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E-Annex, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 TEL: (250) 356-6171 FAX: (250) 356-6176

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Preliminary Work Begins on Bridge Project

PRINCE GEORGE – The Simon Fraser Bridge project continues to move forward, says BC Liberal MLAs Shirley Bond, John Rustad and Pat Bell.

Preliminary work on the project will begin today as the Transportation Ministry will start clearing trees at the south approach to the bridge. The trees must be removed before further work can begin.

“I’m proud that our government is moving this vital transportation link forward,” said Prince George-Mount Robson MLA Shirley Bond. “Once complete, the Cariboo Connector improvements will give Prince George better access to the rest of BC creating more opportunities for local businesses.”

“The twinning of the Simon Fraser Bridge is a key component of our government’s commitment to improve the Cariboo Connector,” said Prince George-Omineca MLA John Rustad. “I think that this project, combined with the planned container port, is going to help to grow our local economy.”

“Our government has taken a comprehensive approach to improving key transportation infrastructure across the province,” said Prince George-North MLA Pat Bell. “We are upgrading the Cariboo Connector, we are building a new port in Prince Rupert and we have embarked on an aggressive strategy to create a new Pacific Gateway in the Lower Mainland. All of these projects will help to facilitate the flows of goods to and from other markets.”

Construction to the bridge approaches will begin July 1 and the design of the bridge is scheduled to be completed by the end of July. A contract for the bridge construction will be tendered once the design is completed and the project is expected to be finished in spring 2009.

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Visit Pat’s Web site at www.patbellmla.bc.ca

Visit John’s Web site at www.johnrustadmla.bc.ca

Visit Shirley’s Web site at www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca

Media contact: Matthew MacInnis, Government Caucus Communications, (250) 356-1539