within British Columbia. There were about 85 enforcement officers in attendance; 60 from CVSE and 25 from partner agencies.

The following agencies joined the Road Check:

- Passenger Transportation Branch
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- New Westminster Police
- Abbotsford Police
- Delta Police
- Fraser Valley Traffic Services RCMP
- Federal Dangerous Goods
- Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (Forestry)
- WorkSafeBC

The vehicles and buses that are stopped for inspection are chosen randomly, with inspection times varying from about 20 minutes to an hour, depending on the vehicle size and condition. The majority of inspections conducted were Level 1 inspections, which are the most stringent of all roadside inspections.

The success of this year’s road check lies in the hands of all of CVSE inspectors, whether they attended or not. Our ability to work as a team with partner enforcement agencies to create safer roads in B.C. is something we should all be proud of.

Thank you for your continued participation and everyone’s daily dedication to making B.C.’s highways safe. ◆
A geotechnical workshop for development approvals and operations staff was hosted by Okanagan Shuswap District, on May 7 and 8.

Northern Regional Geotechnical Engineer Gord Hunter shared his expertise and experience, as our guest instructor. The first day, held in the office, we learned geotechnical terms, types of hazards, how to identify hazards and concerns, and how to proceed if a hazard is identified. The discussions included a review of past geotechnical events with the aid of photos, and what to look for in professional geotechnical reports.

The next day, we embarked on a field trip to several sites around Kelowna and the Big White Ski Resort area to view various potential hazard sites including rock fall, landslides, debris torrents and road base failures, and structures like retaining walls and hazard protective works. It was interesting to see photographs and on-site evidence of past large dramatic events. Just as interesting – and perhaps more important – was to see the not-so-obvious potential hazards that could easily be missed. The importance of good road base drainage as well as general land drainage became very clear.

The workshop provided the participants with an appreciation for the complexity of terrain hazards and the awareness to know when professional involvement is required. Having trainers from within our ministry can work well, and it ensures the information delivered is directly relevant to our work.

We thank Gord Hunter for his vast knowledge that benefitted every participant.
Superhero Diversity Celebrated in Northern Region
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Regional Manager Business Services

The Northern Region kicked off Public Service Week on June 16, with an emailed link to all employees asking “What Superhero Are You?”

We had some intriguing replies that expressed this year’s theme of celebrating our diversity. From straight to the point, efficient and perfect assassin, Elektra, to a couple of “no fun when they are angry” types like the Hulk and She Hulk, we had a sample of almost every character. There were two Wolverines, Batman and Batgirl, Green Lantern, Rogue, Ironman, Emma Frost, Domino and even Black Widow in our truly “Marvel-lous” group up here in the North!

So, how did we so quickly identify our heroic archetypes? Nicole Folk (formerly of the Northern Region) shared the website http://hero-me.com/ with us. The quiz uses the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment to link people with their superhero alter ego. For example, Catwoman is classified as INFP – introverted, intuitive, feeling and perceiving.

Leaves and Lanes
To encourage staff to fill out a leaf on the virtual and real compliment trees, cookies and cake were offered. Many compliments were sent to staff throughout the ministry, using both options to recognize others.

A Wii Bowling Tournament was set up for staff to complete three games at their convenience, on either June 16, 18 or 19. Congratulations to the overall winners – first place champion was Steve Burke with a total of 415 for his three games, second place was Darren Vagt who scored 375 and third place was Karen Westlund with a score of 356. Big thanks to Sarah Clark and Jason Kennedy, for coordinating this active event. It was appreciated by everyone that participated, and got everyone up and moving!

Pancake Tuesday – June 17
Our annual pancake breakfast was a hit once again. The Regional Management Team would like to thank Deanna Ramsey for doing the grocery shopping; Sarah Clark, Brian Taylor, Linda-Lee Schell and Melanie Robbestad for getting things set up; and of course everyone that attended the event. Overall, 25 employees came out to enjoy the culinary skills of our chefs – Kyle Drummond, Jason Kennedy, Bill Eisbrenner and myself. Kirsten Pedersen and Greg Woollacott were our quality control managers. Our gratitude to Sarah Clark, Raylene Otto and Kat Graham for helping with the clean-up, and last but not least, special thanks to all staff who brought in their griddles and flippers. Because without these, our annual pancake breakfast would not happen.

Other than the chefs adding blueberries, and making dollar size pancakes or snowmen shapes, to entice employees to sample their efforts, there was only one incident which may require a further investigation. Melanie Robbestad intentionally put pancake batter on a co-workers hand… It appears that it’s true – “Batgirl” just wants to have fun!

Potlucks and Props
The region’s annual Public Service Week Wednesday potluck luncheon was attended by 22 staff. All enjoyed sampling each other’s favourite dishes. Once again everyone over ate and didn’t have to bring lunch for Thursday. A thank you to all that assisted with the preparation, layout and clean up. An extra special thank you to Deanna Ramsey for assisting with the shopping and Linda-Lee Schell for once again planning and organizing the annual luncheon.

The annual cribbage tournament was well attended by 14 staff. Bragging rights go to John Van Geloven, who received a trophy and a certificate celebrating his win. A different certificate was presented to Brent Davies for his phenomenal performance in losing both games with less than 90 points. Our thanks to Colleen Davis for coordinating this event.

The regional office also had a superhero photo booth set up. Props brought in by staff included spy hats, guns, sunglasses and badges; a cowboy hat, bandana, gun and horse; assorted superhero capes and masks, and last but not least, Kyle’s Edmonton Oilers apron.

The Finale
A sunny afternoon with ice cream wrapped up the week’s celebrations. It just doesn’t get much better than that.

My gratitude to everyone in the Northern Region for all that you do each and every day. We have a great team thanks to all of you – and your superpowers!
South Coast Region Celebrates Our Work
Submitted by Caroline Murphy, A/Business Management Assistant

Here at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, we are lucky enough to work with an amazing group of highly motivated and passionate people who bring a wealth of knowledge to their roles. Public Service Week gave us an opportunity to celebrate each other’s achievements and recognize the great work we do as an organization.

During Public Service Week, it is extremely interesting and entertaining to see everyone let their hair down and have fun as a team. This week, we were absolutely spoiled rotten with a fabulous waffle breakfast to start off our Monday morning, prepared and served with a smile by our regional management team.

On Wednesday, we participated in the South Coast Region Amazing Race. Groups gathered in anticipation of the whistle, at which point everyone darted off in their separate directions looking for all six colour-coded clues, to help them win. As the hunt progressed, tension was high and the competition was fierce!

Following a mentally and physically challenging race in and around the office building, the Scope Creepers pulled through, clinching an extremely close race. Huge congratulations to this team consisting of Erin Moxon, Chad Siemens, Cedric Evangelista, Darcy Penner and Neetu Bhatti.

To celebrate, a scrumptious barbecue was served on the rooftop under the beating sun, where we could mix with all our colleagues to discuss the exciting race.

Friday came, and it was time to be spoiled with dessert. Patrick Livolsi and Derek Drummond served us all ice cream with a grateful smile.

In addition to our team activities, throughout the week we could all send words of recognition to our co-workers in the building, and in other offices around the province, through the newly designed on-line compliment tree. This electronic version of the tree made it simple to share compliments with colleagues beyond our location, carrying on the practice that has been going strong since 2010.

Public Service Week was a wonderful way to recognize our diverse achievements and the considerable impact the public service has on the daily lives of people in our province. From June 16 to 20, we all had a fantastic week!
Innovative Battery Electric Bus Showcased
Submitted by Ross Long, Research Officer; Peter Murray, Research Officer; and Andrea Mercer, Crown Agency Policy Manager

Electric vehicles and battery technology have seen rapid advancements over the past decade.

Some of you may recall (and have had the opportunity to drive) one of the 13 Toyota Prius vehicles that the B.C. government converted in 2008, to operate as “plug-in” hybrids. The addition of a five kilowatt-hour lithium ion battery allowed these vehicles to travel the first 20 kilometres on the electric battery, and to be charged using any electrical socket, within five hours. Today, there are more than 20 models of commercially available electric vehicles in B.C. Many of these vehicles can travel more than 100 kilometres on a single charge. There are also now about 600 publicly accessible charging stations across the province, which has gone a long way to reduce “range anxiety.”

Battery electric vehicle technology can also be applied to public transit vehicles. On Jan. 15, several employees from our ministry’s Transit Branch, the Ministry of Environment and BC Transit gathered at BC Transit’s Victoria transit centre to tour and take a ride on an innovative new battery-electric transit bus. The BYD battery electric bus runs entirely on battery power and produces zero tailpipe emissions. BYD, which stands for “build your dreams,” is a major manufacturer of rechargeable batteries, and is based in Shenzhen, China.

The bus uses on-board iron-phosphate batteries that permit about 250 kilometres of travel between recharges, making it possible for a bus to operate continuously for a full day, on a typical urban transit route. According to manufacturer representatives who attended the demonstration, the bus can be fully charged using plug-in cables, in about five hours. The batteries are expected to retain 80 per cent of their charge after 12 years, so they don’t need to be replaced during the lifecycle of the bus. For passengers and for those living near transit routes, the buses are also quieter than standard diesel buses.

Both BC Transit and TransLink have been buying and operating low-emission buses to support the Provincial Transit Plan objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting air quality. These greener buses include diesel-electric hybrid, compressed natural gas, and hydrogen fuel cell buses. Battery electric buses, like the one showcased in Victoria, will be studied as a possible future addition to the increasingly green transit fleet in the province.

Transit Branch staff work with BC Transit and TransLink to develop initiatives, programs and policies that will encourage B.C. residents to make greater use of clean transit service.

BikeMe Hits the Pavement for Bike to Work Week
Submitted by Jessica Ling, Policy Analyst

From May 26 to 30, commuters oiled up their bikes and strapped on their helmets to show their enthusiasm for commuter cycling. Here at HQ, a contingent of veteran cyclists, along with a few novices, filled the streets with their bicycles for Bike to Work Week.

Prior to Bike to Work Week, Deputy Minister Grant Main, Reg Faubert (Policy Branch) and Ian Pilkington (Rehabilitation and Maintenance) stepped up to be the ministry’s representatives in Victoria’s annual Commuter Challenge, May 21. Though this event is designed for two competitors (one on a bicycle and one in a vehicle) to see who can reach the finish line first while following the rules of the road, our ministry added a third competitor, on a motorcycle. With Grant on his trusty two-wheeler, Reg in his gas-guzzling sport utility vehicle and Ian on his high-octane motorcycle, they travelled from Oak Bay to downtown Victoria.

Some of the BikeMe group: (back row) Jason Wood, Hiwot Nigussie, Avi Ickovich, Mike Boissonneault, Grant Main and Alex Ritchie; and (front row) Marni Fedoruk, Leeanne Jones (in vintage 2010 Bike to Work t-shirt), Fraser Bell, Heather Weir and Jessica Ling.
CVSE Monitors Massive Energy Module Test Move
Submitted by John Van Damme, Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Supervisor

It’s 12:01 a.m. on May 26, and I’m in Prince Rupert, and it looks like we will be blessed by torrential rain.

My job tonight is to monitor a simulated extraordinary load, being transported from Prince Rupert to the Alberta border, via Highway 16. Area Manager Nathan Voogd, CVSE Mechanical Engineer Christopher Rabbit from Victoria, and I, will monitor the load as it travels through the Skeena District. Chris will continue with the journey all the way to Alberta, with assistance from Fort George District Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer Nick Leatham. The move will take place over five days, from May 26 to May 30, between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Our work closely aligns with the ministry’s Pacific Gateway focus of supporting transportation and its key role in economic growth and development. The intent is to prove that huge energy modules, of oversize dimensions, can be transported safely along the entire Highway 16 route. Energy modules are taken to remote locations, where they are assembled into energy plants for industrial use. They are pre-assembled with liquid natural gas, natural gas liquid or gas to liquid elements, and come equipped with piping and electrical elements, that can be easily connected on site.

Before the move, CVSE reviewed all aspects with Mullen Trucking and its consultant McElhanney Consulting Services, including traffic safety, load dynamics, geotechnical, bridge analysis, monitoring compliance with permit conditions, and communication with affected communities along the route. Mullen Trucking, a large heavy haul company from Alberta which specializes in the oil and gas sector, transported the simulated energy module load.

The load dimensions were 4.88 metres high, 4.57 metres wide and 59 metres long. Legal height is 4.15 metres and legal width is 2.6 metres. (Overall legal lengths vary with the type of truck and trailer combination). Trucks loaded with the actual energy modules will be 115,300 kilograms – well over the legal load limit of 63,500 kilograms. Oversize and overweight permits are required whenever the legal weight and dimension of a load exceeds Commercial Transport Regulations. Special extraordinary load permits were issued for the simulated load test.

There were no incidents during the five-day trip from Prince Rupert to the Alberta border, despite the dark and rainy start. It’s anticipated that several thousand modules could be moving along the route to northeastern B.C., or Alberta, in the near future. ♦

Crossing the Sande Overpass, in Terrace.

BikeMe Hits the Pavement for Bike to Work Week
… Continued from Page 10

Cyclist Grant Main, motorcyclist Ian Pilkington and SUV driver Reg Faubert at the end of the Commuter Challenge

Who arrived first? Though a close competition, Grant reigned victorious, proving that people-powered two wheelers can reign supreme. Reg Faubert came in a close second, just steps behind the winner. Ian parked his motorcycle in the parkade before joining the others at the finish line, and therefore came in last.

During Bike to Work Week, about 50 headquarters staff signed up and joined the ministry’s BikeMe team. To make sure cyclists were not dry and parched, on May 27, Deputy Minister Grant Main, Transportation Policy and Programs A/Assistant Deputy Ministry Greg Gilks, and Infrastructure Assistant Deputy Ministry Kevin Richter handed out bottles of water to all the cyclists. A big thank you for taking the time to hydrate cyclists for their commutes!

Thanks also go to Beverly van Druten-Blais (Engineering) for using her artistic talents to capture a photo of some of the BikeMe team members.

While the late spring days of May saw some overcast skies and even left some precipitation for the cyclists, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the BikeMe members who rode more than 2,400 kilometres during the week. Although made up primarily of veteran cyclists, there were a few novice riders who joined the team. A special mention goes out to Jason Wood and Mike Boissonneault (both of the Construction and Maintenance Branch) for their commutes of more than 150 kilometres (each) during the week.

Congratulations to all the cyclists – your health, pocket book and the environment thank you. ♦
EAF as a Learning Opportunity? You Bet!
Submitted by Tracy Houser, Strategic Human Resources Assistant Director

Have you ever considered getting involved in a committee like the EAF? While many of us have good intentions, the time factor seems to be tricky. We think we want to get involved; we tell ourselves (and others) that we really want to contribute, but we just don’t have the time.

What will you gain?
What if you considered another perspective? We went to the Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) members and asked them not what they were contributing, but "What are you gaining?"
Here’s what they came up with:

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<th>Leadership Skills</th>
<th>Project Management Skills</th>
<th>Communication Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>Organization and time management skills</td>
<td>Project identification</td>
<td>Researching, interviewing, writing, editing and presentation skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developed new initiatives to enhance our workplace</td>
<td>Project planning</td>
<td>Developed brainstorming techniques</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used creative problem solving skills</td>
<td>Project development</td>
<td>Enhanced ability to receive feedback</td>
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<td>Enhanced relationship building skills</td>
<td>Project implementation</td>
<td>Increased confidence and improved public speaking</td>
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<td>Stakeholder consultation and feedback</td>
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<td>Communication planning</td>
<td>Expanded effective use of technology (i.e. Live Meeting; SharePoint)</td>
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<td>Photography, videography</td>
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Still not convinced?
Two outgoing EAF members recently sent emails (unsolicited) to say…

“It has been a really great experience being a member of the EAF and I wouldn’t trade it for the world. I learned so many things and stepped out of my comfort zone more times than I can count. I met a lot of great people and am proud to say that I am a member of the Employee Advisory Forum!”

– Leanne Helkenberg
District Development Technician

David Retzer – Project Information Officer
Submitted by Ernie Krause, EAF Member

David Retzer grew up in Saskatchewan, before moving to Kelowna where he graduated from high school. He then furthered his education at UBC. After completing his first year in mechanical engineering, he quickly realized that his interests were geared toward science and math.

While completing his bachelors of science, David learned that there were benefits to working for the B.C. provincial government. Those included B.C. student loan forgiveness through the Pacific Leaders Program, so he started researching job opportunities within his field of expertise. After reviewing the government job postings, David came to the conclusion that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure was where he wanted to be.

With David’s strong work ethic and incredible willingness to succeed, he filled the position of project information officer in Kamloops, in 2008. He finds the position, of which there are relatively few in the province, to be interesting, challenging and desirable.

David’s work includes project development, business case preparation, and photo and video documentation of projects. He says he feels a lot satisfaction that his ability to evaluate options and determine the best course of action, is benefitting the province.

Being a team player is very important to David, so he works closely with colleagues and networks within the ministry. What he finds most rewarding though, is seeing a project that he was involved with in the development stage, come to fruition.

Four things that David thinks would be beneficial to anyone looking to pursue a project information officer career are knowledge of business case development, attention to detail, office software skills and being open to new learning opportunities.

Work/life balance is something David says he can manage, since his position allows him some flexibility. His modified work week provides some long weekends, giving him time to enjoy such activities as road trips, cooking, running, biking and cross-country skiing.
Heidi Postnikoff is a road area manager in Fort St. John working for the Peace District. Her job involves working closely with the maintenance contractor and ministry staff to coordinate and implement the delivery of highway and infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation. Her work is always changing and she never knows what the day will bring – be it monitoring in the field, conducting an audit on the quality of highway services delivered by the contractor, meeting with stakeholders, responding to a weather event or motor vehicle incident… the list goes on.

Heidi’s favourite part of her job is that it keeps her on her toes. Critical thinking and decision making is key and she genuinely enjoys communicating with stakeholders and engaging with the public. A bonus is the amount of time she spends in the field and the overall autonomy of the position – not to mention the opportunity for province wide travel when assisting with regional audits.

Heidi has an undergraduate degree in environmental studies and geography from the University of Victoria and a graduate degree in urban and regional planning from Queen’s University. Following her completion of grad school and a stint of overseas travel, she worked as a consultant for a community planning project in the West Kootenay. With her background in planning, Heidi has a keen interest in project management and the delivery of highway and maintenance requirements – a good starting point being the BCIT area manager courses. In addition, she says it important to be a good listener and to enjoy problem solving and working with people. Since the position requires a lot of time in the field, it’s important to enjoy the great outdoors and to feel comfortable working alone in these situations.

Heidi’s favorite words of inspiration are, “Take a chance and frequently be challenged – nothing is out of reach!”

In her non-work time, Heidi enjoys taking part in many outdoor activities including hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, fishing, swimming and camping. She enjoys local and overseas travel and especially road trips on B.C.’s scenic highways. In her less-active time, she enjoys photography, cooking, reading and yoga.

Note: Early in May, and nearly to the day of her two year anniversary with the ministry, Heidi welcomed the opportunity to learn a new set of work skills and is living her life motto of taking chances and continually being challenged. She continues to play outdoors and is loving exploring the eastern side of her hometown mountains in the Kootenays. •

Heidi Postnikoff is comfortable working alone in the outdoors.

EAF as a Learning Opportunity? You Bet!… Continued from Page 12

Heidi Postnikoff – Area Manager
Submitted by Warren Lemky, EAF Member

“I wanted to thank you and the rest of the EAF for giving me the opportunity to participate. I found it very informative and interesting. To be honest, I didn’t even know what the EAF did before I volunteered to fill the position of EAF representative in my area. I think it was a great experience and every time I hear ‘EAF,’ it will remind me to look outside of my cubicle and take notice of how diversified this ministry is and how many great people we have.”

– Ernie Krause
Sr. Area Vehicle Inspector

EAF broadened his understanding of the ministry.

What’s in it for you?
• Making a difference in your work environment and across the ministry;
• Expanding your personal network within the ministry;
• Developing leadership and public speaking skills in a safe and supportive environment;
• Hearing first-hand from the Executive about ministry priorities and challenges.

What’s involved?
• Two-year term (including regular EAF meetings)

Want to get involved?
Would you like to be consulted on programs that shape our ministry? Would you like to get involved? How about meeting colleagues from across the province? Why not consider joining the EAF as the representative for your business unit?

What is the EAF?
The EAF is a team of people from across our ministry who want to make this the best place to work. Do you have an idea for a great project that would make a positive difference? Join the EAF and find out how you can turn that idea into a reality!

What’s involved?
• Communication with your business unit and colleagues about EAF activities
• Getting input from employees
• Working on mini-projects
• Promote engagement and demonstrate leadership throughout the ministry

How do I express interest?
Go to the EAF website and check it out. Contact Nick Nixon at (250) 812-4596 or Nicholas.nixon@gov.bc.ca to see if there is a vacancy in your area. •

EAF – Employee Advisory Forum

Inspector Ernie Krause’s time on the EAF broadened his understanding of the ministry.
Susan Cringle – Expropriation Litigation Administrator
Submitted by Karina Kersten, EAF Member

Susan started working at our ministry in the Engineering Branch, in 2010. The Business Management Services Branch was her next stop. Before she became a public servant, Susan was an office manager for veterinary services.

Now she has found her passion in the Properties and Land Management Branch where she is the expropriation litigation administrator. When asked what she does on a daily basis, Susan responded, “I assist in compiling expropriation documents for Deputy Minister sign-off. I provide the Attorney General’s office with documentation when there is litigation. And I maintain an accrual tracking system to manage costs and liabilities.”

Susan believes that her current position fits perfectly with the career path she expected. Why? Because she loves the work and loves the education she receives every day just coming to work. The diversity in her job and being part of her belt – the last two within one month! Friday evenings are sacred to her, for her night out at the pub. She is a fun-loving person with a brilliant mind. Susan’s favourite work-related expression: “There is nothing without the land!”

What does professional development look like for Susan? The annual expropriation conference and the expropriation courses she took have been helpful in enhancing her career. In her current role, she has found job shadowing and mentoring to be key to success. Her recently-retired supervisor Deborah Miller was an excellent mentor, and her colleagues are a daily help. Other important professional development tools have included various Learning Centre courses, networking and volunteering. Susan steps up a lot within the ministry – participating in the Employee Advisory Forum, helping out with Provincial Employee Community Services Fund activities and serving as a building quadrant warden.

Building relationships and doing research, and being detail orientated and able to network, are skills that are highly useful in Susan’s job. Check out the Land Management Branch website to read more about what branch employees do.

Susan was born and raised in England and now lives in Victoria with her husband, two sons, and dog Emma. In her spare time, Susan has turned into an avid runner with four half marathons under her belt – the last two within one month! Friday evenings are sacred to her, for her night out at the pub. She is a fun-loving person with a brilliant English accent who is always willing to help.

Tyler Thompson’s interest in structural engineering is linked to his fascination with earthquakes.

Tyler Thompson joined the Technician Entry Level Program in 2007, with Field Services Grading in the Lower Mainland.

He spent many of his days doing preliminary work for the Port Mann/Highway 1 and South Fraser Perimeter Road projects, before they were put to tender. Some of this included right of way staking, construction layout, topographic surveys, geotechnical assessments for sand stockpile areas, and drainage and culvert investigations.

From there, Tyler worked in Quesnel and Williams Lake on various major works construction projects, before returning to BCIT in 2009 to complete his Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering under the Pacific Leaders Scholarship Program.

Upon returning to the ministry in 2011, Tyler joined the Engineer-In-Training Program in Kamloops, as a bridge designer. Being able to see the outcome of his work and have the ability to “drive over it” was a rewarding part of that job.

In 2012, Tyler moved to the Bridge Seismic and Structural Health Monitoring Group of the HQ Engineering Branch, as part of his Engineer-In-Training rotation. His interest in structural engineering grew from his fascination with earthquakes. As a resident of the Pacific Northwest and being located within the “ring of fire,” Tyler wanted to gain experience in the seismic side of bridge engineering.

In February 2014, Tyler achieved his professional engineering designation (P. Eng.) and is currently working as the bridge seismic rehab engineer in HQ. He has future hopes of pursuing a masters degree in engineering.

When he is not in the office or underneath a bridge, Tyler volunteers as vice-chair of the Structural Engineers Association of British Columbia (Vancouver Island Branch). He is also an avid volleyball and soccer player and helps coach an adult women’s soccer team in his spare time. He is the founder of the ministry’s Road Builders soccer team in Victoria, a summer coed and recreational team which plays in the BC Government Employees Coed Soccer Society. If he is not on the pitch, you can find him running on the waterfront path alongside Victoria’s Dallas Road, hiking the Vancouver Island mountains or hitting the slopes snowboarding.

Tyler’s favourite work-related expression or words of inspiration: “Seek first to understand, then seek to be understood.”

RoadRunner
August 2014
Warren Lemky – Regional Geotech Engineer
Submitted by Heidi Postnikoff, EAF Member

Warren Lemky is a regional geotechnical engineer in Prince George. He chose this position because of his previous work experience in consulting, and it fit his desire to achieve a favourable work/life balance with his young family. Warren enjoys his day-to-day interactions with multiple engineering design groups, as well as his ability to do in-house design.

Prior to this position, Warren spent 10 years working as an engineer for nine private consulting firms. His work with the ministry aligns with what he studied in school and coincides with his desired career path. The three most important steps that Warren has taken to help his career are: taking the co-op program in university, gaining consulting experience, and recognizing and honouring his desire for work/life balance.

Warren's interest in geotechnical engineering stems from his ability to do a variety of roles and pursue many opportunities. His formal education, as well as informal courses throughout his career, have been instrumental to his success. When Warren's children get a bit older, he may pursue an MBA.

He recommends that people who are interested in being a regional geotechnical engineer pursue multiple design opportunities, network, set goals and learn from others. Warren has mentored ministry colleagues in the Technical Entry Level Program, as well as other peers. His words of advice are: “Always try to do it yourself. Use your skills and learn what you don’t already know.”

Warren is married with two young daughters. He enjoys snowshoeing, soccer, horseback riding and skiing. Before his daddy days, Warren was also a traveller, backpacking in Germany and most of Italy, and camping in a lot of the western U.S. ♦

South Fraser Perimeter Road Big on the Environment
Submitted by Lori Leach, Environmental Coordinator

Even if you don’t live in the Lower Mainland, you’ve likely heard of the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) – a recently completed expressway that travels along the Fraser River’s south side, from Deltaport Way in Delta, to 176 Street in Surrey. What you may not know is that more than $50 million was spent on environmental enhancements, as part of the project. Here are some of our successes.

Burns Bog Hydrology Enhancement
The project team made extensive consultation, design and engineering efforts to mitigate potential impacts of the SFPR on Burns Bog. Key components included design and construction of protective berms, and installation of water-control gates and one-way culverts. These structures keep acidic “bog water” within the bog, while reducing the amount of mineralized river and runoff water that goes into the bog. This maintains the bog’s water balance and encourages preservation of the bog ecosystem.

This enhancement work led to a greatly improved understanding of bog water management, and provided long-term protection for Burns Bog from adjacent development. The “non-bog” water draining into Burns Bog has been reduced by 90 per cent.

Fisheries and Wildlife Enhancement
Significant effort was undertaken in the design and construction of the SFPR, to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat. More than 50 fisheries and wildlife sites were designed and constructed within and nearby the SFPR corridor. There are enhanced or newly-created habitat areas for resident fish, passable culverts and rearing ponds for salmon, amphibian breeding ponds and refuge areas, waterfowl nesting areas and forage habitat, nest boxes and tree cavities for perching birds, bat boxes and newly planted native vegetation. Monitoring indicates the sites are highly functioning fish and wildlife habitats.

Wildlife Crossings Keep Creatures Moving Safely
More than 80 fish and wildlife crossings have been installed below the 40-kilometre SFPR corridor, to help keep animals off the road and safe from passing vehicles.

The animal crossing locations were selected based on studies at the early stages of project design. The studies showed how creatures within the area were using the corridor, and where connections between viable habitats could be maintained or created.

Since the SFPR opened fully to traffic in December 2013, motion-sensors, time-lapse cameras and “track pads” have been installed to record the number and types of animals crossing the road.

More on Page 16...
The Passenger Transportation Branch at Work
Submitted by Kristin Vanderkuip, Registrar and Director Passenger Transportation

The Passenger Transportation Branch (PT Branch) mandate is to efficiently regulate B.C.'s commercial passenger transportation industry (taxis, limousines and buses) by providing informative and timely assistance to licencees and the general public. We accomplish this with 14 employees, in three business units:

**Licensing and Client Services Team** – James Copeland, Marilou Galang, Donna Harinen and Karen Levesque. If you want a passenger transportation licence, this is where it all starts. They take in all applications and forward special authorization applications (from taxis, limousines, small shuttles and inter-city buses) to the Passenger Transportation Board (PT Board). The PT Branch handles applications from large tour, charter or sight-seeing buses.

The licensing team’s responsibilities include issuing new and amended licences, and associated passenger transportation plates and decals. The team administers more than 1,000 annual licence renewals for all licencees, and responds to a myriad of public and client information requests by phone, email and at our front counter. Employees also collect licensing fees and payments of administrative penalties issued by the Registrar of Passenger Transportation. This team expertly handles a high volume of work with frequent interruptions, in a fast-paced environment.

**Registration Officers Team** – Tammy Coleman, Deb Connors and Anne Ng. The registration officers examine and assess all applications, for completeness and compliance with the Passenger Transportation Act and Regulation. They recommend to the registrar whether an application requires approval by the PT Board, the registrar or both (we call that a hybrid). The team also contacts applicants to identify and resolve deficiencies with applications. It verifies and substantiates client applications with various Canadian and U.S. federal agencies, to ensure they are in compliance with the operating authorities and/or safety certificates in their base jurisdictions. Licencees are informed of ongoing changes, including revised application forms and packages, new procedures and industry notices relating to emerging issues in the passenger transportation world.

**Compliance and Enforcement Team** – Dave Birchmore, Margaret Lovell and Louise Swan. The passenger transportation inspectors investigate complaints received from the general public and licencees. This includes complaints received by Consumer Protection BC, as part of the administration of the Taxi Bill of Rights initiative, to address alleged illegal or unsatisfactory practices by commercial passenger companies. They conduct enforcement and compliance initiatives involving both licenced and unlicenced carriers, and perform audits of licenced carriers. Inspectors collect and record evidence by interviewing licencees and drivers, and from a variety of other sources including the general public, other licencees or police. Inspectors prepare reports outlining investigations, and recommendations to the Registrar of Passenger Transportation as to administrative fines and/or other types of sanctions to be imposed on licencees, or violation tickets to be issued to non-licencees. Inspectors also testify in legal court proceedings as expert witnesses for violation tickets issued by Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement inspectors.

More on Page 18…
Leadership Team – Sue Sun, Doris Sundquist and Kristin Vanderkuip. Sue Sun leads the licensing team and handles the branch’s financial and technical systems. Doris Sundquist is the deputy registrar and leader of the registration officers team, and is the branch’s resident encyclopedia and historian. As the registrar of passenger transportation and branch director, Kristin Vanderkuip is responsible for the licensing and enforcement activities of the branch, including the approval of all general authority licences.

The PT Branch provides support to the PT Board on a number of policy issues and works with that board on such initiatives as the Taxi Identification Code; rates and rules for limousines in Vancouver, Victoria and surrounding areas; Voluntary Taxi Bill of Rights; and taxi camera equipment documentation. We also liaise and consult with stakeholders on various initiatives and engage with them in ongoing discussions to clarify or explore issues.

The PT Branch receives continuous support from Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement inspectors to ensure passenger transportation licensees are compliant with commercial vehicle legislation, through programs such as mobile inspections and National Safety Code.

Over the last 10 years, the PT Branch and PT Board have accomplished a lot, and we are sure the next decade will be equally dynamic in the ever-changing world of passenger transportation.

Happily, we have great teams that are up for a challenge whatever it may be.

CVSE Teams Up with Transport Companies for Road Safety Day
Submitted by Ron McCormack, Carrier Safety Inspector

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) teamed up with two transport companies to introduce the public to some of our inspectors and the vehicles we check, at Chilliwack’s annual Road Safety Day, June 14.

The CVSE display was an opportunity for the public to get acquainted with enforcement officers and the heavy vehicles and machinery that travel through this area. People could see all the features on a truck and the officers (Leo Belanger, Leighton Warner, Larry Ness and I) explained what we look for when inspecting these vehicles.

The big attraction to the CVSE display was due to G.Tutt Transport Inc. and Triton Transport Ltd. providing their equipment for this interactive display. G.Tutt Transport Inc. from Chilliwack provided a 1996 Peterbilt working show truck with super B-train hard body grain hauling trailers. Triton Transport Ltd. from Langley provided a Kenworth and lowbed combination hauling a 988K Caterpillar. Both companies allowed visitors to climb inside their vehicles to see the driver’s perspective, including where the driver sits and sleeps.

Crowd favorites were ICBC’s rollover simulator, RCMP motorcycles and police cars, Chilliwack Fire Department’s crushed vehicle demo and fire truck tours. The police, fire department, ICBC, CN Rail, MADD, WorkSafeBC, Speed Watch, Kal-Tire, Star FM and Wally’s Towing also had booths and live displays. Thanks to the City of Chilliwack, and especially city employee Samantha Piper, for organizing this event!

The Passenger Transportation Branch at Work
… Continued from Page 17

CVSE and Triton Transport staff getting set up with two large vehicle combinations, for Road Safety Day at the Cottonwood Mall parking lot.

CVSE and Triton Transport staff getting set up with two large vehicle combinations, for Road Safety Day at the Cottonwood Mall parking lot.
Coaching Corner: Wendy Grant Gains Insight
Interviewed by Tracy Houser, Strategic Human Resources Assistant Director

What impact has coaching had in your professional life? What was your situation before coaching, and now after coaching?

I decided to try out the coaching services offered by the BC Public Service Agency because my job is changing and I was feeling unsure of the future. I wanted to build my self-confidence. I wanted to learn how to define my skills and be comfortable talking with others about what I offer.

Working with a coach allowed me to find a focus. I chose some specific things to work on. What I like about working with a coach is that I have an accountability partner – someone who helps to keep me on track.

What do you see as the primary benefit of coaching?

It is a great experience to sit down and write out ideas to focus on. I learned that it is okay to ask for help. I also now know there are a lot of resources available to support me.

How can coaching enhance a culture of development?

Coaching helped me to discover that it is okay to ask for training. Once I knew I could ask, the next question was, “What can I ask for?” Coaching has encouraged me to reflect on my skills and strengths as well as my interests and passion. I can develop – there are lots of opportunities for growth and support – I simply need to take the time to chart my path.

How can coaching assist in meeting business goals?

I believe that coaching can help to get the right people in the right jobs, for new ways of doing business. Coaching allows you to focus on the things that are within your control, to create a vision, make decisions and take action. Coaching holds people accountable. It helps you to identify the barriers and then find ways to overcome them – to move forward despite the obstacles.

What would you say to someone who is a bit uncertain whether working with a coach is for them?

Working with a coach can help you focus on the things that you feel are important. A coach can help you realize there are opportunities available. It is great to have someone who encourages you for the skills you have, who acknowledges your abilities and offers you some insight about your qualities. When a coaching conversation has been particularly impactful, I leave with a feeling of limitlessness. I have faith that I am on the right track.

Click here to request Performance Coaching Services on MyHR.

Wendy Grant says coaching has focused her on her skills, interests and passion.

Want to Share Your Coaching Experience? Coaching is a confidential service, but others could benefit from reading your coaching success story in the Road Runner or on TRANnet News.

If you have used coaching services and are willing to share your experiences, please contact Tracy Houser by email or at (250) 356-3098.

Upcoming Coaching Summit Offers Inspiration
Submitted by Sheena Marshall and Kathy Fahey, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, and members of the BC Public Servants’ Coaching Summit Planning Team

Most of us have a fond memory of working with a coach at one time in our life – someone who supported us in pursuit of our goals – whether that was mastering a slapshot, running the bases or learning the backstroke. Or maybe it was someone who helped us achieve our goal of writing a sonata or giving an engaging speech.

As B.C. public servants, we have access to excellent coaches through the BC Public Service Agency, to help us achieve our goals. The Learning Centre offers courses to master the art of coaching and incorporate it into our daily lives.

Now there is an opportunity to take a deeper dive into the world of coaching. The B.C. Public Servants’ Coaching Summit is a free one-day, life-changing event, hosted by a group of public servants and partners who are passionate about the value coaching brings to individuals and organizations. It will be held on Oct. 29, at 1515 Blanshard Street, in Victoria, as well as across the province through virtual options.

The summit is open to all public servants, whether you want to find out how coaching can help you in your career; or you are a team leader or supervisor who takes (or wants to increasingly take) a coaching approach with employees. You might be:

- **Curious about Coaching** (new to coaching or in early stages of exploring the possibilities)
- **An Early Adopter** (leader who wants to take your coaching approach to the next level)
- **An Influencer** (thought-leader and edge-walker who is exploring the value of creating a coaching culture); or a
- **A Culture Motivator** (professional coach who hosts conversations that inspire and shift results)

Attendees will learn how coaching can empower them to achieve their goals, and have an opportunity to connect with other people who see the value of coaching in life and the workplace. You’ll want to join the coaching revolution – there is something for everyone!

Watch for future communications about presenters and keynote speakers. So far, organizers have received interest from some amazing presenters from Turkey, Australia, the U.S. defence department, and accomplished book writers and culture shifters. Does that excite you or what?

For more information, contact Strategic Human Resources Assistant Director Tracy.Houser@gov.bc.ca.
Professional Development – What’s in it For Me?
Submitted by Tracy Houser, Strategic Human Resources Assistant Director

Why do people take the time to learn new things? When you are smokin’ busy it can seem daunting to spend time figuring out how you want to develop. And if you are unsure of what professional development you want, let alone know where to get it... why bother? You’re mid-career or nearing the end of your public service employment, so what’s in it for you?

Some online sleuthing pointed me to a summary from Plymouth University: “Professional development can be part of an individual’s personal ambition to be a better practitioner, enhance his/her career prospects or to simply feel more confident about their work and make it more personally fulfilling. It can be a step on the ladder to higher qualifications or enhanced job prospects or be required by professional bodies to maintain professional status... or an opportunity for individuals to change their career paths.”

Here’s what some ministry employees said:

“Professional development for me is about career advancement, broadening your scope of knowledge or interest, getting to know something different. For example, if you know the Lean business improvement process, then you may have a better way to approach projects.”

Jean Bishop, Business Analyst, Information Management Branch

“Professional development needs to be forward looking and future focused. The Leans I have taken in the past have always been about continuous improvement. At the time of taking each course, I was looking to make improvements to processes in some aspect of my job. As new technology, tools and processes are introduced, reinventing and retooling is important. It is always a good idea to take a step back and look at the overall picture and not focus on just the small details or the one-time solution.”

Michelle Evans, Manager Rehabilitation and Maintenance, Southern Interior Region

“I like to be challenged. I get bored easily. Professional development is everywhere. It is amazing what happens when you say ‘Yes, I can.’ I got involved in the EAF and with the Provincial Employees Community Service Fund. I’ve done temporary assignments, job shadowing in a district and entered into mentor relationships which led to quality assurance and area manager training. I have also attended conferences, taken BC Public Service Agency courses and helped to create a provincial drainage committee all because I have said, ‘Yes, I will do it,’ or gone out on my own and asked if I could do it. Professional development is all about perspective. Every opportunity you have is an opportunity to learn something new, to expand your toolkit. It gives you something different. I like new challenges and learning new things because I’m a Curious George.”

Shelley Keddy, Manager Claims and Litigation Services

“A person at my level should have the base skills, and at this stage of my career it’s about refining things, not making wholesale change. For me, my professional development needs to focus on management skills and leadership development.”

Mike Lorimer, Regional Director, Southern Interior Region

Lifelong Learning
Whether you explore individual learning, group or team training, job-enhancing skills, training leading to qualification or credentials – it all results in growth. And in today’s environment where the only thing that is constant is change, we are required to learn almost daily.

How we learn and access information has changed. For example, our workplace online communicator tool has now become Lync, and checking with friends who have recently driven the highway has become DriveBC. And yet, there are still people who remember calculating things with a slide rule and when they used a hardcover encyclopedia instead of the Internet. When I asked one employee (with more than 38 years of experience) whether he remembered any old tools or ways of doing things, he fired back without hesitation, “Doing field surveys with a theodolite, chains and rods, and drafting with T-squares and triangles.”

It’s All About Perspective
We each have our own personal perspective on what professional development is and why we seek it. What I have concluded, is that those of us who engage in professional development share a common purpose of enhancing our ability to do our work.

As Wikipedia says, “At the heart of professional development is the individual’s interest in lifelong learning and increasing their own skills and knowledge.”
**CVSE Assesses LCV Training Route**

*Submitted by Samuel F. Lam, Senior Vehicle Engineer*

Steve Bauer, supervisor of the Nordel Vehicle Inspection Station, assisted me in assessing a training route for commercial drivers of long combination vehicles (LCVs), on May 30.

Damco, an international transport company that regularly shuttles goods between Deltaport and its distribution centre near River Road, was seeking approval on a training route for its employees learning to drive LCVs (which can be up to 41 metres long). I attended the test run, taking a video of a Damco LCV’s progress on Highways 17 and 99, and running through the 8th Avenue roundabout in South Surrey. There were no issues with offtracking (the distance between the path of the rear trailer and the path of the truck steering the load).

I love the fact that we have uncovered pieces of our history. But I fear for how easy it would be to lose these precious snapshots in time. The photos that were labelled can be archived and safely stored for future generations to use and enjoy. But those that are unlabelled may end up in limbo. The photograph below, in particular, has intrigued me.

Who are these men and why were so many gathered for this photo? Approximately what year would this have been? Where and what was the Douglas Building?

If you have any information about these photos, we in the Vernon office would love to hear it. Please email Desiree Lantenhammer.

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**The Mystery of our History in Photos**

*Submitted by Desiree Lantenhammer, Development Approvals Technician*

Who would have thought that a new filing system would lead to cool discoveries?

Recently the Vernon office got a shiny new filing cabinet. In the process of moving files over and trying to organize our little space, we uncovered boxes of old photos and slides that have been amusing, puzzling and exciting to look through.

We found many classic photos from when it was predominantly men working in the ministry.

There was not a woman to be found, except in the few token shots of them filing or answering telephones.

In between photos of primitive-looking maintenance equipment and lots of polyester, there were shots of guys sucking on cigarettes while sitting on a panel at the 1978 Region 2 Foremen’s Conference. I think part of the appeal of looking at these old photos, is seeing how far we have come as a society and as a ministry.

I love the fact that we have uncovered pieces of our history. But I fear for how easy it would be to lose these precious snapshots in time. The photos that were labelled can be archived and safely stored for future generations to use and enjoy. But those that are unlabelled may end up in limbo.

The photograph below, in particular, has intrigued me.

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*Driver Peter Russell, North Shore Driving School instructor Brian Blacklock, Damco General Manager of Transportation and Logistics Brian Hetherington and CVSE Inspection Station Supervisor Steve Bauer.*

*The foremen on the panel at this 1978 conference, doing as they did in those times, including smoking whenever the desire struck them.*

*Who could these gentlemen be? And what is being handed over? We think this grader was decorated for the Vernon Winter Carnival in February of 1967.*
Dress Like Mike Lorimer Day Boosts Starbucks Stocks
Submitted by Rick Blixrud, Southern Interior Region Deputy Director

We have all heard the classic business axiom, “Don’t dress for the job you are in, but dress for the position you want to be in.”

Look out, Mike Lorimer! It appears that more than 50 people in the Southern Interior Region and across the province may be after your regional director job!

They say “Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery,” but the sea of plaid shirts worn by employees on April 24, was actually a bit creepy. Throw in the casual pants, slip on footwear and black Clark Kent eyewear, and it was a multiple doppelganger nightmare!

Mike Lorimer’s common accessory of a cup of Starbucks coffee, was everywhere. His influence as a fashion icon was astounding, as Starbucks stocks rocketed due to soaring sales across Western Canada.

The Dress Like Mike movement originated with Regional Management Administrator Debbie Koehl and Regional Administrative Clerk Janet Billey, who got the idea from Janet’s theme-party loving daughters. During the planning stages, Janet was off on a volunteer trip to Cambodia, so Debbie did most of the “secret” email invitations to employees.

In addition to the regional and district employees in Kamloops, who mirrored Mike’s attire, folks in other offices also dressed like Mike and sent in their photos.

Danny Mountain District’s Darin Welch dressed like Mike.

Employees in the West Kootenay District joined the fashion movement.

Cariboo District Area Manager Michelle Schilling mastered “the Mike look.”

“Mini Mike” and West Kootenay District Manager Hugh Eberle conduct a financial transaction.

The Southern Interior Region employees joined together to dress like Mike Lorimer. The real Mike Lorimer is in the front row, fourth from right.

"Mini Mike" and West Kootenay District Manager Hugh Eberle conduct a financial transaction.
Submitted by Susan Paton, Division Operations Manager

The Financial Management Certificate Program is not just a training and development opportunity; it provides a career on-ramp to more challenging and rewarding professional opportunities.

Participants in the program are highly motivated and career-oriented public servants working in financial management roles. With that kind of high standard set right from the start, coupled with the challenge of meeting training standards from the provincial government and two professional accounting organizations, you can safely say that it is a program that requires dedication, commitment and strong time management skills.

In addition to performing their day jobs, four participants from the ministry took on the challenge of the Financial Management Certificate Program. To qualify for the certificate, candidates must complete nine courses (or their recognized equivalents) from the Certified Management Accountants Society or the Certified General Accountants Association program of professional studies, and seven government financial learning programs. The increased knowledge and skills gained by those who take the program, comes back to the public service in many ways, and benefits the ministry’s work across departments.

We are proud to announce that the four Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure program graduates for 2014 are:

- Susan Kwan, senior revenue analyst, Finance and Management Services Department (Victoria)
- Jasmine Leung, SFPR project manager (Coquitlam)
- Denzil Amor, financial analyst, Northern Region, Highways Department (Prince George)
- Carla Cerina, senior district clerk, Fort George District, Highways Department (Prince George)

Please join us in congratulating them!

Field Services Awards Safety Performance
Submitted by Alicia Kosolofski, Field Services Safety Advisor Assistant

In 2013, Field Services delivered 102 projects with an approximate value of $64,756,926. To deliver this number of projects, and to do it safely, requires good communication and a concerted effort in how we supervise our work, administer contracts and manage safety with our workers and hired contractors.

Each year, Field Services is proud to award crews and personnel who have gone that extra mile in demonstrating their commitment and dedication to completing their work safely. During the Field Services annual general meeting in April, we took the opportunity to present our annual awards, recognizing safety performance.

Crews and individuals were nominated by Field Services managers, co-workers or colleagues, for safety related initiatives in the course of their work. The nominations and supporting information were then reviewed by a panel, which consisted of the Field Services management team and safety personnel, to determine the winners.

The 2013 Field Services Safety Awards were presented by Director of Field Services Keith Callander, Occupational Risk and Safety Advisor for Field Services Tracy Wynnyk, and the recipient’s manager. This year’s deserving recipients were presented with a handy duffel bag imprinted with Field Service’s logo, and a certificate recognizing their accomplishments. So, without further ado, it is my pleasure to announce the following 2013 Field Services Safety award winners…

100% Toolbox Compliance Award – the winners not only proved that they met the compliance goal but that they were also committed to participating in safety related discussions and activities, which resulted in some great initiatives, which could be shared amongst Field Services personnel.

2013 Best Grading Crew – This award was presented to the Peter Dzugas Crew from Lac La Hache, managed by Kirk Bentley. The Dzugas crew continues to demonstrate their commitment, and consistency, through their timely, thorough and relevant monthly toolbox discussions.

2013 Best Paving Crew – 2013 was a tight race from the beginning to end which resulted in a twist! The outcome was a tie between the Bob Petho Crew and the Brad Rikley Crew. Both crews demonstrated consistency with their timely submissions, and active participation during the monthly Field Services Occupational Health and Safety meetings.

More on Page 23…
Field Services Awards Safety Performance

… Continued from Page 22

2013 Best Manager in Safety – This award is presented to the manager who achieves the highest toolbox compliance amongst all the Field Services crews. It was a great honour to present Brian Twiname with this award for an impressive seventh year in a row! Brian has made it a point to take the time with his crews to promote safety, and to have open conversations, which encourage his crews to create and maintain a safety culture in their daily work. This is reflected in their toolbox meeting discussions and safety submissions.

2013 Safety Leadership Award – This honour was presented to Nick Dhaliwal from Udo Sommer’s crew. Nick, managed by John McKenzie, was presented with this award for having demonstrated a proactive approach, and assisting a new contractor to understand ministry safety requirements. Nick continues to work with contractors to ensure all safety measures are in place, such as providing additional seasonal safety information that may affect the project.

Once again we would like to congratulate all the award winners for their efforts and dedication. Keep up the great work!

PSW Pizza Smiles

Do you associate Public Service Week with pizza? Apparently when the two coincide, there are smiles all around, as seen June 19, in HQ. The Highways Department put on a pizza lunch, and soon happy and hungry employees were digging into pepperoni, Hawaiian and all kinds of pizzas.

Left to right: Josh Rossiter, David Fisher, Jennifer Hardy, Meghan Saunders, Renee Mounteney, Fiona Zhou and Mark Janzen.

Norm Parkes partakes of a pepperoni slice.

Left to right: Josh Rossiter, David Fisher, Jennifer Hardy, Meghan Saunders, Renee Mounteney, Fiona Zhou and Mark Janzen.

Bill King and Sandra Toth Nacey with their pizza picks.

Bilal Bakht ready to launch into lunch.
Wardrobe Shocker Redux – Resolving to Work Together Like the Ants

Submitted by Kevin Volk, Transit Branch Director

Those of you who regularly read this newsletter might remember May 2013 Road Runner’s exclusive coverage of Greg Humphrey’s daring stand against office conformity and blue shirts, in the HQ Transit Branch.

Now, almost a year later to the day, another Monday morning’s calm was shattered by a wardrobe controversy, on June 2.

Greg, the branch’s senior manager of financial services, found himself in the middle of a more politically charged, yet just as colourful debacle. He was not alone this time, however. Opposing him in colour, yet steadfastly beside him in spirit, was Kevin Volk, transit director.

The issue? National Leafcutter Ant Day, of course.

No, don’t go doing a Google search for this day! Humphrey and Volk, with the hardened resolve that can only come from years of disappointment, only begrudgingly admit that there is no National Leafcutter Ant Day. Yet.

As any tropical traveller knows, the leafcutter ant lives in South and Central America, Mexico and parts of the southern United States. But more importantly, next to humans, leafcutter ants form the largest and most complex animal societies on earth. An underground nest can grow to more than 6,000 square feet and contain eight million ants. And just like the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, those ants sure know how to move people and goods (or in this case, ants and leaf chunks).

Greg and Kevin’s passion for these transportation and infrastructure masters is understandable. But on that Monday, for the first time, it crossed the line from dialogue to apparel…and from agreement to disagreement.

Greg, interim president of the “Society for the Establishment of National Leafcutter Ant Day,” was at work that day in June, and unveiled his society’s exclusive line of pink leafcutter ant ties. Unbeknownst to Greg and his supporters however, Volk’s “Leafcutter Ant Day Now or Never” group launched its flagship blue leafcutter ant ties.

Both ties retail for $400, with the proceeds going to each group’s full page ad in Leafcutter Ant Quarterly, to promote the need for National Leafcutter Ant Day.

But what did Greg and Kevin’s co-workers think of the competing tie colours, and the distraction and divided loyalties they caused?

“I can’t worry about this right now,” said Infrastructure’s Dave Stewart. “I’ve just moved to Vancouver from Victoria, and I still can’t get used to these tall buildings, big bridges and restaurants open past 8 p.m. And now you’re telling me there is a giant ant city under Mexico! I have to go.”

The Transit Branch’s Sheila Smith was more solution-focused, saying, “I don’t understand why people can’t wear both ties at the same time. Ants are creative. We should be too.”

But the last word belonged to Greg and Kevin. They announced to deafening cheers that their groups had agreed to join forces, and that their resolve to create a special day for the especially industrious and collaborative ant, remained unbowed.

“Leafcutter ants deserve the best. Leafcutter ants deserve two ties. And most importantly, leafcutter ants deserve a National Leafcutter Ant Day,” they proclaimed in their speech, followed up by a joint statement.

Stay tuned for the next wardrobe shocker in the Transit Branch – or for the announcement of National Leafcutter Ant Day – whichever comes first.

Leafcutter ant ties, in pink or blue. Which appeals most to you?
Two Employees Tackle Tough Mudder

Submitted by Tricia Klein, Area Development and Operations Technician; and Michael Braun, Senior District Development Technician

Tough Mudder returned to Whistler for the third time, June 21 and 22, and at least 25,000 people were expected to attend, with some 20,000 of them being participants.

Two of the Lower Mainland District’s own participated for the first time this year: Senior Development Approvals Technician Michael Braun, and Area Development and Operations Technician Tricia Klein. This was Michael’s first experience at an obstacle course race, while Tricia is a seasoned veteran who has been competing in these kinds of races for three years. Tough Mudder was her third obstacle course race of the year, and as of late June, Tricia had only 10 more to go until October.

What did the Tough Mudder demand of Michael and Tricia?

There were 20.3 kilometres of trail running, hiking and steep climbs, broken up by about 20 obstacles! This race challenges you mentally and physically, and is meant to push your fears to the limits. There are obstacles like “Arctic enema” that has you fully submerge in a giant pool filled with ice, “Walk the Plank” where you jump from a 12-foot high platform into a pool below or “Funky Monkey” which tests out your skills on the monkey bars.

Oh… and there’s mud, lots of mud! (Never forget the mud!)

Tricia’s View:

I started running obstacle course races three summers ago and fell in love. I got pregnant mid-season 2012 and had to slow down a bit, but this year I have come back with a vengeance and am proud to be part of a Canadian Women’s National Team, called the “Canadian Mudd Queens.” I signed up for Tough Mudder because of the team component, and it was the first race I ran with my boyfriend.

I’ve run events managed by five different companies now, and Tough Mudder was my first event that encouraged working together. Tough Mudder lives up to its daunting name.

It is very well organized and an absolute blast. The volunteers are amazing – full of energy and hugely supportive, and the camaraderie I saw out on the course was inspiring. In Tough Mudder, no one is left behind!

Would I do this again? Heck ya! I’m thinking of doing another Tough Mudder this year in Drumheller, as I’ll already be in Alberta for a Spartan race the same weekend. Why not make it back-to-back races?

Michael’s View:

Back in February, a friend of mine asked me if I wanted to join her and her team for the Tough Mudder. She had assured me that when she had done it the previous year that she had a ton of fun and that one didn’t necessarily need to be in tip top shape (Not sure if this was meant as encouragement or an insult). Anyway, I had a vague notion of the Tough Mudder; it involved some obstacles, some mud and an icy cold beverage reward at the end of the race. Sure! Count me in!

As event day approached, I was informed by my esteemed colleague and obstacle course maven, Tricia Klein, that the Tough Mudder involved about 20 kilometres of running (What!?) and obstacles such as jumping into a dumpster filled with icy cold water (Come again?) and running through a field of live electrical wires (Is that even legal?). So, I dusted off the old (and I mean old!) running shoes and began my training regimen.

On event day, it was beautiful at the Olympic Park at Callahan Valley, near Whistler. After registering, standing around, a few butterflies in the stomachs, and some random dude shouting “Hoorah!” at us, we were off. All the running was a bit of a shock to my system, but the obstacles were fun, challenging (both mentally and physically) and wet and/or muddy. I would say the toughest part was that after going about 16 kilometres, we were to hike alongside the Olympic ski-jump right up to the top. But then after all is said and done and you’ve run with your team mates through the “electric shock therapy,” you get your reward (i.e. aforementioned beverage).

One must ask oneself, “Was it worth it?” Yes! Yes it was!

Tricia Klein has earned a place on the Canadian Mudd Queens, the national women's obstacle course racing team.

Michael Braun, after discarding his shoes and washing himself down, once he’d finished the Tough Mudder.

Tricia Klein hangs on while navigating through the "Funky Monkey."
Ministry Friendship Leads to Wedding
Submitted by Loretta Carlson, Lower Mainland District Clerk

The Lower Mainland District sends wedding congratulations to District Program Manager Deborah Tan and Ian Muirhead, who met through the ministry.

Deborah recounts, “When I worked in the West Kootenay District as a development approvals technician from 2008 to 2009, Peter Muirhead was the provincial approving officer. He provided a great deal of mentorship and friendship. I had the privilege of being invited to Peter’s wedding some time later, and it was there that I met his son, Ian. And the rest, as they say, is history!”

The pair married on March 29, at Brix restaurant, in downtown Vancouver.

“We couldn’t have asked for a more perfect day,” says Deborah. “We were surrounded by all our loved ones and hardly felt the day’s pouring rain! It was an unforgettable celebration of dancing, tears and laughter.”

The Lower Mainland District staff had fun decorating Deborah’s office, and offer these warm wishes to Deborah and Ian:

May your dreams come true, with love and more
Happiness to share and the world to explore
Together forever as husband and wife.

Pam Castle – Northern Region Director’s Assistant
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Regional Manager Business Services

Pamela (Pam) Castle joined the Northern Region’s business services section on May 20, arriving with a wealth of knowledge from working in the private sector and government.

Yes, she had only a few days to be trained, and then her predecessor left on vacation for two weeks. As I wrote this article, I realized she had been with us a little over a month.

It’s my pleasure to announce that she is still with us and plans to stay!

In her role as the regional director’s assistant, Pam is a wonderful addition to our team, and the office as a whole. Being the team player she is, she has taken on managing the coffee fund and volunteered to be backup zone warden for the regional office.

Pam’s administrative career began with the B.C. Public Service, in 1993. Pam has worked in the Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Children and Families and Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations’ Consumer Taxation Branch, and most recently, for the Ministry of Environment.

Pam has a teenage daughter and enjoys the outdoors. She has lived in Prince George all her life. If you have not already done so, please make the time to welcome Pam into her new role and the ministry!

Pam Castle is the new assistant to Northern Regional Director Kirsten Pedersen.
District Cone Heads Steer Clear of Rain for Big Bike

Submitted by Loretta Carlson, District Clerk

The Heart and Stroke Foundation’s Big Bike fundraiser is geared toward community organizations, companies and groups, who form teams of up to 29 enthusiastic riders, to raise $50 or more for charity.

A driver for the big bike is supplied by the foundation, and riders pedal through their community in support of heart disease and stroke research. Last year, 65,000 riders in more than 200 communities helped to raise $8.4 million for research.

This year, due to our office move from New Westminster to Coquitlam, the location and route for the Lower Mainland District’s Big Bike ride was changed to the Coquitlam Town Centre parking lot area. On the day of our ride, the group was worried that they might not be able to participate, due to an extremely heavy downpour. However, the rain stopped just as ride time neared, and our group joined 19 other teams in the Coquitlam area who rode the Big Bike to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The 20 Coquitlam area teams raised a total of $50,276.40. This was an extraordinary amount, and something that all Lower Mainland District staff can be proud to have contributed to.

A special thank you goes out to the Highways Cone Head riders of 2014!

Best Wishes to Brian Atkins on His Retirement

Submitted by Maziar Kazemi, A/District Services Manager

On June 17, Lower Mainland District (LMD) employees had one last hurrah for District Manager Brian Atkins.

LMD staff across four service areas congregated on the rooftop of the Coquitlam office building for a barbecue, and shared stories that summed up Brian’s 35 years of service with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

On July 2, Brian’s final day working for the ministry, LMD staff addressed him as their district manager one last time.

Brian started his career with the ministry on June 25, 1979 (35 years ago) when he was hired on as a regional construction aide. He joined the LMD in 2005 as the operations manager for the North Shore, Howe Sound and Sunshine Coast areas. In 2006, Brian became the district manager and he began one of the most successful chapters of his public service.

The LMD wishes Brian the best of luck on this new part of in his life, and expect him to carry on being the great leader that he is wherever he may go.

Kellen Truant, Debra Derkson and a Big Bike volunteer aboard the Big Bike.

Brian Atkins is congratulated by Chilliwack Operations Manager Mike Kelly.

Brian cuts into his golf-themed cake.
On May 30, the Northern Region celebrated the retirement of long-time employee Hilda McNeill.

Hilda’s ministry career started back on Feb. 12, 1990, when the Northern Regional Finance Department required additional payroll/financial clerks, and Hilda McNeill and Loreen Weatherley were hired as auxiliaries. These were new positions and it was the age of typewriters and paper records and everything was processed manually – without the help of computers.

Their first assignment was to clean up and manually finish all of the data entry for the financial processes, as the fiscal year end was fast approaching, along with the launch of the new computerized financial system known as Financial Management Information System (FMIS) on April 1, 1990. FMIS rolled out with a few hitches and the women became experts at trouble shooting the system.

Hilda was one of the first financial clerks to start entering payments into the new system and she was diligent in ensuring our vendors and employees were helped accurately and in a timely manner. There were stacks and stacks of paper lined up along the wall about three feet high that the two had to work on every day, usually until 8 p.m., as the rush was on. Cathy Melenka says that she will never forget the look on both of their faces when Hilda and Loreen were shown the regional office, Hilda took over most of the duties, she carried over some financial duties.

Carbon Cheques and Razor Blades

All of the cheque requisitions that required typing were carbonized forms that could not have any errors/typos on them, so they used a lot of razor blades and erasers for corrections to avoid having to re-type the whole form again. Hilda worked extremely hard and steady for months at the daunting task of accomplishing her assignment and the two continued working long days into the summer.

The job was monumental and the Finance Department hired more people and became a team of 10 which included the contract folks. Fred Hughes was their manager, Liz Kennedy was their supervisor and Bill Henry was the contracts manager. Hilda was very organized and took detailed notes and was accurate in her finished work.

When the Field Services crews were assigned to the regional office, Hilda took over most of the trust account checking and submitting invoices for reimbursement. She also took over the petty cash account and the processing of payments for the regional bank account. Later on, the FMIS was replaced with the Corporate Accounting Services financial system, which is still used today. The Northern Region was the pilot for the new system and the financial team became experts at trouble shooting once again.

Human Resources Assistance

In August 1990, Hilda became a regular employee with the Regional Finance Department, where she worked for 12 years. She was formally recognized in 1999 for additional work in assisting her supervisor with human resources issues.

In 2002, Hilda started a new career with the regional administrative section and worked with our group for another 12 years. We were lucky to have her – the “A Team” (aka the Northern Region administrative team) will not be the same without her.

Hilda quickly became involved in human resources matters and was always updating the organizational charts, entering information into the Corporate Human Resource Information and Payroll System (aka CHIPS), assisting the management team with job competitions, and in addition to all her regular duties, she carried over some financial duties.

Hilda could be found organizing things, cleaning up and ordering office supplies if she wasn’t at her desk, head down, working away.

Cheerful, Courteous and Conscientious

In 2006, Hilda was again recognized for her assistance with the Transportation Forms project.

Hilda was always prompt, courteous, helpful, conscientious and professional with everyone. We will miss her cheerfulness, her smile, her dedication and hard work, and her care for her co-workers.

Hilda lived close by the office and she walked to and from work almost every day. She liked to keep active and fit. Hilda is moving into the next chapter of her life and is going to spend time enjoying the summer, working on her home, spending time in her garden, having a little wine, taking long walks, doing a little travelling, spending time with her family and friends and having lots of relaxation.

To honour Hilda, a gathering was arranged with her co-workers and friends at the China Sail Restaurant on May 29. There, Hilda was presented with a letter signed by the Deputy Minister and the infamous “iceberg” acrylic plaque, and was told the meritorious scroll was on its way. She also received several beautiful gifts from her friends and colleagues. The next afternoon, cake was shared and well wishes were extended to Hilda, as her fellow employees sent her off into retirement.

We’re looking for stories and photos for the November Road Runner

Please email them to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca
Maria Braden Recognized for Career Contributions across Ministry
Submitted by Linda-Lee Schell, Regional Administrative Clerk; and Nicole Folk, Corporate and Operational Services

On a typical cold and snowy February day in Prince George, the Northern Region said "So Long" to a very special person: Maria Braden. After 35 years of passionate, dedicated and veracious service to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Maria decided it was time for her to retire.

Maria was always one to recognize that the ministry will "go on" regardless of the employees that exit. However, many ministry employees recognize the wealth of knowledge and abilities that Maria contributed to the ministry, and will truly miss her.

Maria started her career on March 29, 1979, in the Dawson Creek Office as the hired equipment clerk. She moved up quickly in the district and became the voucher clerk and was then successful as a senior district clerk in 1984. In February 1985, Maria won the position of district finance and administrative officer. Her talents were proven in the district and around the province. In October 1993, she came to the Northern Region in Prince George, on a temporary secondment as the regional administration officer, and she never left.

Maria continued to advance her career in the regional office, and in March 1994, she won the position of manager, business systems and technology. Then in April 2003, she became the manager of financial and information management services. Maria’s final career move came in March 2010, when she became the regional manager of corporate and operational services, until her retirement.

Multiple Ministry Initiatives
Maria was extremely active with the ministry in her work, and was involved in several large initiatives. In July 1989, Maria was a business analyst for the implementation of the Financial Management Information System. In June 1991, she delivered workshops for business process re-engineering which led to the business unit and cost distribution policy. That same year, Maria was a member of the sub-committee that developed the expenditure management report, which is still used today. She also contributed to the development of procurement competencies and curriculum, which were used to design the corporate procurement learning curriculum.

With her boss and mentor, Bob Corder, Maria co-developed a state of the art change management program called Keeping Employees Engaged (KEE Model for Managing Change). She was also involved in delivering change management and work process improvement workshops throughout the ministry, and was a member of the best practices committee and the contract best practices review. Maria Braden also chaired the Ministry Systems Secretariat, a committee that reviewed IT projects before their development.

Insight, Advice and Ability
No matter what project or team Maria was a part of, her unique insight, passionate advice and ability to deliver were always valued and sought after, and will continue to live on via the ministry employees that have worked with her.

To honour Maria’s many contributions and successes with our ministry, 76 of her colleagues, family and friends gathered at Prince George’s Ramada Inn for a dinner and dance on Maria’s last day, Feb. 28. There were many gifts presented to Maria, as well as kind words of appreciation spoken by many people. Each speaker said “thank you” to Maria in their own manner, to recognize all the ways that Maria had positively affected the individual, the Northern Region and the ministry, throughout her career.

In her speech, Maria thanked her mentor, her family, her colleagues, the Northern Region and the ministry for enabling her to have such a rewarding and engaging career. The evening was enjoyed by all, and Maria was pleased to have her husband, Randy, and two of her three children attend the evening with her.

Maria is now enjoying spending more time with her family and friends, as well as doing the activities that she loves, like cooking and golfing. Farewell Maria, and all the best!

Maria Braden (second from right) with her husband Randy, and children Reid (second from left) and Cayley (third from right from right). Reid is accompanied by fiancé Jessica, and Cayley is with her husband, Matt.

Maria Braden is presented with a retirement memento by Highways Assistant Deputy Minister Dave Duncan.