

September 12, 2005  
94 X-FM, Prince George  
News Headlines  
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#### HARPER IN PRINCE GEORGE

CONSERVATIVE LEADER STEPHEN HARPER STOPPED BY PRINCE GEORGE TODAY AND TOOK A HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE DEVASTATION AND A STAB AT THE LIBERAL HANDLING OF THE ISSUE.

HARPER SAID THE LIBERALS HAVE DONE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE, BUT SAID HE IS PLEDGING TO PUT 100 MILLION DOLLARS INTO THE ISSUE EACH YEAR OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS TO HELP DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE INFESTATION.

HARPER SAYS ANY FAILURE TO IMPLIMENT A PINE BEETLE PLAN WILL HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE B-C ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT AND THAT IT WILL PROBABLY START SPREADING EAST INTO OTHER PROVINCES.

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MINISTER VISITS

THE PINE BEETLE ACTION COALITION STRETCHING BETWEEN PRINCE GEORGE AND SMITHERS WILL LIKELY BE RECEIVING PROVINCIAL FUNDING THIS WEEK.

WHILE THE B-C GOVERNMENT IS NOT TIPPING ITS HAND ABOUT FORESTS AND RANGE MINISTER RICH COLEMAN'S REASONS FOR VISITING PRINCE GEORGE ON FRIDAY, IT DOES SAY IT IS IN RELATION TO THE COALITION.

COLEMAN HAS PREVIOUSLY CONFIRMED 1.7 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN BEETLE ACTION COALITION , AND SAID AT THAT TIME TALKS WERE ONGOING WITH OTHER BEETLE GROUPS.

HE IS ALSO THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE COUNCIL OF FORESTS INDUSTRIES COMMUNITY DINNER ON THURSDAY NIGHT.

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