



Province of
British Columbia

Legislative Assembly



Richard Neufeld, MLA
(Peace River North)

Legislative Office:

Room 134, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 387-5896
Fax: 250 356-2965
website: www.richardneufeldmla.bc.ca

Constituency Office:
10104 – 100 Street
Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Y7
Phone: 250 263-0101
Fax: 250 263-0104
Toll-Free: 1 866 263-0101
e-mail: richard.neufeld.mla@leg.bc.ca

May 2008

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia and the constituents of Peace River North, I would like to offer my congratulations on the dedication of the Charlie Lake Monument in memory of the 12 US soldiers who lost their life during the construction of the Alaska Highway. I would also like to recognize our northern communities for their joint efforts to preserve the historical value of this important transportation route.

The building of the highway was an amazing feat considering the rugged wilderness and extreme weather conditions those working on the highway had to endure. Often housed in tents, with limited food supply, many worked 20 hour days to see the highway completed in just eight months!

It was a cooperative venture between the American and Canadian governments. The Americans bore the cost of construction and turned over the Canadian portion of the highway in 1946 to Canada.

Within a decade of the completion of the highway, Fort St. John began to grow with the discovery of natural gas in the area. The first gas well in the entire Province was brought in near Fort St. John in 1951. Those of us living in northern BC recognize the importance of viable, prosperous industries in providing jobs and opportunities to live in the north.

Today we welcome the many visitors who travel the Alaska Highway for its scenic route and true northern hospitality.

On the dedication of the Charlie Lake Monument, it is a time to reflect on the proud history of the building of the highway and recognize the hard work and dedication of those who were tasked with its construction.

Sincerely,

Richard Neufeld, MLA
Peace River North