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More tax revenue needed from AI data centres: Council

A discussion on increasing taxes on AI, data and cryptocurrency mining centres was had by Council at their first 2026 regular meeting on Monday.

Council will submit a resolution to the North Central Local Government Association to lobby the provincial government

to allow data centres, which are heavy consumers of electricity, to be classified as Light Industry for municipal tax purposes.

Currently they are classified under "Business & Other".

See 'Data centres' over →



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Conservationists praise West Twin park addition

Northern conservationists are applauding the B.C. government for adding nearly 1,060 hectares of primary forest habitat to West Twin Provincial Park, northwest of McBride.

The new habitat protection is in the Inland Temperate Rainforest which is considered by scientists to be a biodiversity hotspot and includes areas identified as rare old growth.

Conservation North says that Interior old growth rainforests are used by a "full complement of large-bodied animals" such as Mountain Caribou and

grizzly bear.

Although the area set aside is modest in size, Conservation North's director Michelle Connolly says, "We're glad that the BC government is protecting wildlife habitat in our region; this is the kind of leadership that the public wants to see more of."

Quotes:

“When the white missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land.

-- Desmond Tutu

Lawyers-Ranch Project

Thesis Gold Inc. proposes to develop a gold and silver mine located 275 km northeast of Smithers that is anticipated to produce 5.1 million tonnes of ore per year for 14 to 20 years.

Public comment period open from January 13 to February 12, 2026

Online Information Sessions

January 22 | 5:00-6:30 pm PST

January 29 | 12:00-1:30 pm PST

To register, visit the link or QR code below.

Learn more about the project and tell us what is important to you:



engage.eao.gov.bc.ca/LawyersRanch-EE



Feedback is also accepted by post mail: Lawyers-Ranch Project, PO box 9426, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1



EAO

Environmental Assessment Office

Big audience for hockey drama

Move over, Schitt's Creek. U.S. entertainment media is declaring dark horse status for Canadian-produced series Heated Rivalry, a hockey drama that involves a romance between two star players.

Produced by Crave and launched in November, the series, which is available on HBO Max in the U.S., has drawn huge audiences, reportedly becoming Crave's most-watched original series to date and HBO Max's top debut for an acquired, non-animation title since 2019.

With just six episodes comprising the first season, the show has been renewed for a second season.

News of the Odd:

In 2006, a Tasmanian gold mine partially col-

lapsed, killing one and trapping two other miners more than 900 metres underground. The miners survived by sheltering in a small steel transport cage. With limited food, no daylight, and unstable conditions around them, they waited for nearly two weeks as rescue crews worked through the rubble. Through a narrow borehole though, the miners discovered they could communicate to the surface.

Almost immediately they had a request: an iPod loaded with music, including their favourite artists, the Foo Fighters. When band leader Dave Grohl heard of this, he sent a handwritten note down the mine with a promise of concert tickets and beer. Two years after their rescue, the men were honoured at a Foo Fighters concert in Australia.

Have a Rose or Razz?

thebuzzette@gmail.com

Top baby names 2025

BC Vital Statistics published its Most Popular Baby Names list in late December.

Noah returns to the top of the list, bumping 2024's Oliver to second place.

The other eight top names for 2025 were: Theodore, Liam, Olivia, Charlotte, Jack, Henry, Sophia and James.

2024 rankings: Oliver, Olivia, Liam, Noah, Theodore, Charlotte, Lucas, Isla, Amelia and Leo.

From January 1st, 2025 until December 15th, 41,557 babies were registered as born in B.C.



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The Macktown Buzzette

Jan 15 - 28, 2026

Feedback invited on hunting regs

The B.C. government is inviting input on its proposed updates to hunting and trapping regulations for 2026-28.

Approximately 60 proposals are being considered for the upcoming cycle, including changes related to limited-entry hunting and general open-season hunting.

Other proposals relate to harvesting methods, access management and how

hunting and fishing regulations are delivered.

The Province reviews its hunting and trapping regulations every two years.

Finalized regulations will be published in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis, which will be in effect from July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2028.

To learn more and provide feedback, visit: engage.gov.bc.ca/

Council votes no change to travel budget

A proposal to revise the Council Travel budget was nixed by Council on Monday.

The proposal, presented by Councillor Wright, lowers each councillor's discretionary budget but would fund council members to attend specific conferences outside of their discretionary allotment.

A cost breakdown was not shown but council members implied that the change

would result in an increase to the budget and they could not support it on that basis.

Councillor Wright said that other communities are increasing their council travel budgets and that Mackenzie will fall behind.

He says the current budget allotment results in councilors paying out of pocket for some travel and that Mackenzie is "doing a disservice"

See 'Council travel' over →

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Trivia:

If you spent \$1 Million per day, how long would it take you to spend \$1 Trillion? (Answer back page) →



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DR. GARY SIDHU

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Inside Mackenzie Recreation Centre at 400 Skeena Drive

'Council travel'...

to the community by not increasing the budget.

Council did agree to reinstate a 2023 budget addition to allow newly elected councillors to attend local

government leadership training.

Council's current travel budget allows \$10,000 per year for the mayor and \$5,000 each for council members.



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'Data centres'...

The motion, presented by councillors Tapper and Wright, states that such facilities, in addition to high energy needs, have "unique demands on municipalities currently not being reflected in their tax rate" including community planning, emergency response, and lower levels of local employment relative to other industry.

Mayor Atkinson and Councillor Brumovsky advised that the District of Mackenzie is already in talks with the provincial government on the matter.

Mayor Atkinson added that of several data centres now in the province, IREN's facility in Mackenzie is the largest at 80 megawatts with, the mayor added, flexibility to go to 100 megawatts.

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MARTIAL ARTS

PROGRAM Mondays at the Legion with instructor. Fedo de Baat moved here in 2024 teaching Zen, Fitness & MMA techniques. Classes for all ages. 250 997-3722.

COMMUNITY NOTES

FRIDAY NIGHT

DINNER at the Legion

Jan 16th from 5 to 8 pm.

BBQ ribs, roasted potatoes, corn and coleslaw.

\$22/\$20/\$15

BOOK CLUB

@ the Library January: *Fourth Wing*. Discussion Jan 26 4:00 pm. Sign up: 997-6343

MCAC HOUSE

CONCERT SERIES

Peace region band Folky Strum Strum plays the

Arts Centre January 30 at 7 pm. Tix \$25/\$20.

NI DAY

@ the Library Jan 26: 3 - 4 pm Party Games, 4:30 - 6 pm Super Smash Bros Tournament

LAWYERS-RANCH

PROJECT Online information sessions Jan 22 and 29. (See details front page).

thebuzzette
@gmail.com



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LEGAL NOTICE

Century Mobile Home Park would like to notify any family of the following last known Tenants: John Cosbie Ware #44 and Chance Cole Vandebon #70 in Century Trailer Court, 25 Mackenzie Blvd, Mackenzie, BC V0J 2C0. You have 30 days to make an application to the courts to establish right of possession Jan 15th, 2026 to Feb 15th, 2026.

If no application is submitted, the owner of the park will take possession to sell. The park owner's information is: Andrew Wang 46935 Hope River Rd, Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H5, 778-996-6698

1	2	3		4	5	6
7				8		
	9		10			
11		12			13	
13	14				15	
16			17			18

DOWN

- Permit to drive (acr)
- Big sports organizer (acr)
- False, malicious claim(s)
- Water pastime

- Completion, finite point
- Measurement of age
- Upper class Brit (slang)
- Historical Northern Ireland rebel army (acr)
- Useful appendage on foot

MAGIC FOUR answers from last issue: SNOW, NAME, OMEN, WENT. WORD SCRABBLE: Lemoray Dr., Reynolds Rd., Blackwater Cres.



The only reason they say "Women and children first" is to test the strength of the lifeboats. – Jean Kerr

CRYPTO-QUOTE

XCQ ZTXHFZJ DJ QI GNTP IDCJZFKZJ
XTP FIJZ IDCJZFKZJ XQ QAZ JXLZ QNLZ.
– QAILXJ LZCQIT

SD57 Strategic Plan

School District 57 Board of Education will be developing its Strategic Plan for 2026–2031, what it calls "a five-year roadmap that will guide the district's priorities, decisions, and investments in student learning and well-being."

Input from the community will be invited in coming weeks.

Khamenei out as Supreme Leader of Iran by January 31?

11% chance

Will Trump acquire Greenland before 2027?

17%

Supreme Court rules in favor of Trump's tariffs?

31%

Insurrection Act invoked by Jan 31?

16%

Presidential Election Winner 2028

JD Vance 26%
Gavin Newsom 19%

Venezuela leader end of 2026?

Delcy Rodriguez 54%
Machado 19%

Super Bowl Champion 2026

Seattle 24%
Los Angeles 20%

Russia x Ukraine ceasefire by end of 2026?

42%

Oscars 2026: Best Actor Winner

Timothée Chalamet 79%
Di Caprio 14%

Top Polymarket movers - January 14-15

Polymarket is a U.S.-based "decentralized prediction market platform" that allows users to bet on the outcomes of various real-world events, such as political elections and economic indicators, using cryptocurrency. It operates on blockchain technology. (Note: The predictions change daily.)