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Subject: Media - BIV - TOIFA follow up
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 4:43:29 PM

Reporter: Bob Mackin - BIV

Deadline: asap

Topic: TOIFA

Questions:

From the reporter:

I spoke with Sameer Soni of BCCL, and he said his group was not the party responsible for whether to invite politicians or officials from other levels of government.

Is Mr. Soni misleading me? Why wouldn't the provincial government, which was the biggest funder of TOIFA, extend invites to officials from governments above and below, as per protocol?

I note that Mayors Robertson, Watts and Brodie were supportive of the concept for a Bollywood awards event -- they put their faces and letters of support in the IIFA bid book. TOIFA happened instead, for reasons beyond the mayors' control.

Were Marissen, Clark and Mann using tickets sold or given to the Liberal Party?

Recommendation: GCPE respond on background

Messaging:

Bob,

Mr. Soni is confirming what we've long upheld - that the BC government was not allotted any complimentary tickets, including for the purpose of invitations.

TOIFA was a ticket-driven event - if mayors, federal politicians, or any other officials wished to attend they could have paid for a ticket.

Consistent with past BC Place events, a small number of seats are set aside for PavCo's use. It is common practice for these seats to be made available for sponsors and stakeholders. For this event the Province offered these seats to B.C. business stakeholders critical to our goals of advancing trade with India.

We understand Mayor Dianne Watts and several Surrey City Councillors did attend the TOIFA main awards event. Also attending were: MP Nina Grewal, Federal Minister Tim Uppal and Alberta minister Manmeet Bhullar. Again - none of them were invitees of the Province.

Mayor Robertson was invited to the launch organized by The Province on January 22nd but did not attend. Mayor Watts was invited and attended.

As the individuals you mention attended as private citizens, we are not aware of their purchase arrangements.

David Currie

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