



United Way launches forestry support seminars

January 24, 2008 – Prince George United Way today announced the launch of a series of free community support sessions to help those affected by the recent forestry mill closures. Developed in partnership with RBC, the sessions will be held in towns throughout northern BC and will provide information on community resources for families facing challenges as well as advice on financial planning in times of change.

“We are happy to coordinate these information sessions for those affected by the mill closures and employee layoffs. These communities are going through tough times and we want them to know they’re not alone in this, there are community supports in place to assist them through this transition,” said Scotty Raitt, United Way Board President.

Each session will feature a representative from a local charitable organization who will provide an overview of the community services available to residents and tips on how to access those services. RBC financial experts will provide advice how to manage the financial difficulties people may be facing as a result of mill closures. They will provide information on assessing your present financial situation, budgeting for short and long term considerations - such as how to skip mortgage payments, RSPs, early retirement, pension plans - and effectively managing severance packages.

“As part of our commitment to supporting the communities where we operate, RBC is proud to partner with the United Way to assist people affected by the recent challenges facing the forestry sector,” said Dale Freschi, RBC regional vice president, B.C. north.

The information sessions will be held in the following communities over the next few weeks:

Mackenzie – January 29th, 7 – 9 p.m. at Morfee Elementary School Gymnasium, 310 Nechako Rd.

Fort St James – February 5th, 7 – 9 p.m. at Music Makers Hall, 255 West 2nd Ave.

Houston – February 6th, 7 – 9 p.m. at Houston Secondary School, 1771 Hungerford

Burns Lake – February 7th, 7 – 9 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 540 Hwy. 16 W

Chetwynd – February 19th, 6 – 8 p.m. at Cotton Wood Hall, 4552 North Access

Prince George – February 27, 7 – 9 p.m. at the Civic Centre, 808 Civic Plaza

Fort Nelson – April 5, 12 – 1 p.m. at Northern Lights College

Information sessions in other communities will likely be planned and information on those sessions will be made available at a later date.

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