



BC GOVERNMENT CAUCUS

NEWS RELEASE

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ONE-STOP-SHOP PERMIT SYSTEM REVS UP THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

DAWSON CREEK – The Province has launched a new Provincial Permit Centre (PPC) in Dawson Creek, to ensure centralized permitting and efficient service for the commercial trucking industry in B.C., announced Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom today.

“We want to make it easier for commercial truck drivers to do business,” said Lekstrom. “That’s why we’re streamlining the permit process and staffing the centre with employees that have special knowledge on loads associated with industrial traffic in our province.”

The PPC will approve and issue commercial permits for B.C.’s Northern Region - a responsibility that used to belong to staff at Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Inspection Stations (weigh scales).

“Public safety is always our top priority,” said Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon. “Launching the centre for permit handling will allow staff at inspection stations to concentrate on their main responsibility - road safety.”

To accommodate the trucking industry, the PPC’s hours of operation will be 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, seven days a week, open on most statutory holidays.

“Anything that makes our job simpler and faster is appreciated,” said Paul Landry, President and CEO of the BC Trucking Association. “Receiving permits in a timely fashion, particularly for routine loads, will benefit not only the trucking industry’s productivity, but also that of our customers.”

Dawson Creek was chosen as the location because the Northern Region has the highest permit issuing volume in BC. On average, 136 thousand permits are issued per year in BC – and 44 percent of those are in the Northern Region.

This is the first phase of the new system. Phase 2 (the centre will take over permitting responsibilities for the Southern Interior) is planned for late spring 2007, and Phase 3 (the centre will become the prime permit issuer for commercial vehicles for the whole province) is planned for late fall 2007.

– 30 –

Visit Blair’s Web site at www.blairlekstrommla.bc.ca

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