

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Chalifour, Chelsea JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 3:50 PM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: FW: July 30 FLMM meeting debrief

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

FYI

From: Virtue, Stefan JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 3:48 PM
To: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Cc: Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX; Smollett, Debbie JTST:EX; Chalifour, Chelsea JTST:EX
Subject: RE: urgent
Importance: High

Hi Shannon:

The discussion at yesterday's FLMM call focused mainly on what had happened at COF; discussion on next steps was limited.



Labour Market
Agreement and Ca.

July 30 FLMM Discussion:

s13, s16

BC Next Steps:

s13, s16

3. BC IGR to confirm with PEI scheduling of proposed FLMM SO call and DM call.

4. PT IGR DMs to debrief on COF outcomes on Thursday morning.
5. BC IGR and LMID staff will meet on Thursday to confirm next steps.

Stefan Virtue

Strategic Initiatives Officer

Labour Market Programs Branch

BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Email: stefan.virtue@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250-387-7445

From: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 2:13 PM

To: Virtue, Stefan JTST:EX

Cc: Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX; Smollett, Debbie JTST:EX

Subject: urgent

Importance: High

Hi Stefan

Can you please provide what the agreed workplan is coming out of flmm call yesterday -- key bullets only - need by 4:00 pm thx Shannon



ISSUE NOTE

Issue:

- The Canada-BC Labour Market Agreement (LMA) expires March 31, 2014.

Background:

- The LMA provides BC with \$394M over six years (approximately \$66M annually) from 2008 to 2014 to fund skills training and employment programs and services for non-Employment Insurance (EI) eligible unemployed individuals and low-skilled employed individuals. The LMA is one of the key funding mechanisms to support BC's labour and skill shortages.

s13, s17

- In its 2013 Budget, the Federal Government announced its intention to renew the LMA with new restrictions and conditions, including a requirement that provinces deliver the *Canada Job Grant* (CJG), a new program intended to directly connect skills training with employers and jobs that will account for 60% of LMA funding allocation upon full implementation in 2017/18. The remaining 40% will support program administration and other provincial priorities.
- Conditions to access CJG funding include one-third matching contributions from the provinces and employers, with a maximum \$5,000 federal contribution per person, and up to \$15,000 per person with provincial and employer contributions of \$5,000 each, respectively.

s13, s16, s17

- Provincial/Territorial (PT) concerns are mostly focused on ensuring flexibility under the CJG program, and that the program is designed to meet the needs of small and medium sized employers as well as the needs of low-skilled, unemployed and underrepresented sectors of the population with low labour market attachment.

s13, s16



s13, s16

- The Prime Minister launched CJG consultations with employers and employer groups on April 19, and is planning to complete consultations in May to gather key input to help shape the CJG and its LMA negotiation position with PTs. Consultations will focus on the cost matching component and eligibility criteria associated with training costs.

s13, s16

Next Steps:

s13, s16

Pages 5 through 6 redacted for the following reasons:

s12, s13, s16

s17

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2013 2:30 PM
To: Craven, Paul IGRS:EX; Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: RE: Federal meeting on LMA

I sat in on call with MSB and Minister Kenny - it was very high level - she highlighted:

- BC wants to have a constructive relationship. Skills training and immigration (TFWs) are a priority - s13, s16

s13, s16

- Immediate issue is the negotiation of the LMA s13, s16

s13, s16

Minsiter Kenney then offered that he wanted to come out and meet with her next week s16
a meeting either for July 25 or July 30. s16
They are now organizaing

s16

Will keep you apprised on what date is finalized. Shannon

Shannon Baskerville
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Tel: 250-387-5640
Cell: s17
shannon.baskerville@gov.bc.ca

NR

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Stewart, Maria M JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 8:56 AM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: RE: Quick bullets needed for MSB briefing thurs AM
Attachments: MSB LMA Renewal Update - Aug 29 Annotated Agenda.docx

Here you go.

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 8:47 AM
To: Stewart, Maria M JTST:EX
Subject: Fwd: Quick bullets needed for MSB briefing thurs AM

Hi Maria, there is a document in the shared LMA renewal folder / MSB meetings / with "annotated agenda" in the title. Can you please open it and add the bullets for Suzanne below where appropriate? You'll see highlighted placeholders. When done, please email to me and print a copy for quick pick up tomorrow.

Thanks!

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX" <Suzanne.Ferguson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 28 August, 2013 8:32:31 AM PDT
To: "Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX" <Bindi.Sawchuk@gov.bc.ca>, "Rowe, Katherine JTST:EX" <Katherine.Rowe@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Quick bullets needed for MSB briefing thurs AM

Bindi – have added some bullets in below - these are rough given I have drafted them up pretty quickly

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 3:06 PM
To: Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX; Rowe, Katherine JTST:EX
Subject: Quick bullets needed for MSB briefing thurs AM

Hi Suzanne / Katherine,

Can I get a couple high level bullets (or more if you want) on the status of this work for a briefing with MSB Thursday AM?

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17

2. Program Design

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17 Program Design Team has been established to identify a number of potential program models and options for consideration. Potential options include:

s13, s16, s17

Timelines: program options expected to be completed in mid September – pending further changes by Canada on the LMA negotiation offer

Bindi Sawchuk, CMA | A/ Executive Director Business Strategy and Accountability Branch
Labour Market & Immigration Division | Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training
(250) 387-1646 | s17 bindi.sawchuk@gov.bc.ca

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2013 3:07 PM
To: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Subject: RE: Strategy doc
Attachments: Strategy Doc CJG .docx

As discussed.

Bindi Sawchuk, CMA | A/ Executive Director Business Strategy and Accountability Branch
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(250) 387-1646 | s17 | bindi.sawchuk@gov.bc.ca

From: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2013 2:37 PM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: FW: Strategy doc

Need feedback quickly if that lines up with cof expectations etc – can i call you

Shannon Baskerville
Assistant Deputy Minister
Immigration and Multiculturalism Division
Ministry of Regional Economic
and Skills Development
Tel: 250-387-5640
Cell: 250-216-0712
Fax: s17
shannon.baskerville@gov.bc.ca

From: Lalari, Terry JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Subject: Strategy doc

Purpose:

Engage stakeholders to communicate their perspectives in relation to the proposed
Federal Government Canada Jobs Grant model

s13

Timeframe:

s13

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Craven, Paul IGRS:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2013 4:38 PM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX; Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Subject: RE: urgent: update

I think you have it Bindi.

s13, s16

s13, s16

Paul

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2013 4:32 PM
To: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Cc: Craven, Paul IGRS:EX
Subject: RE: urgent: update

Shannon,

Had a good discussion with Paul on this
following:

s13

but can suggest the

s13, s16

Paul – please feel free to add or edit from your perspective.

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From: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2013 3:54 PM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: Re: urgent: update

thinking might be good to give him a shout on messaging re: next steps with minister - so yes - and then can incorporate his input before sending out my email this evening

Sent from my iPad

On 2013-09-05, at 2:48 PM, "Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX" <Bindi.Sawchuk@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Shannon, am I okay to talk to Paul about this or do you want me to wait?

Bindi Sawchuk, CMA | A/ Executive Director Business Strategy and Accountability Branch
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(250) 387-1646 | s17 | bindi.sawchuk@gov.bc.ca

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2013 12:06 PM
To: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Subject: RE: urgent: update

Interesting – I have included some suggested text / minor edits below and offer these comments for whatever use you think they may be:

s13, s16

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(250) 387-1646 | s17 | bindi.sawchuk@gov.bc.ca

From: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2013 11:48 AM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: urgent: update
Importance: High

Here are the key points from Frank – can we discuss in next 30 minutes – and then will send to all etc:

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s13, s16

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s13, s16

Bindi – if you can edit to tighten – any concerns let me know – appreciate your feedback before i send back to all.

Shannon Baskerville
Assistant Deputy Minister
Immigration and Multiculturalism Division
Ministry of Regional Economic
and Skills Development
Tel: 250-387-5640
Cell: s17

Fax: 250-952-0351
shannon.baskerville@gov.bc.ca

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Hazemi, Leila JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 9:46 AM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: RE: CJG prog design model
Attachments: Program Design Options - draft visual v3.docx

Hi Bindi,

Attached is the original visual and below are some bullets.

s13, s16, s17

Please let me know if you need anything else. Best,

Leila

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 7:11 AM
To: Hazemi, Leila JTST:EX
Subject: CJG prog design model

Hi Leila, if you have a diagram or simple description of how the recommended design option works can you pls email it to me?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

Pages 17 through 18 redacted for the following reasons:

s13, s16, s17

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Bouslov, Sergei SDSI:EX
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 10:21 PM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Cc: MacDonald, Scott D JTST:EX
Subject: Re: Recent call with Minister Kenney

Hi Bindi,

Here are some of my initial thoughts on the idea of ^{s13, s16, s17} Some points may be more or less relevant depending on ^{s13, s16} but thought I'd include them anyway. Hope this makes at least some sense; let me know if more detail is needed at this point.

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17

Sent from my iPad

On 2013-09-23, at 5:27 PM, "Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX" <Bindi.Sawchuk@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I have a bit more clarity now, seems he was suggesting

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17

We should talk later this week

s22

s22 to see if this makes sense or is workable at all.

Thx

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX" <Bindi.Sawchuk@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 23 September, 2013 4:54:37 PM EDT
To: "Bouslov, Sergei SDSI:EX" <Sergei.Bouslov@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "MacDonald, Scott D JTST:EX" <D.Scott.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Recent call with Minister Kenney

Hi Sergei,

I understand Minister Kenney had a call with Minister Bond yesterday and he

s13, s16, s17

Thx B

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Ma, Tiffany J SDSI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2013 7:09 PM
To: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: RE: s13, s16, s17

Thanks Bindi. I will take a look and get back to you by Friday.

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2013 2:19 PM
To: Ma, Tiffany J SDSI:EX
Cc: Bouslov, Sergei SDSI:EX; Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX; MacDonald, Scott D JTST:EX; Stewart, Maria M JTST:EX
Subject: s13, s16, s17

Hi Tiffany,

As I'm sure you know, there has been a significant amount of media and interest on LMA renewal. Most recently

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17 so I've made a preliminary attempt to
analyze the impacts – at least at a high level. I would greatly appreciate if you could review the summary below and
s13, s16, s17 Comments, edits, additions all welcome!

s13, s16, s17

s13, s17, s16

Appreciate if you can reply by mid-day Thursday to inform a variety of briefings on our side, and please feel free to call to discuss as needed.

Thanks,

Bindi Sawchuk, CMA | A/ Executive Director Business Strategy and Accountability Branch
Labour Market & Immigration Division | Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training
(250) 387-1646 s17 bindi.sawchuk@gov.bc.ca

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
MEETING NOTE

Cliff: 100508
Date: August 28, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Dave Byng, Deputy Minister

ISSUE: To provide an update on the status of work to achieve the July 2013 Council of Federation direction on renewal of Labour Market Agreements for a BC/NB DM call September 4, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

- On July 25, the Council of Federation (CoF) tasked BC and New Brunswick (NB) Premiers with taking the lead on the issues of labour market, labour force development and skills training, and to report back to Premiers in the fall (November).
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s16, s13

STATUS REPORT – COF WORK PLAN APPENDIX A:

1. Information Gathering

- PTs have provided first response to information requests. This material is being collated by the FLMM Secretariat with assistance from the COF Secretariat. Information on programming and outreach will be completed shortly and circulated to PTs to ensure accuracy and completeness.

2. PT Ministers Meeting – Canvassing for September 23/24 in Toronto

- Premiers Clark and Alward will not be able to attend
- FLMM Secretariat and COF Secretariat will handle the logistics for the meeting. Meeting to be administratively chaired by PEI with discussion on LMA/CJG lead by BC and NB.
- Document preparation is underway for the PT meeting and being co-ordinated between NB and BC and the FLMM Secretariat.
- Direction from steering committee pending - Should there be a joint call conference between Premiers and their Ministers in advance of the PT meeting

3. Engagement with Business/Community Leaders

- PTs have provided information on their engagement thus far.

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s13, s16

- A national stakeholders meeting with Premiers Alwayrd and Clark is confirmed for October 2nd in Toronto. To support this the following is planned:

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4. Federal Engagement

- No arrangements have been made for an FPT meeting at present but federal officials have been in contact with the FLMM Secretariat

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- Minister Bond had an introductory meeting with Minister Kenney August 17th – see BC specific notes below.

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- An FPT FLMM meeting is expected in October to discuss LMA negotiations.s16, s13

s16, s13

5. Communications Strategy

s16, s13

s16, s13

BC SPECIFIC:

- Minister Bond had a phone meeting with Minister Soucy (NB) – 9 AM. August 16, 2013.

s16, s13

s16, s13

- Minister Bond had a face-to-face meeting with Minister Kenney (Fed) –, August 17, 2013. Staff have not had a debrief

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Following the August 17th meeting, federal staff indicated that during the meeting Minister Kenney signalled that

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APPENDIX B WITH IMPLICATIONS ATTACHED FOR INFORMATION, NOT INTENDED FOR DISCUSSION ON DM CALL.

- Stakeholder engagement list was sent to the Ministers Office (MO) August 9, 2013, MO Chief of Staff to lead.

Prepared by: Bindi Sawchuk, A/ Executive Director, Labour Market & Immigration Division

Telephone: (250) 387-1646

s17

Reviewed by

ADM: Shannon Baskerville

Pages 26 through 27 redacted for the following reasons:

s13, s16

APPENDIX B – Risks and Implications in the Multi-lateral Environment

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DISCUSSION:

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s13, s16

- The federal government has not consulted with the PTs on the renewed LMA, but has been consulting with large employers and college systems directly. Direct discussion with colleges goes beyond expected federal employer consultation.

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- BC continues to prepare for bilateral negotiations with the federal government.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 100332

Updated: August 16, 2013

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING:

Saturday, August 17, 2013, 3:00pm

ATTENDEES:

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

ISSUE(S):

Meeting to:

1. Discuss the federal government's Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program review and British Columbia's position in regards to TFWs.

NR

3. Follow up on direction from the Council of the Federation (COF) for British Columbia and New Brunswick's respective Premiers to pursue a solution with the federal government on the proposed Canada Job Grant.

BACKGROUND and KEY MESSAGES in attachments

ATTACHMENTS:

APPENDIX 1: TFW Background and KMs

NR

APPENDIX 3: LMA Renewal / Canada Job Grant Background and KMs

NR

APPENDIX 5:

s13, s16

(draft, confidential)

APPENDIX 1

Temporary Foreign Workers

BACKGROUND:

- The TFW Program is a federal program jointly administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) formerly Human Resources and Development Canada (HRSDC).
- On July 15, 2013, Minister Jason Kenney was appointed Minister of ESDC and Minister Chris Alexander was appointed Minister of CIC. Prior to this date, Minister Kenney held the CIC portfolio from October 2008 until July 14, 2013.
- Under Minister Kenney, ESDC is responsible for Labour Market Opinions (LMO) which is designed to ensure Canadian workers are given priority over TFWs. Unless exempted from the LMO process (e.g. youth mobility programs, NAFTA), TFW's work permit applications must have an LMO. Through the LMO process, employers must demonstrate they have tried to recruit Canadians for their vacancies (e.g. through advertising positions on job boards).
- Under Minister Alexander, CIC is responsible for issuing work permits to TFWs. Work permits issued under the LMO process are usually valid only for a specific employer, job and length of time.
- In 2012, there were an estimated 74,216 TFWs in BC. Ontario had the largest share of TFWs in Canada (35.5%), with BC second (21.9%) and Alberta third (20.2%). A large proportion of TFWs in British Columbia (40 per cent) are admitted under youth mobility programs, which allow foreign nationals to work for any employer while they experience Canada.

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- BC is using every available source of workers to address the workforce challenge of "jobs without people", while also investing heavily in upskilling workers to address "people without jobs".
- The BC's Skills and Training Plan specifies the importance of matching local workers first for jobs, followed by regional, national and finally international workers. The TFW Program plays a specific role among these priorities.

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- In 2013, the TFW Program received heightened public and media attention mainly based on two controversies:
 - In BC, judicial review of ESDC's decision to issue a positive LMO approving the hiring of 201 Chinese TFWs by HD Mining.
 - In Ontario, the Royal Bank of Canada's decision to lay off 45 information technology workers and outsource jobs to a firm in India.
- In response to widespread concerns with the TFW program the federal government accelerated its program review, first unveiled in Budget 2012. In 2013, two sets of changes were announced, the first in April and the second at the end of July. s13, s16
s13, s16
- The province supports the TFW Program review and understands the federal government's requirements to ensure program integrity. In sectors where there are projected skill shortages such as liquefied natural gas however, the province must also support the use of TFWs by employers who are compliant with federal and provincial laws and who have genuinely sought to hire domestic workers but were unsuccessful.

KEY MESSAGES:

- **Given his strong record of leadership on immigration reform, BC is pleased to be working with Minister Kenney on the appropriate use of temporary foreign workers. The work in this portfolio can build on positive realignment of Canada's approach to immigration for greater labour market responsiveness.**
- **BC supports the federal government's review of the TFW Program. Ensuring the program is only used when domestic labour sources have been exhausted and that appropriate mechanisms are in place to protect TFWs is of mutual interest.** s16

s16

- **As the federal government continues its review of the TFW Program, BC is interested in learning what other program changes are under consideration and potential dates when these might take effect.**
- **BC is seeking a balance between improvements to program integrity and the need for expeditious access to TFWs for compliant employers that have legitimate workforce shortages.**

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Pages 32 through 33 redacted for the following reasons:

Not Responsive

APPENDIX 3

Labour Market Agreement Renewal

BACKGROUND:

- On July 16, 2013 Employment and Social Development Canada provided BC with an offer on the renewed Labour Market Agreement (LMA), which includes a Canada Job Grant (CJG).

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- On July 25, the Council of Federation (CoF) tasked BC and New Brunswick (NB) Premiers with taking the lead on the issues of labour market, labour force development and skills training, and to report back to Premiers in the fall (November).

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s13, s16

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- A PT FLMM meeting is expected in the last two weeks of September, where Premiers' Clark and Alward are in attendance.

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- An FPT FLMM meeting is expected in October to discuss LMA negotiations.

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KEY MESSAGES:

- **BC recognizes it is in everyone's best interests for the provinces and territories to work together with the federal government to ensure our labour market programs continue to support Canadians and employers across the country.**
- **The current Labour Market Agreements have been very successful in helping some of our most vulnerable people find and keep jobs.**

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s13, s16

- **I appreciate the time you've taken to meet with me today and I think we can find a way to meet all of our respective labour market needs.**

Pages 37 through 42 redacted for the following reasons:

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**MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE**

Cliff #: 100157

Date: August 12, 2013

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: Thursday August 15, 2013, 9:00 am.

ATTENDEES: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Honourable Danny Soucy, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour.

ISSUE(S): Follow up on direction from the Council of the Federation (COF) for British Columbia and New Brunswick's respective Premiers to pursue a solution with the federal government on the proposed Canada Job Grant.

BACKGROUND:

- BC has had initial discussions with the federal government on the federal offer extended on July 16, including at the staff level on July 18, and between Ministers on July 19.

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16

KEY MESSAGES

- It is in everyone's best interests that the provinces and territories work together with the federal government to ensure that labour market programs continue to support vulnerable Canadians and employers, and reflect local labour market needs, which vary considerably across the nation.
- To achieve the best outcome for Canadians, we must engage Minister Kenney to pursue his cooperation on areas of mutual agreement prior to a FPT FLMM ministers meeting in the fall. The goal of an early meeting is to begin discussions on a Labour Market Agreement (LMA) renewal and Canada Job Grant (CJG) that can be successfully implemented across all provinces and territories.

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Prepared by: Sohee Ahn, A/ADM, Labour Market and Immigration Division
Telephone: (office) 250 356-1125 (cell) s17

Reviewed by				
Dir:	ED:	ADM: SA	DM: DB	MIN:

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #: 98200

Date: June 20, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (MSD)

ISSUE: Status Update on the Renewal of Canada-BC Labour Market Agreement to inform briefing of MSD Deputy Minister.

BACKGROUND:

- The current Canada-BC Labour Market Agreement (LMA) expires March 31, 2014. In its 2013 Budget, the federal government announced its intention to renew the LMA with new restrictions and conditions, in particular targeting 60% of annual LMA funding to a new Canada Job Grant (CJG).
- Conditions to access CJG funding include one-third matching contributions from the provinces and employers, with a maximum \$5,000 federal contribution per person (\$15,000 in total per person).
- Each year, the Province invests approximately \$2.4 billion in a broad suite of labour market supports. Although the LMA only represents 4% of total BC labour market investments, it has been a flexible tool that serves targeted client groups including Aboriginals, youth, women, immigrants, older workers, persons with disabilities and low-skilled unemployed which often have difficulty attaching to the labour market and are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) funded training through the Labour Market Development Agreement.
- Since 2009, the LMA has been providing approximately \$66 million per year (\$394 million over the term of the agreement) to train British Columbians who are unemployed but not eligible for EI benefits and those who are employed but low-skilled in over 77 communities with over 77,000 British Columbians accessing services to date through key programs like Blade Runners and Job Match.
- Outcomes for LMA programs have been very good: about half the clients received a credential as part of their training program; 90% indicated that LMA training sufficiently prepared them for employment; and over 70% reported that they are either employed or attending additional training.
- The current LMA currently provides approximately \$11 million annually to MSD to support transition of the LMDA. This funding arrangement ends with the termination of the current LMA.
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DISCUSSION:

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s13, s16, s17

- The federal government has advised, through public announcements, that the funding allocation for a renewed LMA will be based on a 60/40 split with 60% allocated to the CJG and 40% to administration and other provincial skills and training priorities (NON-CJG programs which are the current LMA programs) s13, s16

s13, s16

- Some of the Province's key concerns with LMA renewal are that:

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17

s13, s17

- On June 20, 2013 HRSDC indicated that all consultations with employers have been completed now and the key messages are: 1) to keep the CJG administratively streamlined 2) SMEs will need support to access the CJG and 3) employers want the CJG to be accessible to all Canadians.

NEXT STEPS:

- HRSDC expects to have the offer ready and a negotiator named in the next two weeks (by July 8th). At this time the Province expects an offer mid-July.
- Work is underway to determine a lead provincial negotiator, s13, s16, s17
s13, s16, s17
- JTST will be consulting with partner ministries between June 27 and July 11, 2013.

Prepared by: Bindi Sawchuk, A/Executive Director, Labour Market and Immigration Division
Telephone: (250) 387-1646