

February 14, 2007

#### Rustad Talks About a Fish Named Wanda in Legislature

VICTORIA - Prince George-Omineca MLA John Rustad rose in the Legislative Precinct today to speak about a fish named Wanda.

"I stand today to talk about a fish called Wanda," began Rustad. "This past fall, through the efforts of the Freshwater Fisheries Society, the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, the District of Vanderhoof and many, many others, more than 4,000 Nechako White Sturgeon's were released into the Nechako River."

Last year's pilot project is part of the goal to develop a conservation fish culture program for the Nechako White Sturgeon. The Sturgeon can grow up to six metres and weigh as much as 800kg. The pilot project was funded by the Ministry of Environment, Alcan and the Freshwater Fisheries Association.

"Last year was the first year in releasing reared fish and the group is working towards making this event part of an ongoing effort to help repopulate the species," said Rustad. "I participated along with hundreds of students in releasing these reared fish, each lovingly registered and given a name so that their progress can be tracked."

"So, on behalf of Wanda, a Nechako White Sturgeon released last fall, I'd ask the house to join me in thanking everyone involved in the ongoing struggle to save this species, especially Ray Billings from the Freshwater Fisheries Society, Cory Williamson from the Ministry of Environment, Brian Toth of the L'heidli T'enneh First Nation and the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Brian Frenkel with the District of Vanderhoof and Carla Wainwright who is the coordinator of the technical working group."

Today marked the start of the Third Session of the 38th Parliament. Yesterday's Speech from the Throne unveiled the B.C. Government's vision for 2007 and beyond, including new initiatives for the environment and education.