



**Date:** November 17, 2008, 2 p.m.

**Event:** PEP Media Tour, PEP Headquarters  
#200 – 2261 Keating Cross Road, Central Saanich

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*Check Against Delivery*

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- Good morning.
- It is my pleasure to welcome you to the new headquarters of the Provincial Emergency Program.
- As I'm sure all of you are aware, emergencies in British Columbia can and do happen at any time.
- With 57 identified hazards in this province ranging from floods and interface fires to hazardous material spills and volcanoes, we have to be prepared to respond 24 hours a-day, 365 days of the year.
- And I'm proud to say the men and women who work for the Provincial Emergency Program meet this requirement with the highest level of professionalism.
- Given the critical role this organization has, it was an easy decision when the lease on PEP's previous space expired to re-locate PEP's headquarters to this larger more modern facility.
- The ending of that lease was an opportunity for us to move to this new facility that better meets PEP's current needs and its future growth.
- This facility is about twice the size of the old one and is built to modern seismic standards.
- It has been equipped with updated communications equipment and an improved backup power supply.
- And, given the important role of the media during emergencies, this room you're standing in will soon be outfitted as a dedicated media conference room so that we can better meet your needs.

- As well, this new facility now includes a domestic satellite data retrieval system – otherwise known as DOMSAT – which my colleague Minister Barry Penner will say more on a little later.

### **Introducing Cam Filmer**

- At this time, I'd like to introduce the Provincial Emergency Program's Executive Director Cam Filmer.
- For more than a decade and a half, Cam has helped this province navigate its way through a multitude of emergencies and disasters.
- Cam and his team here at PEP are experts in emergency management and through their work British Columbia is globally recognized as a leader in emergency management.
- I will now turn things over to Cam so he can take us on a tour of the facility.