



PCC helps Peace River students attend We Day, Legislature

Forty-two students from six Peace River schools were among the 16,000-plus youth at We Day held in September, 2009 at GM Place in Vancouver thanks to \$12,000 in funding from the Provincial Capital Commission.

To make the trip more educational in nature, and to qualify for the PCC funding, the group of Grade 7 to 12 students from Dawson Creek, Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge also spent a day in the province's Capital. During a tour of the Legislature, the Hon. Blair Lekstrom answered questions ranging from alternative energy to civic responsibility. "The student travel program gives youth from all across the province the ability to see what the Capital is all about," he said. "And any time we can encourage our youth to become involved, to understand they have a social responsibility to build a better world, we should do so."

PCC CEO Ray Parks agrees. "The Provincial Capital Commission is particularly pleased to be able to help this group from Peace River make the trip south. They will not only learn about BC's legislature and their Capital city but be able to attend We Day and become involved in Free the Children initiatives both in their home towns and internationally," he said. "This type of civic engagement, citizenship and social responsibility is nothing but positive and we are delighted to help make it happen."

Already the wheels are turning, said Paul Chisholm, a teacher at South Peace Secondary School. One of the projects the group plans to undertake is to raise \$8,500 to build a school in a third world country. "The notion behind Free the Children is such a positive thing," Chisholm said. "Not only are the kids attending the We event excited about getting involved, but there's 30 other kids at school who couldn't make the trip that also want to participate."

Clockwise from top left: Hon. Blair Lekstrom, MLA from Peace River South and Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, tells visiting constituents about his role in government and the importance of voting; in front of Queen Elizabeth II window; on steps of the Parliament Buildings.