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Apology: Forums in Burnaby, Kelowna and Richmond are on January 20, 22 and 27 respectively. Some participants are calling on the government to amend the curriculum as a legacy effort, while others are asking for financial redress.

- We remain committed to working with the people of B.C. to determine the appropriate wording, delivery and legacy efforts for a formal apology to the Chinese community in B.C. for historical wrongs of past provincial governments.
- The consultation process is the first step.
- Part of the consultation process is about identifying legacy efforts, which may include an educational component; however it is premature to comment on possible outcomes of the consultation process while forums are still underway.
- As for reparation payments, we don't believe an apology needs to include financial redress to be meaningful.
- We are working towards making this apology in a meaningful way, without politics and with the full support of the House.

TCM: After a public post-secondary institution will be chosen to house the school Jan 24, a Program Advisory Committee will guide the development and implementation of the school.

- We are making progress on our commitment to establish B.C.'s first School of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
- Richard T. Lee, as the newly appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Traditional Chinese Medicine, is working with Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk on seeing government's commitment through.
- In fact, tomorrow they will announce the public post-secondary institution that will be chosen to house the school.
- British Columbians will benefit from the expanded access to preventative and holistic health care education and potential international partnerships.

H1N1: 5 people have died from H1N1 but Dr. Reka Gustafson, medical health officer of Vancouver Coastal health said the real number might be higher. An Ipsos Reid poll found 58% of British Columbians have not been immunized this season, especially those under 35

- H1N1 has been circulating since 2009 and is now a common strain around the world.
- In fact, about 90 per cent of the influenza cases in B.C. so far have been H1N1 and the flu shot protects against this strain.
- We distributed 1.4 million doses this year – more than any other year.
- We are also working to identify extra vaccine sources.

H5N1: Federal public health officials confirm the first fatal case of H5N1. The victim travelled to China last month and was hospitalized upon his return to Alberta on Jan 1. He died 2 days later.

- There is no ongoing risk to British Columbians.
- BC Centre for Disease Control will continue to monitor this situation and the Ministry of Health will provide updates as appropriate.

Flavoured tobacco: Canadian Cancer Society is urging B.C. to ban flavoured tobacco products.

- We know that tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease and death in British Columbia.
- We thank the Canadian Cancer Society for their continued advocacy to continue to lower the smoking rates in Canada and agree that we need to look at flavoured tobacco.

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- Addressing the impact of these products on youth is a concern that all jurisdictions across Canada are struggling with and British Columbia is no different.
- We encourage Health Canada to build on its legislation that banned flavours in small cigars that are attractive to children and now ban these flavours in all products.
- The Minister of Health has also asked staff to provide him with options for what steps B.C. can take if the federal government decides not to move forward.

New West: Parents are calling for the board of school trustees of New Westminster to resign due to poor fiscal management and asking the provincial government to intervene.

- I'm aware the New Westminster board of education has a deficit of about \$4.8M
- The Ministry of Education supports the efforts being made by the board to manage resources, eliminate the deficit and minimize impacts on students, staff and parents.
- A revised deficit reduction plan was recently submitted to the ministry that would see the board eliminate the deficit and return to good financial standing by June 2019 and it is being considered by the ministry.
- Ministry staff continue to work closely with School District 40 on this issue.
- The ministry expects the board will continue to be proactive in identifying ways to further manage its deficit challenges going forward.

Build Canada Fund: Treasury Board President Tony Clement announced that municipalities can start applying for the Build Canada Fund on April 1st.

- We continue to work with our federal counterparts to conclude agreements and identify priorities that will help build a strong economy for B.C. and Canada.
- The federal commitment of \$53 billion towards infrastructure was good news.
- The 10-year program allows for longer-term planning to address aging infrastructure, population growth, congestion and climate change.
- The province is close to concluding its agreement on the Gas Tax Fund. This funding is important to local governments and will allow them to build cleaner, safer and more productive communities.
- We look forward to the federal announcement of B.C.'s portion of infrastructure funds in the near future

BC Hydro rates: Richmond school trustee Grace Tsang says the school district's operating costs will increase significantly while Lana Popham argues small business will suffer.

- The backbone of our electricity system was built decades ago so major components of the system need to be repaired and replaced, and we also need to build new infrastructure to meet the new demands of a growing economy.
- We've put in place a balanced and responsible 10 year plan that keeps electricity rates as low as possible while funding these important investments.
- Each year, we provide school districts with over \$4.7 billion in funding. A 9% increase equates to less than one-tenth of one percentage of their overall budgets.
- If we granted a special deal to school boards of hospitals, taxpayers, businesses and industrial power users would have to make up the difference through even higher rates.
- For the average small business, a 9% rate increase means an extra \$20 per month.
- Small businesses in B.C. pay the 5th lowest electricity rates in North America.

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Crime: Lower mainland residents, especially in Surrey, are concerned about crime rates.

- We are committed to keeping B.C. communities safe.
- We invest over \$70 million per year to over 20 integrated police teams in the province.
- I also appointed a Parliamentary Secretary, Dr. Darryl Plecas, to lead a blue-ribbon panel to explore long-term community based approaches to reduce crime in B.C.
- In Surrey, we provide more than \$1.6 million in annual funding to programs that help victims of crime and women and children affected by violence.
- We have also provided more than \$470,000 from civil forfeiture to support crime prevention efforts there.

Liquor: The Pacific Land Group request to open a type 2 retail liquor store on Cambie Road passed the City of Richmond's first hearing but City Councillor Chak Au believes the location is too close to a school and park.

- To be clear, this is the relocation of a private liquor store in Richmond.
- The moratorium on new applications for private liquor stores in B.C. remains in place.
- Municipalities can control the size, density and location of private liquor stores through zoning bylaws – and the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch cannot approve the relocation of a private liquor store unless it has the proper zoning.

Medical marijuana: Richmond Council has decided to butt out medical marijuana grow-ops in Richmond ahead of a major shift in Health Canada's program.

- B.C. supports the changes to the medical marijuana access program, which will address concerns about the large number of grow operations in residential homes.
- However, we have some concerns about the transition to the new regime.
- Minister Anton has urged the federal Minister of Public Safety to request that Health Canada work with interested PTs to develop a transition plan that will mitigate public safety and security concerns.
- Health Canada has been working with the RCMP, and the Province expects to hear more as the transition and implementation of the new program proceeds.

ICBC: A CBC investigation revealed some B.C. drivers are attempting to bribe test examiners.

- Over the last five years, ICBC has submitted 10 incidents to Crown Counsel. Out of that 10, 4 charges were not approved, 1 has a court date pending and 5 were convicted.
- The most severe conviction was a fine of \$5,000 and a six-month probation order.
- ICBC is still investigating three incidents for possible further action.

Visa rules: David Eby says the government is leaving international students in limbo because it failed to comply with new federal government visa rules.

- Students from around the world come to British Columbia because of our high quality education system and we're going to keep it that way.
- We're working with the federal government to maintain the integrity of our international education system and ensure students are protected.
- At the same time, working to ensure that all institutions can transition to the new criteria with reasonable time and notice to meet the requirements.

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Foreign students: The federal government hopes a new program will see more than 450,000 international researchers and students enrolled by 2022.

- We are delighted that the federal government is following British Columbia's lead on international students.
- As you know, when we introduced the Jobs Plan, there were eight sectors in it.
- One of the sectors we identified for growth was international students. Our strategy set a goal of increasing the number of international students by 50 per cent by 2016.
- Significant progress is being made to meet our target, and we are hopeful that with the federal government's new program, we are even closer to reaching our goal.

Alberta: Some B.C. graduates have been pursuing work in Alberta.

- Over the last decade, B.C. has seen more people come here than leave, and we are working to see even better results.
- The reality is though that we are in stiff competition for skilled workers, and Alberta's oil sands continue to attract people from all over the country.
- That's why we're focused on our plan to grow the economy and create jobs across B.C.
- The BC Jobs Plan's Skills and Training Plan will create thousands of new jobs for British Columbians in the coming years and in the LNG sector, the opportunities are enormous.
- The competition for people is fierce in today's market and that's why we are working hard to ensure that we keep every worker in B.C. who wants and needs a job.