



The Edge

Community Newsletter
Vol.9 Issue 11, June 2012

Note New Hours!

Tues – Thurs: 10 – 4
Sat: 10 – 2



British Columbia Broadband Conference was held on May 23rd & 24th in Richmond by the British Columbia Broadband Association. The Welcoming address and Introduction of the Keynote Speaker was done by Bob Allen, President of the BC Broadband Association.

The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government, Province of British Columbia was keynote speaker. Margaret was as a family physician for 33 years.



Her main focus was how important broadband connectivity is. BC is at 93% coverage and hopes to attain 97% in the future although some may have to be connected by satellite.

She wants all BC residents to work in partnership online to offer their views on their website. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/> This is the key to Open Government.

One example being implemented is BC Family Day. The date was chosen by people showing their preference online.

The results are to the right > in column 2 and can be viewed at <http://blog.gov.bc.ca/bcfamilyday/>

The Process:

The Ministry of Labour, Citizen's Services and Open Government engaged with the public through an online poll on their website, as well as through Twitter and email. The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation engaged in consultation with various business and industry stakeholders, as well as school superintendents.

Results of Online Engagement:

- The question asked on the website was: What day should B.C.'s Family Day be?
- The public was asked to indicate a preference for the either the second Monday in February, the third Monday in February or, if no preference, to indicate that either one is fine. The public was also encouraged to provide their comments to explain the reasons for their preference
- Between May 8 and May 22, the web poll component of the Family Day website gathered a total of 31,146 votes, along with 3,069 comments – the most activity of any similar engagement program government has undertaken.
- Of those, 18,202 votes were registered for the second Monday in February to celebrate Family Day while 9,436 votes were counted for the third Monday in February and 3,508 did not have a preference.
- While the outcome of the web poll was taken into consideration, close attention was paid to the rationale users gave for their preference.

Of those more than 3,000 comments made online, among those who expressed support for the second Monday in February, the reason most commonly cited was to avoid overcrowding at tourism destinations throughout B.C. A significant number of those who commented in support of the second Monday believed that having a statutory holiday on a different weekend than Alberta and Washington State would provide tourist destinations with the opportunity to capitalize on two weekends of increased traffic in February.

Of those who expressed support for the third Monday in February, the most common reason cited was to allow for individuals with family members in other jurisdictions the opportunity to share a long weekend. A lot of comments also noted that businesses that operate across jurisdictions could benefit from having a common holiday.

Registered charities in Canada perform valuable work in our communities, and Canadians support this work in many ways.

The Edge's Registered Charity #86745 45 RR0001. We welcome regular givers.

The Edgewood Community Internet Society RR#1 Site 5, Comp 18 Edgewood B.C. V0G 1J0

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Interior Health

