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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Transportation

### **HIGHWAY 97D DESIGNATION PROMOTES TOURISM**

MERRITT – The road from Highway 5 to Logan Lake, previously known as Meadow Creek Road, will receive a new designation as Highway 97D to help support tourism, Yale-Lillooet MLA Dave Chutter and Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon announced today.

“Designating Meadow Creek Road as Highway 97D will give Logan Lake and scenic stops along the route a higher profile,” said Chutter. “Highland Valley Copper Mine’s life expectancy is being lengthened and we have a growing tourism industry in this region. Those two factors alone mean Highway 97D is becoming a more significant part of the province’s highway grid.”

The route also serves Logan Lake residents who commute to Kamloops, and traffic accessing the Highland Valley Copper Mine, 10 km west of Logan Lake.

“The numbered highway designation puts the road on the map, so to speak,” said Falcon. “Tourists visiting Logan Lake for fishing, hiking, and golfing will have an easier time finding this scenic town with the new highway name.”

The 24 km road will receive its new Highway 97D signage by the end of March. Signs indicating Highway 97D will be installed at connecting points on Highways 5 and 97C by the end of May.

During his visit to Merritt, Falcon also confirmed that construction will begin this summer on a \$19 million project to widen the final piece of two-lane section of Highway 97C between Merritt and Peachland to four lanes. Design work is currently under way on the nine-km section between Courtney Lake and Garcia Lake, just east of Merritt, and a construction contract will be tendered this spring.

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