

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ASIA PACIFIC STRATEGY AND MULTICULTURALISM

MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 12146

Date: October 9, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Teresa Wat

EVENT: Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) meeting

DATE, TIME, LOCATION: Friday, October 18, 2013, 9 am-1:30 pm, followed by lunch
Executive Boardroom, Suite 730-999 Canada Place
Vancouver

AGENDA:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 09:00 am | Refreshments |
| 09:30 am | Welcome by Honourable Teresa Wat |
| 09:45 am | Ministry priorities by Deputy Minister
<i>*Minister and DM will depart at this time</i> |
| 10:10 am | MAC Chair convenes meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nesika Awards• Community Engagement forums• MAC priorities• Members updates |
| 01:30 pm | Meeting closes |

BACKGROUND:

MAC was established in 1988, and was previously called the Advisory Council on Cultural Heritage. In 1990, the name was changed to the Advisory Council on Multiculturalism.

Members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The Council is comprised of community members from across B.C. The Board Resource and Development Office administer the appointment process.

MAC has a mandate to advise the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism on issues respecting multiculturalism and to perform any other duties or functions specified by the Minister as set out in s. 5(1) of the *Multiculturalism Act*.

DISCUSSION:

MAC last met on January 18, 2013 before the 'review of the draft multicultural strategic outreach plan' situation, and whilst questions concerning that situation are not expected, they may still arise.

The last community engagement forum for MAC was on March 21, 2013 to recognize the 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination'. The event was held at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, and was well attended by the community and MAC members.

The scheduled meeting for October 18, 2013 provides an opportunity for the Minister to 'Meet and Greet' the members and provide initial guidance on how MAC will contribute to fulfilling the Minister's mandate.

A number of MAC members come from business and corporate background. They have expressed that international business and growth are about cultural intelligence and cultural sensitivity as we promote B.C. as the Pacific Gateway. MAC can play a significant role in promoting British Columbia as a safe, welcoming and inclusive place where communities offer investment opportunities to prosper and grow.

Six current MAC members complete their initial term of appointment by end of 2013 and are eligible for reappointment.

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KEY MESSAGING:

Cultural diversity, increased participation and engagement by all cultures is vitally important to create a strong and vibrant social and economic future for British Columbia.

Our multicultural society is a competitive advantage and an important bridge across the Pacific.

MAC can play a role in ensuring provincial multicultural organizations are connected to and are participating in the activities of the provincial government, because every MAC member brings with her/him several community and organizational networks whilst promoting the values of the Provincial Nesika Awards.

MAC can help to ensure our multicultural programming is relevant and useful to our ethnic communities and they are able to participate fully in the programs of our government, because they have the skills and respect of the community to identify through regular 'community forums' what changes need to be made.

Prepared by: Madhavee Inamdar, Program Manager, MAC Secretariat

Key contact: Dean Sekyer, Executive Director, Multiculturalism & Strategic Initiatives

Telephone: 250 952-0409 (office); s17 (cell)

Attachments:

1. MAC overview
2. Bios of all members
3. Board appointments status
4. Role of MAC in relation to mandate letter items 6 & 9

ATTACHMENT 1

MAC OVERVIEW

Twenty-Five Years of the Provincial Multicultural Advisory Council

2013 is the year of the Provincial Multicultural Advisory Council's 25th anniversary. The Council established in 1988, was previously called *the Advisory Council on Cultural Heritage*. In 1990 the name was changed to *the Advisory Council on Multiculturalism*. The Council was reintegrated in Statute with the passage of the Multiculturalism Act in 1993, at which time it became *the Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC)*.

Mandate and Responsibilities

Mandate

The MAC has a mandate to advise the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism on issues respecting multiculturalism and to perform any other duties or functions specified by the Minister as set out in s. 5(1) of the Multiculturalism Act.

Responsibilities

- Advise the Minister on regional and provincial issues of multiculturalism and racism and on issues identified by the Minister.
- Act as a link between government and community.
- Identify multicultural and anti-racism priorities of communities and recommend innovative solutions, in a timely manner.
- Recognize the Multicultural champions in B.C. (Annual Provincial Nesika Awards)
- Submit an annual report to the Minister.

MAC Appointments

The Council members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Council is comprised of community members from across B.C. who have an expertise in multiculturalism and anti-racism. The Board Resource and Development Office administers the appointment process.

Compensation for Appointees

MAC appointees do not receive any remuneration. They are compensated for out of pocket expenses in order to attend the MAC meetings.

MAC Secretariat

The Secretariat provides leadership and strategic advice to the Council and supports the work of the council including the annual Provincial Nesika Awards.

MAC Accomplishments over the Years

Multiculturalism Policy: October 1990 Multiculturalism Policy was officially adopted.

Multiculturalism Act: MAC members created the draft legislation. Multiculturalism Act was passed in the legislature on July 29th 1993.

Report on Multiculturalism (ROM): The ROM was incorporated into the Multiculturalism Act as a requirement from all the ministries and Crown corporations.

Provincial Multiculturalism Week: The Multiculturalism week was proclaimed by the Provincial Government in 1993 as recommended by the Council. For 2013, the Multiculturalism Week will be 17-24 November.

BC Hate Crimes Team: MAC recommended to the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism the creation of a Hate Crimes Team, first in Canada. On April 24, 1996 the Attorney General announced the creation of a Hate Crimes Team.

End Racism Awards (ERA) and the Annual Provincial Nesika Awards: The Council initiated annual ERA to showcase the extraordinary work of British Columbians eliminating racism. In 2008, these awards continued as the Provincial Nesika Awards.

Provincial Multiculturalism Vision: In 2010, as recommended by the MAC, the Provincial Multiculturalism Vision was adopted "*British Columbia is a model society that embraces the cultures and traditions of its people with opportunities for all to live and grow.*"

2012 & 2013 Provincial Nesika Awards: A new Youth category for nomination was created. The Awards received an unparalleled response from all corners of the province with more than 160 nominations and more than 400 participants at the awards event. The MAC has added another new category of 'Multicultural Excellence in the Government to nominations to recognize multiculturalism champions within the provincial government.

MAC Anti-Racism Roundtable, March 21, 2013

On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination MAC organized a Roundtable in partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley. More than 40 representatives participated along with the MAC members

Aboriginal Representation on the BC Hate Crimes Team

The MAC Secretariat requested representation from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation on the BC Hate Crimes Team.

Advise to the Federal Government Multiculturalism Branch

The MAC Secretariat, the MAC Chair and the Vice Chair were consulted by the federal government multiculturalism planning and policy staff to understand the best practices followed by the MAC in fulfilling its mandate and the annual Provincial Nesika Awards.

ATTACHMENT 2

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS – BIOGRAPHIES

Mo Dhaliwal –Vancouver (Chair)

Educated in Business Administration from the University of the Fraser Valley, Mo Dhaliwal has over a decade of experience in the technology sector, including software development and Internet marketing in the Silicon Valley region of California. As a patron of the arts and producer of cultural events, Mo has worked to shatter barriers between people and encourage cross-cultural understanding, most notably through the creation of the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society. Now, as Director of Client Services for Skyrocket Digital, Mo collaborates with creative minds across the country and continues to create moving experiences for clients and community.

Shellina Lakhdhir-North Vancouver (Vice-Chair)

Shellina Lakhdhir is the Regional Campaign Manager for Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC), responsible for producing the World Partnership Walk and World Partnership Golf campaigns in BC annually. Working with a host of volunteers, she manages the fundraising and logistical aspects of all campaigns; and is also responsible for corporate and media relations. Her past campaigns have yielded over \$2.5 million in one year, the total amount of which will be invested towards sustainable and community-led international development projects in Asia and Africa. Shellina is also an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

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Senator Yonah K. Martin-Vancouver

Yonah is a Senator from British Columbia and is the first Canadian of Korean descent to serve in the Senate of Canada and the first Korean-Canadian Parliamentarian in Canadian history. Yonah Martin graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1987, earned a Master of Education in 1996; and enjoyed a 21-year career as an educator until her Senate appointment in 2009. Inspired by her Canadian-born daughter and immigrant parents, and with a desire to "bridge communities", she co-founded a non-profit organization, the Korean Canadian C3 in 2003.

Yonah Martin currently serves on several boards and committees, including the Canadian Paralympic Foundation. Yonah is a mentor and adviser of the Executive Mentorship Program of UBC's Sauder School of Business; and has mentored young leaders across Canada to pursue their goals and develop their leadership potential.

Michelle A. Rakotonaivo-Surrey

Michelle Rakotonaivo is an early childhood director at Gracepoint Community Church. She is actively involved in the community, serving as president of the Federation des Francophones de la CB. Rakotonaivo is a charter member and director of development of Ethno Femmes Francophones de la CB. She is a member of the Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue, Societe de Developement Economique de la CB, Federation of Francophone and Acadian Community in Canada and CIC-Francophone Community outside Quebec. Rakotonaivo holds a bachelor of arts in business administration from the University of Montreal and completed graduate studies in international co-operation at the University of Ottawa.

Susan Tatoosh-Vancouver

Susan Tatoosh is of Shuswap ancestry and a member of the Hupacaseth First Nation of the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Territory. For the past 35 years, she has been actively involved in community volunteer work in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. Tatoosh's volunteer work has been at all levels — community, municipal, provincial and national — serving on boards, committees, task forces, panels and at round table discussions. Now retired, she worked with the federal government via the Northern Native Development Corporation, the K'ensu Development Corporation and Aboriginal Personnel Services. As well, she has represented numerous Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal civic organizations, including: the Urban Native Indian Education Society, the Urban Native Youth Association, Aboriginal Community Careers Employment Services Society and the YWCA, among many others. Susan was recognized for her over-30 years of voluntary contributions to the community when she received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

Myrt Turner-Prince George

Myrt Turner is the owner of M. Turner & Associates, a company that provides employment assistance services to unemployed people in Prince George. Myrt holds a B.C. teaching certificate and is a graduate of Simon Fraser University.

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Baljit Sethi – Prince George/Mackenzie

Baljit Sethi is the Founder and Executive Director of the Immigrant and Multicultural Services of Prince George which provides settlement services to communities in Northern BC. Previously, she was a Family Counsellor with the Immigrant Services Society of BC and a Teacher. Active in the community, she has served as a member on the Mayor's Special Committee on Seniors, President and member of the Learning Disability Association, a member of the Premier's Committee Living and Working in BC, member of the Visible Minority Labour Board provincially and federally, and a member of President of the

Western Canada Settlement Agency Association. Ms. Sethi holds her Bachelor of Education, Master in Punjabi Language, and Master in Arts and Civilization from Punjab University, her Certificate in Guidance and Counselling from Delhi University, her Certificate in Family Counselling from Vancouver Community College, and her Certificates in Management of Non-Profit and Diversity Training from Simon Fraser University.

Angela Hollinger – Vancouver

Angela Hollinger is principal of CeCan Business Development, a Vancouver-based management-consulting firm. Ms. Hollinger focuses on facilitating partnerships between Canadian and Japanese companies for the Canadian and Japanese market. Her primary areas of expertise are environment related technologies, other high-tech fields and tourism. She regularly briefs British Columbia, Federal and Japanese Government officials regarding BC's emerging environment Industry.

Ms. Hollinger was the first Japan-born female to serve as a president of CyPost Corporation, a public company, in Vancouver's high-tech industry, a field in which she has worked in several management roles. She has also utilized her bilingual skills and understanding of business culture to manage the Japanese subsidiaries of international firms. She first came to Canada in 1987 and made Vancouver her home in 1998.

Andy Wickey – Coquitlam

Andy Wickey was born in Sri Lanka

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s22 but has called British Columbia his home for the last 22 years. He is the Managing Director of Suriya Financial Services. Previously, he was an Insurance Advisor at RBC Insurance and a Control Systems Designer for Veco Engineering. Mr. Wickey is an Area Governor for Toastmasters International, a board member of PoCoMo Youth Services and P.M. Heritage Society and a volunteer for RCMP Community Policing. He holds his Financial Management and Financial Planning Certificate from the British Columbia Institute of Technology and his Aeronautical Engineering Electrical & Instrumentation from British Airways.

Anar Popatia – Coquitlam

Anar Popatia is a partner in a family wealth management practice associated with Assante Wealth Management and is responsible for Client Relations and Business Development. Previously she worked as a Senior Consultant of Enterprise Solutions with Dun and Bradstreet Canada. Active in her community, Ms. Popatia was recently appointed as President of the Canadian Club of Vancouver and was the Event Chair for the Governor Generals first official visit to BC. Ms. Popatia holds her Bachelor of Business and Economics from Brock University. She attended a Law Program at the University of London and graduated from the Executive Development Program at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Popatia is currently completing the Directors Education Program, obtaining her ICD.D (Corporate Director) designation.

Angela Fang - Nanaimo

Angela Fang is the Chief Executive Officer of Canada Stem Cell Research Corporation and the President and Senior Consultant of Canada Marine Bio-tech Research Centre. Active in the community, she is the President and Director of the Nanaimo Chinese Cultural Society and the former Vice President of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society. She holds her Bachelor of Arts in Traditional Chinese Art from the Beijing Capital Normal University and her Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Simon Fraser University.

Allan Horning - Kelowna

Al Horning is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly first elected in 2005 to represent the riding of Kelowna-Lake Country. Previously, Mr. Horning was an Alderman on Kelowna City Council from 1980-1988 and elected to Kelowna City Council as Councilor again in 2002. He served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Okanagan Centre from 1988 to 1993. Prior to his career in politics, Mr. Horning was a Realtor and President of Sun Country Realty Ltd and an orchardist before being elected as an MP. His extensive community service includes serving as Director of the Central Okanagan Regional Hospital Board, Director of Kelowna General Hospital, Director of the Okanagan Water Basin, Director of the Central Okanagan Regional District, and Director of the Economic Development Commission. He was a Director of Sports and Facilities for the 1980 BC Summer Games and President and Manager of the Kelowna Molsons Intermediate Hockey Club in addition to coaching and managing many fastball and hockey teams.

Eunice Oh - Coquitlam

Eunice Oh is the President of the Korean Society of British Columbia and the Owner of Eagle Ridge Drugs and Oh Pharmacy. Active in the community, she is a Director and former Chair of the Vancouver Korean Scholarship Foundation, the Chair of Rose of Sharon Foundation, a Director with the Rose of Sharon Care Society, and a Director with First Steps. Mr. Oh holds her Bachelor of Science and her Master of Science from the Ewha Women's University and holds her pharmacy license from the University of Toronto.

Patrick Wong –West Vancouver

Patrick Wong is a chartered accountant practising in B.C. and has been a senior partner of a professional accounting firm "Wong Robinson & Co., Chartered Accountants" established since 1983, specializing in tax and corporate business consulting services. Mr. Wong can speak fluent Chinese including Mandarin and Cantonese. Wong was first elected in 2001 to represent the riding of Vancouver – Kensington and appointed as the former Minister of State for Immigration and Multicultural Services in 2004-2005 in the Province of British Columbia. He has served as a member of the Legislative Select Standing Committees on Crown Corporations and Public Accounts, Finance and the Government Caucus Committee on Education. He has chaired B.C. Government Caucus' Asia Economic Development Committee, actively promoting Canada-China trade

research and relations and participated actively in the Multicultural Government Caucus Committee.

David C. Lai -Victoria

Dr. David Lai has taught in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria for 35 years and retired in 2003 as Professor Emeritus . Currently, he is a Research Affiliate of Centre on Aging, University of Victoria, and Adjunct Professor of David Lam Centre for International Communication, Simon Fraser University. His researches are concentrated on the history of Chinese Canadians , development of Canadian Chinatowns and ethnic groups in British Columbia. He was appointed as a B.C. member on Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (2001-4). He is a Cultural Advisor of Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in Victoria. He is a Member of Order of Canada and a Honorary Citizen of Victoria. He received Citation Award by Association of American Geographers in 1982 and the International Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History in 1983 for his outstanding contributions to the conservation and restoration of Victoria Chinatown.

ATTACHMENT 3

MAC Board Appointment Status for 2013

The following six MAC members complete their initial term of appointment by end of 2013 and are eligible for reappointment.

1. s22
- 2.
3. Myrt Turner
- 4.
5. s22
- 6.

s22

All the required documentation and the appraisal forms of the members eligible for reappointment have been submitted to the Board Resource Development office (BRDO) which administers all the appointments and reappointments.

s22 has completed s22 six year term with the MAC. s22 position will be vacant soon.

MAC's recommendation on requirement of youth representation on the MAC has been communicated to BRDO. The MAC Secretariat has suggested appointment of s22 on the MAC.

s22
BRDO has been requested to consider his candidature for appointment. All required documentation has been sent to BRDO.

ATTACHMENT 4

Role of the MAC in Relation to Minister's Mandate Letter items 6 & 9

Item 6: Work with provincial multicultural organizations to ensure they are connected to and are participating in the activities of the provincial government.

The MAC members are not only community representatives but also the community leaders from different communities across from the province who have expertise in multiculturalism.

Every MAC member brings with her/him several community and organizational networks. Through the MAC, the provincial government not only gets an opportunity to connect with these networks but also to learn from them about their community engagements.

The MAC members strengthen this link between the provincial government and the communities.

Provincial Nesika Awards: The 2012 Provincial Nesika Awards to recognize the multicultural champions across the province received an unprecedented community response.

Youth Dialogues: The 2011-2012 Youth Dialogues on Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism also received a huge response where more than 3000 youths across the province participated in total in 20 dialogue events. This was part of the youth engagement strategy suggested by the MAC.

Item 9: Ensure that our multicultural programming is relevant and useful to our ethnic communities and they are able to participate fully in the programs of our government.

Under the leadership of the MAC in 2013-14 five community forums on Inclusion and Diversity have been proposed to learn from the communities about the access and barriers to various government programs.

Some of the expected outcomes of these forums are:

- Proactive and constructive participation from a cross section of stakeholders.
- Province to receive strategic recommendations from the participants to address the identified gaps.
- Strong community partnerships.

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INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #:

Date: November 8, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Premier Christie Clark

ISSUE: B.C. economic status and outlook

KEY MESSAGES:

- Most indicators of B.C.'s economic performance so far in 2013 reveal slow domestic activity compared to the same period of 2012 (see table below). While employment and retail sales growth have been weaker than anticipated, housing starts and exports have performed better than expected so far this year.
- As of June 27, 2013, the Ministry of Finance forecasts B.C.'s real GDP to grow 1.4 per cent in 2013 and 2.2 per cent in 2014 (published in June Update 2013).
- The B.C. Ministry of Finance will release an updated economic forecast in February 2014 with the Budget and Fiscal Plan 2014/15 – 2016/17.

BACKGROUND:

The Current Status of the B.C. Economy – as of November 6, 2013

- Employment growth s13
Employment growth has been nearly flat in B.C. through the first nine months of 2013. Year-to-date data show a 0.1 per cent contraction compared to the same period last year.
- Retail sales s13
Retail sales growth has been tepid so far this year. Prices for retail goods remain low and debt-conscious consumers are reining in spending.
- Housing starts s13
In particular, housing starts improved substantially in the third quarter of this year. Recently announced mortgage hikes by Canadian financial institutions have likely encouraged some homebuyers to enter the market in advance of

these increases, as households with pre-approved mortgages rush to take advantage of lower interest rates.

- Despite this improved performance, housing starts are lower year-to-date (compared to the same period of last year), likely due to a number of factors including stalled employment growth and relatively slow population growth.

- Exports

s13

B.C. exports advanced by 6.3 per cent year-to-date to August compared to the same period last year, fueled by increasing exports of B.C.'s forestry products.

- The improvement in the U.S. housing market is benefitting the province. B.C. softwood lumber exports to the U.S. are up 30.8 per cent year-to-date to August, due to increases in volumes and prices.
- Furthermore, exports of softwood lumber to China are also up year-to-date (by 32.8 per cent), mainly due to stronger prices.

Data seasonally adjusted	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter**	Year-to-date
	Jan. to Mar. 2013	Apr. to Jun. 2013	Jul. to Sep. 2013	Jan. to Sep. 2013
	change from Oct. to Dec. 2012	change from Jan. to Mar. 2013	change from Apr. to Jun. 2013	change from Jan. to Sep. 2012
Per cent change				
Employment	-0.4	0.4	-0.2	-0.1
Manufacturing shipments*	1.6	-1.2	-1.2	1.2
Exports*	7.4	-2.0	0.7	6.3
Retail sales*	0.2	0.8	1.1	0.8
Housing starts	-2.3	5.8	17.1	-7.2
Non-residential building permits*	-26.7	34.1	13.9	-25.0
Unemployment rate (per cent)	7.0	6.4	6.7	6.6
* Data to August				
** If only July and August data are available, their average is compared to the April 2013 to June 2013 average.				

Outlook

The October *Consensus Economics* survey of private sector economists forecasts the following growth rates for real GDP in these countries:

- United States: 1.6 per cent in 2013 and 2.6 per cent in 2014
- Canada: 1.7 per cent in 2013 and 2.3 per cent in 2014
- Euro zone: -0.3 per cent in 2013 and 0.9 per cent in 2014
- Japan: 1.9 per cent in 2013 and 1.7 per cent in 2014
- China: 7.6 per cent in 2013 and 7.4 per cent in 2014
-

Downside risks to B.C.'s economic outlook include:

- The potential for further slowing of domestic economic activity, including weakness in employment, retail sales and housing;
- Renewed weakness in the U.S. economy (characterized by weaker consumer spending, further deleveraging causing slower investment, and further fiscal restraint by federal, state and local governments);
- The ongoing European sovereign debt situation affecting the stability of global financial markets;
- Slower than anticipated economic activity in Asia, resulting in weaker demand for B.C.'s exports; and
- Exchange rate volatility.

Prepared by:

Karen Lam, Senior Manager, International Investment and Company Attraction, MIT
Telephone: (office) 604-775-2188 (Cell) s17

Sadaf Mirza, Deputy Chief Economist, Economic Forecasting and Analysis, MOF
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Reviewed by				
Dir:	ED:	ADM:	DM:	MIN:

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
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INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #:

Date: November 8, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Premier Christie Clark

ISSUE: Corporate and personal tax advantages

KEY MESSAGES:

- Since 2001 the Government of British Columbia has significantly improved the British Columbia tax system. Personal and corporate income taxes have been significantly lowered to reduce the burden on families and improve the competitiveness of B.C. businesses.
- B.C. currently has the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning up to \$122,000 a year.
- When all taxes are considered, British Columbians generally have one of the lowest tax burdens in the country.
- Keeping business taxes low is an essential part of maintaining a competitive business environment that attracts investment, creates jobs and moves B.C.'s economy forward.
- B.C.'s provincial general corporate income tax rate is 33 per cent lower than in 2001, and B.C. continues to have among the lowest general corporate income tax rates in Canada.
- B.C. has a competitive small business corporate income tax rate of 2.5 per cent, a reduction of 44 per cent since 2001 and the third lowest in the country (behind Manitoba at 0 per cent and Saskatchewan at 2 per cent).
- The small business corporate income tax threshold, below which small corporations pay the lower rate of corporate income tax, has been increased by 150 per cent to \$500,000 since 2002.

BACKGROUND:

When combined with the federal rate of 15.0%, B.C.'s general corporate tax rate is 26.0% - one of the lowest in the G7 and lower than in every US state.

Property tax is not applicable on production machinery, business equipment, furniture, inventories, and other non-real estate assets (unlike many US jurisdictions).

In contrast to other Canadian jurisdictions, B.C. businesses do not pay provincial payroll taxes or levies for the health care system. Furthermore, British Columbia does not tax the capital of non-financial businesses.

Vancouver ranked #2 in tax competitiveness among the 55 major international cities studied in the latest edition of KPMG: Competitive Alternatives 2012: Special Report, Focus on Tax.

CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES – 2013		PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATES - 2013 Top Marginal Rates	
British Columbia	26.00%	British Columbia	43.70% ¹
Alberta	25.00%	Alberta	39.00%
Quebec	26.90%	Quebec	49.97%
Ontario	26.50%	Ontario	49.53%
California	40.75%	California	47.03%
Washington	35.00%	Washington	39.60%
Oregon	39.94%	Oregon	45.58%

Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers, September 5, 2013

Prepared by:

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Richard Purnell, Strategic Advisor, Tax Policy Branch, MOF
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¹ B/C's top personal tax bracket will be temporarily increased from 14.7% to 16.8% for the 2014 and 2015 tax years only, resulting in a total rate of 45.80%

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

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
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MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 12536

Date: January 16, 2014

PREPARED FOR: Minister Teresa Wat

PROPOSED PHONE MEETING: Minister Wat to call federal Minister Ed Fast to express support for the conclusion of Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA) negotiations.

CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY: As a priority market for British Columbia, improving the province's trade and economic relations with South Korea is vital. s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17

DISCUSSION: Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development's "2007 Preliminary Assessment of the Economic Impacts of a Canada-Korea FTA", estimates an agreement could increase exports to South Korea by 56 percent.

Canada and South Korea launched CKFTA negotiations in 2005. Negotiations stalled in 2008

s13, s16, s17

s13, s16, s17

In October 2013, Canadian Prime Minister Harper and South Korean President Park met on the margins of the APEC Leaders' Summit in Bali, and publicly agreed to resume negotiations immediately to try to conclude CKFTA by the end of 2013.

A meeting of Chief Negotiators was held in Vancouver in late October 2013, and the 14th formal round of CKFTA negotiations was held in Seoul in late November 2013. Progress on negotiations was recently reported to trade officials at the December 12-13 Committee on International Trade (C-Trade) meeting in Ottawa.

s13, s16, s17

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s13, s16, s17

s13, s16

The European Union (July 2011), the United States (March 2012), and Australia (December 2013) have recently concluded free trade agreements with South Korea. South Korea is also negotiating with New Zealand.

s13, s16

s13, s16

In 2012, B.C. exports to South Korea declined by over 30 per cent. Based on recent trade statistics to November 2013, B.C. exports to Korea are down a further 9.5 per cent from 2012.

s13, s16

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1: Speaking Points for proposed Minister Wat's phone call with Minister Fast
Attachment 2: Draft letter to Minister Fast from Minister Wat

Prepared by: Joshua A. Smith, Manager, International Trade
Telephone: (250-952-0790)

Reviewed by				
Dir: JQ	ED: RM (DW)	ADM: RS	DM:	MIN:

SPEAKING POINTS FOR MINISTER WAT'S PHONE CALL WITH MINISTER FAST

s13, s16, s17

Draft #:

Revised Date:

Typist/Editor Initials:

Ref: 12515

The Honourable Ed Fast
Minister of International Trade
and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Fast,

I am writing to reiterate British Columbia's strong support for concluding an ambitious Canada-South Korea free trade agreement (CKFTA) and to provide you with our top priorities, positions and views on the current status of negotiations and some key areas of interest.

First, I want to congratulate you on your successful efforts to reinvigorate these negotiations and on the great progress made, particularly in the last few months.

As you know, South Korea is a priority market for British Columbia. It is highlighted, along with China, Japan, and India, in our *British Columbia Jobs Plan* and was our fourth largest export destination in 2012 with \$1.9 billion in goods being exported. This total was first amongst Canadian provinces and territories and amounted to more than 50% of overall Canadian exports to South Korea. This trade deal is extremely important for us, particularly in key sectors such as forestry, energy, and agri-foods.

Our competitive advantage with this important market is seriously at risk now and in the future. The European Union, Australia and the United States have concluded preferential free trade agreements with South Korea, and there is the potential for one with New Zealand. In 2012, British Columbia exports to South Korea, for a variety of reasons, were down by over 30 per cent.

s13, s16

I believe that the time to reach a deal is now upon us. Most significantly, it must include a level of ambition that secures preferential access to the Korean market that is at least as good, if not better, than our competitors to ensure a level playing field for our companies. Therefore, without prejudice to

future negotiating positions, I offer you the following priorities and observations for your attention in the negotiations.

s13, s16

s13, s16

Once again, I commend your efforts in South Korea. If I can assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Teresa Wat
Minister

cc: Norm Letnick,
Minister of Agriculture

bcc: Pierrette Maranda, Associate Deputy Minister.
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Don White, Executive Director
Trade Initiatives Branch

Minister: file copy Branch: file copy Branch: pending copy ARCS/ORCS#: 0280-30
Date Typed: January 16, 2014 Prepared by:

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ASIA PACIFIC STRATEGY AND MULTICULTURALISM

INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #: 12563
Date: January 7, 2014

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Teresa Wat, Minister

ISSUE: Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade (CETA) negotiations

KEY MESSAGES:

- The EU is the largest trading bloc in the world with a combined GDP of \$17 trillion and a population of 500 million. Preferential access to that market will be an enormous boost to British Columbian and Canadian companies.
- Our Government supports the CETA agreement-in-principle and the outcomes we expect it to deliver for British Columbia.
- British Columbia has been an active participant throughout the CETA negotiations, and we urge the CETA collaborative federal-provincial model be used for other international trade negotiations, and similar to what is now occurring for the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations.
- British Columbia encourages the federal government to rapidly advance trade negotiations with our priority markets in the Asia Pacific region.

Health costs key messages (if asked...):

- We have worked closely with the federal government to ensure our interests are reflected on all issues, including on the cost of drugs. And our voice has been heard. The federal government has committed publicly to compensate provinces and territories for additional drug costs related to the CETA.

Dairy and cheese key messages (if asked...):

- Prime Minister Harper acknowledged there could be “small and transitory negative effects” to the dairy industry but has indicated compensation will be provided.

BACKGROUND:

CETA negotiations began in May 2009. An agreement in principle was reached October 18, 2013. Technical work is underway with a final agreement expected in 2015.

In 2012, the EU was the Province’s fifth largest export market behind the US, China, Japan and Korea with exports of goods totaling \$1.8 billion (down from \$2.3 billion in 2011). BC’s services exports (e.g., architectural, engineering, tourism) to the EU were valued at over \$1 billion in 2011.

Top goods exports from the Province to the EU included coal, wood pulp, sawdust and wood fuel, and lumber.

DISCUSSION:

British Columbia's general objectives in the negotiations included:

s13, s16, s17

UPDATE/NEXT STEPS:

- Negotiators continue to work on technical issues and to finalize text. The next negotiating session is scheduled for the week of January 20, 2014. s13, s17

s13, s17

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- A Canada-EU summit is expected to be held in s13
- Once the negotiations are fully concluded, the text will need to be legally reviewed, translated and ratified, which could take as long as two years to complete.
- It is unclear when the CETA text will be fully completed and/or made public.
- The Trade Initiatives Branch continues to identify opportunities for outreach and education with divisional staff, ministries across government, and private sector stakeholders.

Prepared by: Monica Gervais, Senior Manager, Trade Initiatives Branch

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MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ASIA PACIFIC STRATEGY AND MULTICULTURALISM

BRIEFING NOTE

Cliff #: 12563

Date: January 31, 2014

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Teresa Wat, Minister

ISSUE: Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade (CETA) negotiations (updated information for the Minister, last update provided in late 2013)

KEY MESSAGES:

- The European Union (EU) is the largest trading bloc in the world with a combined GDP of \$17 trillion and a population of 500 million. Preferential access to that market will be an enormous boost to British Columbian and Canadian companies.
- Our Government supports the CETA agreement-in-principle and the outcomes we expect it to deliver for B.C.
- B.C. has been an active participant throughout the CETA negotiations, and we urge the CETA collaborative federal-provincial model be used for other international trade negotiations, and similar to what is now occurring for the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations.
- B.C. encourages the federal government to rapidly advance trade negotiations with our priority markets in the Asia Pacific region.

Health costs key messages (if asked...):

- We have worked closely with the federal government to ensure our interests are reflected on all issues, including on the cost of drugs. And our voice has been heard. The federal government has committed publicly to compensate provinces and territories for additional drug costs related to the CETA.

Dairy and cheese key messages (if asked...):

- Prime Minister Harper acknowledged there could be “small and transitory negative effects” to the dairy industry but has indicated compensation will be provided.

BACKGROUND:

CETA negotiations began in May 2009. An agreement in principle to conclude the negotiations was announced October 18, 2013. Technical work is underway with a final agreement expected in 2015.

In 2012, the EU was the Province’s fifth largest export market behind the US, China, Japan and Korea with exports of goods totaling \$1.8 billion (down from \$2.3 billion in

2011). B.C.'s services exports (e.g., architectural, engineering, tourism) to the EU were valued at over \$1 billion in 2011. Top goods exports from the Province to the EU included coal, wood pulp, sawdust and wood fuel, and lumber.

DISCUSSION:

British Columbia's general objectives in the negotiations include:

s13, s16, s17

UPDATE/NEXT STEPS:

- Negotiators continue to work on technical issues and to finalize text. A negotiating session attended by provinces and territories was held the week of January 20, 2014 with the next session scheduled for the week of February 17, 2014. s13, s17

s13, s17

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- A Canada-EU summit is expected to be held in

s13

s13

- Once the negotiations are fully concluded, the text will need to be legally reviewed, translated and ratified, which could take as long as two years to complete.
- It is unclear when the CETA text will be made available to the public by the federal government.
- The Trade Initiatives Branch continues to identify opportunities for outreach and education with divisional staff, ministries across government, and private sector stakeholders.
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