



Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat
Office of the Premier

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT
PREMIER'S ESTIMATES NOTES
JUNE 2021

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Title: **B.C. – Federal Relations**

Issue: **B.C.'s engagement with the federal government**

Response:

- The B.C. and federal governments are in frequent, close contact at all levels – from the Premier and the Prime Minister on down – to discuss opportunities to work together for the benefit of all British Columbians, as well as common challenges including responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B.C.'s positive, constructive approach is the best way to get results for British Columbians.

Background/Status:

- Areas where B.C. has successfully made our voice heard and/or coordinated our actions with the federal government in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic include:
 - the need to discourage non-essential travel;
 - self-isolation of returning travellers;
 - temporary foreign workers;
 - commercial rent assistance;
 - wage top-ups for essential workers;
 - Canada-U.S. border restrictions; and
 - pan-Canadian sick leave.
- The two governments share a commitment to accelerating Canada's clean energy transition and investing in the clean economy. B.C. and federal officials continue to work together to follow up on the August 29, 2019 Memorandum of Understanding on the Electrification of the Natural Gas Sector, with the goal of securing federal funding for the projects identified in the MOU.
- Other areas where B.C. continues to make our voice heard include:
 - infrastructure (George Massey Crossing, Surrey-Langley Skytrain, Royal B.C. Museum);
 - Indigenous housing;
 - support for B.C. shipbuilding industry (June 11, 2020 letter of support) (note: following B.C.'s advocacy, the federal government announced on May 6, 2021 that Seaspan Shipyards had been selected to build a polar icebreaker for the Canadian Coast Guard in North Vancouver); and

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- trade issues with the United States (including the March 11, 2021 letter, and the June 30, 2020 letter expressing concern about potential re-imposition of U.S. Section 232 tariffs on aluminum exports).
- B.C. and the federal government are closely aligned on our commitments to Indigenous reconciliation. Both governments are committed to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. B.C.'s ten draft principles to guide public service employees' relationships with Indigenous peoples closely mirror the federal principles and are based on respect and recognition of inherent rights.
- Many aspects of the recent federal budget align well with B.C.'s priorities; e.g.:
 - child care (\$29.8 billion over five years and \$8.3 billion per year ongoing);
 - green initiatives (e.g., \$5 billion over seven years to the Net Zero Accelerator to support emissions reduction projects across the economy; and \$35 million over five years to help establish the Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy in B.C.);
 - tax on unproductive use of Canadian housing by non-resident owners;
 - funding for Indigenous communities (e.g., \$6 billion over five years for infrastructure in Indigenous communities, \$1.4 billion over five years for health care and \$1.2 billion this year for COVID-19 response in Indigenous communities);
 - ocean conservation (\$977 million over five years); and
 - salmon restoration (\$647 million over five years, including funding for research, new hatchery facilities, habitat restoration, a Pacific Salmon Secretariat and Restoration Centre of Expertise and \$100 million to double the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund).

Contact: Grant Smith – 250 387-1042
Executive Director, Federalism and Canadian Intergovernmental Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **First Ministers' Meetings (FMMs)**

Issue: **B.C.'s engagement in First Ministers' Meetings**

Response:

- Canada's First Ministers (the Prime Minister plus the thirteen Premiers) have been holding frequent teleconferences to discuss opportunities to work together and common challenges and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background/Status:

- As of May 1st, 2021, First Ministers had held thirty conference calls during the pandemic. The first was on March 13th, 2020, in lieu of an in-person FMM that would have taken place in Ottawa if not for COVID-19.
- Issues discussed on the calls have included:
 - Health care funding and the Canada Health Transfer (CHT);
 - vaccine roll-out;
 - COVID-related border restrictions (including the land border, international flights, temporary foreign workers and international students);
 - the federal budget;
 - the First Ministers' April 28th, 2020 statement on shared public health approach to support restarting the economy;
 - the First Ministers' June 25th, 2020 statement on anti-racism;
 - the First Ministers' July 16th, 2020 statement on the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Safe Restart Agreement (which was negotiated at the First Ministers' table, and included supports for sick leave, public transit, mental health, municipalities, child care, etc.);
 - federal Safe Return to Class funding;
 - wage top-ups for essential workers;
 - commercial rent assistance;
 - the federal *Emergencies Act*;
 - COVID-19 testing and contact tracing;
 - procurement of PPE and medical equipment (domestic and international);
 - Canada-U.S. relations, including trade issues with the United States (CUSMA, aluminum tariffs).

Contact: Grant Smith – 250 387-1042
 Executive Director, Federalism and Canadian Intergovernmental Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **COVID-19 Funding from Canada**

Issue: **Federal funding support for B.C.'s pandemic response; – and the need for ongoing federal support.**

Response:

- British Columbians have benefitted from the complementary efforts of the provincial and federal governments in responding to COVID-19.
- Through the Safe Restart Program and other supports, the federal government provided B.C. with over \$3 billion to increase our pandemic response.
- These pandemic-related federal supports have largely ended – but the pandemic itself, and its wide ranging impacts have not. The collaborative investments that supported British Columbians during the pandemic will still be needed as we emerge from the pandemic and move towards recovery.
- Although one-time federal funding has helped with the immediate pressures of the pandemic, it does not address the long-term funding partnership for health care. Premiers have called on the federal government to increase the Canada Health Transfer to 35 per cent of provincial/territorial health care spending and to maintain that federal share over time.

Background/Status:

- The federal government's pandemic-related funding support to B.C. includes:
 - \$1,963 million through the Safe Restart Agreement (national total of \$19.9 billion in transfers to provinces and territories and direct federal spending – see separate note);
 - \$542 million to support recovery of the health care system (national total \$4 billion in the form of a one-time top-up to the Canada Health Transfer announced in March 2021);
 - \$371 million through the COVID-19 Essential Workers Support Fund (national total \$3 billion);
 - \$242 million in Safe Return to Class funding (national total \$2 billion);
 - \$135 million to assist with B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization campaign (national total \$1 billion);
 - \$67 million to address critical health system needs (national total \$500 million as a one-time COVID-19 Response payment through the Canada Health Transfer announced in March 2020 and paid in fiscal year 2019/20).

Contact: Grant Smith – 250 387-1042
Executive Director, Federalism and Canadian Intergovernmental Policy

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From B.C.'s Budget 2021 (page 45):

A Collaborative Approach to Address COVID-19 Through Partnership with the Federal Government

British Columbians have benefitted from the complementary efforts of both the provincial and federal governments in responding to COVID-19.

Through the Safe Restart Program and other supports, the federal government provided B.C. with over \$3 billion to increase pandemic response in health care, child care, schools, infrastructure and emergency supports for the province's most vulnerable people. This includes over \$1.3 billion for a number of provincial-federal cost shared programs, including: supports for local governments and transit providers; financial relief for commercial tenants; and temporary pandemic pay for frontline workers. While these pandemic-related federal supports have largely ended, the pandemic and its wide-ranging impacts have not. The collaborative investments that have supported British Columbians during the pandemic will continue to be needed as we emerge from the pandemic and move towards recovery.

The pandemic's impacts made it clear that there were gaps in the social safety net in Canada, gaps which were addressed on a short-term basis through the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers, crisis supplements, and the B.C. Recovery Benefit, as well as federal measures such as Canada Emergency Response Benefit and the federal sickness, caregiver and recovery benefits, and temporary changes to make employment insurance more accessible and flexible. B.C. supports making the temporary changes to employment insurance permanent and welcomes any opportunities to work with the federal government to address other gaps in the safety net, such as permanent paid sick leave.

The pandemic increased health care costs substantially in 2020/21, and it will have lasting impacts on health care going forward. Even before the pandemic, provincial health care systems were under strain from known

cost drivers such as inflation, population growth, and aging. System funding pressure was further exacerbated by the federal decision to proceed with a reduction in the growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer in 2017-18. While one-time federal funding has helped with the immediate pressures of the pandemic, it does not address the long-term funding partnership. The Parliamentary Budget Officer has indicated that the federal government is in a position to permanently increase spending over the long term. Premiers have made enhancing long-term federal health care funding their top priority for federal negotiations. This includes calling for increasing the Canada Health Transfer to 35 per cent of provincial/territorial health care spending and adopting a growth rate that maintains that federal share, as discussed in provincial/territorial finance ministers' February 2021 report to the Council of the federation.

B.C. joins other provinces in calling for additional improvements to the federal government's Fiscal Stabilization program that are needed to address significant annual declines in provincial revenues due to extraordinary economic circumstances such as those brought about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the province looks ahead, there is an ongoing need for targeted federal investments to help B.C. to build back better; such investments are needed to support infrastructure projects, expand broadband and cellular access, increase skills training to help people get back in the workforce and increase access to child-care which is essential to our recovery. British Columbia joins other provinces and territories in requesting that a meaningful portion of federal stimulus funding be earmarked for key provincial priorities to recognize the important role provinces and territories are playing in fostering economic growth. This would help B.C. continue to boost recovery and bolster the province's economic resilience.

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Title: **Safe Restart Agreement**

Issue: **The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Safe Restart Agreement**

Response:

- British Columbia played a key role in negotiating last year's Federal-Provincial-Territorial Safe Restart Agreement (SRA).
- The SRA provided B.C. with almost \$2 billion in federal funding for investments that the province, municipalities and transit systems needed to make so the economy could restart safely in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background/Status:

- On July 16th, 2020, Canada's First Ministers' announced that they had reached agreement on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Safe Restart Agreement (SRA).
- The SRA provided over \$19 billion in federal support for provincial and territorial efforts to restart their economies over the six to eight months after it was signed.
- Direct benefits provided to B.C. under the SRA included:
 - \$810 million for municipalities and transit (national total \$4.3 billion);
 - \$405 million for testing, contact tracing and data management (national total \$3.0 billion);
 - \$405 million for personal protective equipment (PPE) (national total \$3.0 billion);
 - \$162 million for health care system capacity (including mental health and problematic substance use) (national total \$1.2 billion);
 - \$100 million to help support vulnerable populations (national total \$740 million); and
 - \$83 million for child care for returning workers (national total \$625 million).
- In addition to these cash transfers to provinces, territories, municipalities and transit systems, the federal government agreed under the SRA to directly provide additional PPE worth up to \$4.6 billion nationally, additional supports for testing, contact tracing and data management worth up to \$1.3 billion nationally, and federal support for sick leave estimated at \$1.1 billion.

Contact: Grant Smith – 250 387-1042
Executive Director, Federalism and Canadian Intergovernmental Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **Interprovincial Relations**

Issue: **B.C.'s participation in the Council of the Federation, Western Premiers' Conference, and other interprovincial relations**

Response:

- B.C. pursues constructive working relationships with all other provinces and territories, both bilaterally and through multilateral tables like the Council of the Federation and the Western Premiers' Conference.
- These relationships allow us to project our influence on the national stage by joining forces with others and by speaking up to ensure that the national consensus reflects B.C.'s interests.

Background/Status:

Council of the Federation (COF)

- The Council of the Federation (COF) is composed of the thirteen Premiers of Canada's provinces and territories. It was established in 2003, building on the earlier practice of Annual Premiers' Conferences.
- The Chair of COF is assumed by a Premier on a rotational basis, for a one-year term.
 - The current Chair is Premier François Legault of Québec.
 - Premier Brian Pallister of Manitoba will become Chair this June.
 - B.C. will assume the Chair in the summer of 2022. B.C.'s last turn as Chair was in 2011/12.
- COF ordinarily meets at least once each year, with the main summer meeting being supplemented as necessary by a shorter winter meeting. The last in-person summer meeting took place in Saskatoon on July 9-11, 2019, followed by a winter meeting in Toronto on December 1-2, 2019.
- During the pandemic, COF has not met in person, but has met frequently by phone to discuss common challenges and responses to COVID-19.
- Premiers have used these calls to exchange views and information on important aspects of the provincial and territorial response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:
 - international border restrictions and self-isolation of returning travellers;
 - public health directives and approaches regarding non-essential travel;
 - procurement of PPE and medical equipment; and
 - supports for key economic sectors.

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- Premiers have also used the calls to discuss shared approaches to First Ministers' calls, on issues such as:
 - the Canada Health Transfer (CHT);
 - federal infrastructure funding;
 - the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Safe Restart Agreement (which included supports for sick leave, public transit, mental health, municipalities, child care, etc.);
 - the federal *Emergencies Act*;
 - commercial rent assistance; and
 - wage top-ups for essential workers.
- COF is supported by a Secretariat funded by all provinces and territories.
- Fees for 2021/22 and 2022/23 (in total over the two-year period) are eight cents (\$0.08) per Canadian in each jurisdiction, based on the 2016 population census, with fees to be paid in fiscal year 2021/22 or 2022/23. B.C.'s member fees for each of 2021/22 and 2022/23 is \$195,218 (includes 5% GST).
- Members incur expenses for travel costs to annual meetings and hosting the annual meeting while they are Chair.

Western Premiers' Conference

- The Western Premiers' Conference (WPC) is a forum to advance shared interests of Western Canada through enhanced cooperation and constructive dialogue.
- The WPC is comprised of seven Premiers: B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.
- The WPC normally meets once each year, but it did not meet in 2020 due to the pandemic. The last two WPCs were in Edmonton on June 26-27, 2019 and in Yellowknife on May 22-23, 2018.
- WPC members do not make financial contributions for the WPC; however, members incur expenses for travel costs to annual meetings and hosting the annual meeting while they are Chair.
- The 2021 WPC is a virtual meeting, to be chaired by Premier Joe Savikataaq of Nunavut on June 15. The agenda focusses on post-pandemic health care systems and economic recovery.

Contact: Grant Smith – 250 387-1042
Executive Director, Federalism and Canadian Intergovernmental Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: Alberta's Bill 72

Issue: Alberta has introduced Bill 72 ("Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act"; colloquially known as the turn-off-the-taps bill) as a successor to the previous act of the same name.

Response:

- We are carefully reviewing Alberta's new legislation (Bill 72).
- This will inform any next steps we may take.

Advice/Recommendations

Background/Status:

- On May 25, 2021, Alberta's Minister of Energy introduced Bill 72, the *Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act*. The Bill replaces the 2019 Act of the same name and, if passed, would be retroactive to May 1, 2021. It purports to give Alberta's Minister of Energy the power to limit exports of crude oil and natural gas to other provinces.
- As of June 2, 2021, Bill 72 is at second reading. Alberta's spring sitting is scheduled to wrap up on June 17, 2021.
- The revised legislation is largely unchanged from the 2019 version; however, there are two notable differences:
 - Bill 72 has no sunset clause; and
 - Bill 72 omits all references to refined fuels (e.g. gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel and locomotive fuel, or any other fuel or component used to produce refined fuels specified by regulation).
- According to Alberta's Energy Minister, the removal of references to refined fuels is intended to strengthen Alberta's defence against potential legal challenges.

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- On May 26, during debate on second reading, Alberta's Energy Minister said: "Having this legislation is simply a matter of ensuring that we have every option available to protect our province. Using the authority would be the final, not the first, step in defending Alberta, and we will continue to seek the path of diplomacy while assertively protecting our vital economic interests."
- Alberta's Minister of Environment and Parks and Government House Leader has said that while a dispute with B.C. was the original impetus for the legislation, the revised Bill is not about past disagreements with B.C. over TMX. He said "I want to stress this is not just about B.C." and that the Alberta-B.C. relationship has "gone very well, as of late."
- Several members of Alberta's Official Opposition have criticized the revised Bill, arguing that the omission of refined fuels makes the new legislation weaker by removing its direct relevance to consumers.

History

- The original *Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act* was introduced by the previous Alberta government as Bill 12 in April 2018. It included a provision under which it would be automatically repealed two years after coming into force, unless Alberta's Legislative Assembly adopted a motion to extend the date.
- Bill 12 received royal assent in May 2018, ^{Intergovernmental Communications} the government of the day chose not to proclaim it.
- In May 2018, B.C. filed a constitutional challenge to the Act. In February 2019, Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench dismissed B.C.'s case, agreeing with Alberta that the challenge was premature since the Act had not been proclaimed.
- While in opposition, Jason Kenney was critical of the Alberta government's decision not to proclaim the Act. During this period, he was explicit about his view that the Act, and the threat of its impact on gasoline prices, could be used to extract policy concessions from British Columbia.
- Premier Kenney was sworn in as Premier on April 30, 2019. Bill 12 was proclaimed the same day.
- In May 2019, B.C. filed a new constitutional challenge to the Act. Alberta asked the court to again dismiss B.C.'s case. In September 2019, the Federal Court dismissed Alberta's motion and granted B.C. an injunction limiting Alberta's ability to use the legislation. The court's decision included strongly-worded criticism of Alberta's case. Alberta's opposition leader, Rachel Notley, said at the time that the court's decision vindicated her tactical choice as Premier not to proclaim the Act "because it would be like blowing up the missile while it's still on the launch pad".
- Alberta filed an appeal in October 2019. In April 2021, the Federal Court of Appeal set aside the lower court's decision and allowed Alberta's motion to dismiss B.C.'s case. However, the court did not rule on the underlying question of the constitutionality of the Act.

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- On April 30, 2021 the original Act ceased to be in force, due to the two-year automatic repeal provision mentioned above. In a statement on May 4, 2021, Alberta's Energy Minister said that the government allowed the law to lapse intentionally. Premier Kenney said the next day that Alberta wanted to see the court's ruling to decide whether the legislation needed changes, and that Alberta would reintroduce the legislation with minor revisions.
- A similar piece of Saskatchewan legislation, Bill 126, the *Energy Export Act*, received royal assent on May 30, 2018 but was never proclaimed. It expired on January 31, 2019.

Contact: Grant Smith – 250 387-1042
Executive Director, Federalism and Canadian Intergovernmental Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: Québec Bill 96: An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec

Issue: Quebec Bill 96 that strengthens French language protections and proposes constitutional amendments

Response:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 97-page bill is complex , and is being reviewed.• The federal government is of the view that, based on initial analysis, it is legitimate for a province to amend a section of the Constitution that pertains to them, as long as it does not change the rest of the Constitution. The major party leaders in Ottawa also agree.• Much of the bill is aimed at strengthening French language protections in workplaces in Québec.• As the bill progresses and the intergovernmental dialogue continues, the government will monitor how it evolves. | Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations |
|--|--|

Background/Status:

- On May 13, 2021, the Québec government introduced Bill 96 that strengthens French-language protections and proposes two constitutional amendments. These are:
 - A provision stating that "Québecers form a nation."
 - A provision stating that "French shall be the only official language of Québec. It is also the common language of the Québec nation."
- Much of the bill is aimed at increasing the use of French in public and workplaces. The Québec government indicated that after a series of studies, there is evidence that French is on the decline in the province, and to reverse that trend, Bill 96, is needed.
- The bill seeks to modify the Constitution Act, 1867 using section 45 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Section 45 says that any province can pass a law in its provincial legislature to amend its own constitution. And, a provincial legislature can only amend the Constitution of Canada, including the Constitution Act, 1867 if: (1) the amendment is to the constitution of the province; and, (2) the amendments are not an exception identified in the Constitution Act, 1982.
- Bill 96 invokes the notwithstanding clause of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The clause is invoked pre-emptively, and would shield the law from being struck down on grounds that it violates fundamental, legal or equality rights.

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- The Québec government indicated that the proposed changes would respect the rights and institutions of the English-speaking community in Québec.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- The matter has been raised in the House of Commons and will be debated before the summer recess, currently scheduled for June 23rd.
- Prime Minister Trudeau stated that based on "initial analysis, it is perfectly legitimate for a province to modify the section of the Constitution that applies specifically to them and that is something they can do while ensuring, of course, that the rest of the Constitution, including the sections that protect linguistic minorities, like anglophones in Québec, continue to be respected."
- The major federal party leaders have also been supportive of the Québec bill. Independent MP Jody Wilson-Raybould and the leader of the Green Party disagree. Both are of the view that more extensive discussions should take place on whether the proposed changes to the Constitution are within a province's unilateral power, and on the protection of minority groups.
- It should be noted that the House of Commons has already recognized that "Québecers form a nation within a united Canada" in a motion passed in November 2006.
- Among Premiers, Premier Kenney is the only Premier to have spoken publicly to the issue. He indicated that by this bill, the Québec government is fighting for its province using every legal tool at their disposal. He also said that the "bill just recognizes a historical cultural reality."
- Advice/Recommendations; Legal Information; Intergovernmental Communications

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Contact: Pierrette Maranda – 250 387-1875
Associate Deputy Minister

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **Canada / U.S. Border**

Issue: **Temporary closure of the Canada/U.S. Border due to COVID-19**

Response:

- Border management is an area of federal jurisdiction.
- The Province remains in continual contact with federal partners on this issue.
- B.C. continues to advocate for a border policy that is informed by guidance from public health experts and science, and which best protects the health and safety of British Columbians.

Background/Status:

Status of International Border

- Canada closed the international air border to non-essential visitors on March 18, 2020. On land borders, Canada and the U.S. agreed to close their shared land border to non-essential traffic starting on March 21, 2020. The agreement is reviewed every 30 days.
- The land border remains open to people making trips for essential reasons, such as for work or school, and for commercial purposes such as cross-border trucking.
- American visitors with immediate family such as spouses or children in Canada may enter the country. No reciprocal arrangements are available to those who wish to visit immediate family in the United States. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently advise that the COVID-19 risk for Americans travelling to Canada is very high, and that all travel to Canada should be avoided.
- Non-essential visitors must present proof of a negative PCR (nasal swab) test taken within 72 hours prior to entry. They are also required to undergo post-arrival testing on Day 1 (Arrival Test) and on Day 10 of the 14-day mandatory quarantine.
- Upon arrival in Canada, international air visitors must quarantine in a government-approved hotel until the results of the PCR test taken upon arrival in Canada are available. Once negative test results have been received, visitors may complete their mandatory 14 day quarantine at home.
- International air arrivals are restricted to the following airports: Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal.
- On June 9, 2021, Canada announced it is taking a gradual, phased approach to reopening the border, starting as early as July 1. Canada and is in constant contact with U.S. officials on the land border.
- The first phase of Canada's border reopening will allow fully vaccinated travellers to bypass staying in a Government-Authorized Accommodation and allow them to

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exit quarantine after they have received negative results of the day 1 on-arrival PCR test.

- Vaccination status details and proof of vaccine for incoming travellers will be facilitated initially by the ArriveCAN app. This will be an interim solution until a more comprehensive solution is built by the federal government, in collaboration with provinces and territories.

Status of Bordering U.S. States

- The United States has recorded more than 33 million coronavirus cases and more than 594,000 coronavirus-linked deaths since the pandemic began.
- As of May 31, neighbouring U.S. states were affected by COVID-19 as follows:
 - **Alaska** (pop. 732,000):
 - Vaccine doses given: 615,746 (1 dose: 46.1%, 2 doses: 39.3%)
 - Total cases: 70,208
 - Total deaths: 369
 - **Idaho** (pop. 1.78 million):
 - Vaccine doses given: 1,236,617 (1 dose: 37.6%, 2 doses: 32.7%)
 - Total cases: 192,012
 - Total deaths: 2,090
 - **Montana** (pop. 1.06 million):
 - Vaccine doses given: 867,122 (1 dose: 45.2%, 2 doses: 38.3%)
 - Total cases: 111,809
 - Total deaths: 1,613
 - **Washington** (pop. 7.6 million):
 - Vaccine doses given: 7,615,957 (1 dose: 56.5%, 2 doses: 46.4%)
 - Total cases: 435,849
 - Total deaths: 5,765

Issues:

Reopening

- Despite continued public pressure to undertake planning efforts to inform the eventual reopening of the border, neither the Canadian nor American federal governments have yet provided any information to respond to these concerns.
- The CEO of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) has raised concerns about the lack of a publicly available framework for reopening at a number of public forums in the course of the past year.

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Point Roberts

- Residents of Point Roberts have consistently advocated for special exemptions to border restrictions imposed during the pandemic.
- Point Roberts residents can access the contiguous United States only by crossing the land border into Canada, or by sea. Residents are currently permitted to transit Canada by land in order to access essential services elsewhere in Washington state. Washington state has also operated a ferry service between Point Roberts and Belleville since July, 2020. However, residents state that access is granted inconsistently, and that their needs continue to be unmet.
- Special exemptions were granted to a small number of integrated cross-border communities, including Stewart, B.C. and Hyder, Alaska, to permit routine border crossings to resume for residents only. Point Roberts residents have advocated for similar measures to be extended to their community.
- Point Roberts relies heavily on Canadian visitors for economic support. A number of Canadians also own second homes in the area.
- Residents have appealed to Prime Minister Trudeau, Governor Inslee, the Premier and other elected officials in B.C. for support.
- The Canadian Border Services Agency, Global Affairs Canada, and other federal agencies continue to monitor the situation closely.

Peace Arch Park

- The Canadian side of Peace Arch Provincial Park was closed effective 8:00 p.m. on June 18, 2020.
- This temporary closure addresses the public safety and traffic concerns in neighbouring communities due to a significant increase in the number of park visitors.
- BC Parks consulted with RCMP, border officials and numerous local communities on the matter, and IGRS consulted with the Washington State Governor's Office on the day of the announcement.
- The U.S. side of the park has not experienced similar over-crowding issues and currently remains open.
- Canadians continue to visit the American side of the park by crossing a shallow ditch along 0 avenue in South Surrey. Washington State Parks Commission is working with the U.S. Border Patrol to monitor the situation, including asking visitors to stay two meters apart.
- RCMP and Canada Border Services Agency have confirmed they are taking no action, asserting that they do not have jurisdiction.

Contact: Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761
Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **B.C. – Washington State Cooperation**

Issue: **Close Working Relationship at Subnational Level**

Response:

- Washington Governor Jay Inslee and I are in regular contact about various issues relating to the pandemic, economic recovery and other important files that are critical to the well-being of our jurisdictions.
- Our two sides are closely aligned on a number of issues and work frequently together to advance the priorities and ambitions of our respective jurisdictions.
- MLA Rick Glumac was named Premier's Liaison on Washington State files in December 2020. He has met with the Washington Governor's Office and is briefed on priority files.

Background/Status:

- B.C. and Washington face many similar challenges and opportunities, including housing, homelessness, affordability, the opioid crisis, booming tech sectors, cultural diversity, growing immigration and environmental stewardship.
- IGRS works closely with the Washington State Governor's office (and the Canadian Consulate General in Seattle) to coordinate work between B.C. and Washington on shared priorities and concerns, both on a bilateral basis and multilaterally in organizations where both jurisdictions are members (such as the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region and the Pacific Coast Collaborative).
- Areas of collaboration and information-sharing include:
 - COVID-19 management and economic recovery;
 - Cascadia Innovation Corridor;
 - Clean Grid Initiative;
 - Climate change strategy;
 - Protecting Southern Resident Killer Whales and revitalizing wild salmon populations;
 - Sensitive transboundary environmental issues;
 - Impact of the temporary closure of the Canada/U.S. border on Point Roberts, WA.; and
 - Closure of the Canadian side of the Peace Arch Park, and how Canadians and Americans have continued to meet in the park and its immediate vicinity (see Border note).

MLA Rick Glumac

- MLA Glumac was appointed Premier's Liaison on Washington State files to leverage and bolster his relationships obtained from PNWER, and to advance B.C. priorities in key areas.
- To date, he has met with the Washington Governor's Office and Chief of Staff, attended calls with Washington State legislators, and joined the Ministers of Transportation and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Development on calls with the United States Consul General/Vancouver.

Clean Grid Initiative

- The Clean Grid Initiative (CGI) was announced at the October 2019 Cascadia Innovation Corridor conference by the Premier and the Washington Governor.
- The CGI brings together experts from both jurisdictions to identify gaps and vulnerabilities and propose solutions to achieving a clean electricity future in the Cascadia region.
- Oversight is provided by IGRS, Climate Action Secretariat and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation representatives, as well as senior advisors from the Washington Governor's Office.
- Assembled working groups will present findings in summer 2021 and produce an Action Plan for the Premier and Governor to review soon after.

Contact: Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761
Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/2022 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Issue: Softwood Lumber Litigation

IGRS Activity

- The federal government is engaged on softwood. I wrote to the Prime Minister on March 11, 2021, to stress B.C.'s priorities with the U.S., and that these should be reflected in his engagement with President Biden.
- The Prime Minister has raised with the U.S. President twice, including on their introductory call in January. The federal Minister responsible for International Trade, Hon. Mary Ng, has also raised it with the new U.S. Trade Representative, Katherine Tai at their first meeting in March.
- Premier has spoken with Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman as recently as April 7 to discuss the issue.
- The Ambassador is in touch across her network and is consistently pursuing the issue with the new administration.
- There is mounting pressure within the United States, from stakeholders including the National Homebuilders Association, who agree that tariffs are punitive to their own economic recovery efforts. Resolution is their number one goal.

Recommend Response:

Advice/Recommendations

2021/2022 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Key Facts:

Litigation

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

Ongoing Appeals

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

First Administrative Review

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

2021/2022 Estimates Debate

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

Second Administrative Review

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

Third Administrative Review

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

Date Revised: March 30, 2021

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Melissa Sanderson

Phone: 250-812-7253

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Burleigh

Phone: 250-480-8170

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **Proposed resource extraction in the Upper Skagit watershed**

Issue: **Previous and proposed logging and mineral exploration activities in the Silverdaisy area of the Upper Skagit watershed**

Response:

- The Province respects and takes our obligations under the treaty and the B.C.-Seattle Agreement seriously.
- Senior B.C. Government Officials speak regularly with representatives from the City of Seattle and the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission to share information and understand their concerns.
- The Province has an administrative law obligation to receive, review and consider all applications filed, including the Notice of Work permit application submitted by Imperial Metals in the Silverdaisy area of the Upper Skagit watershed.
- The decision on Imperial Metals' application will be made by a statutory decision-maker from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. Delegated decision makers are independent and not subject to political interference.
- The B.C. Government has taken steps to safeguard the Upper Skagit watershed from logging and, in December 2019, announced that timber licenses will no longer be awarded in the area.

Background/Status:

- The Silverdaisy area, often referred to as the "donut hole", is an area of approximately 5,800 hectares of Crown land in the upper Skagit River watershed near Hope, B.C.
- The Upper Skagit watershed is recognized in the Ross Lake/Seven Mile Reservoir Treaty between Canada and the U.S. and is within the purview of the binational Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC).
- SEEC is a governance body mandated by the treaty to conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities in the Skagit basin, and acquire mineral and timber rights consistent with conservation and recreational enhancement.
- The commission consists of a Canadian delegation appointed by the Premier of B.C. and a U.S. delegation appointed by the Mayor of Seattle.

Logging

- Past and current forest harvesting operations in the Canadian portion of the Upper Skagit watershed represent approximately 3% of the Silverdaisy area and only 0.2% of the Canadian portion of the watershed by area.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- The timber license was awarded by the previous government in 2015; it was issued in accordance with B.C.'s laws and regulations and in accordance with the treaty, which permits responsible resource use in this area.
- On February 11, 2019, the Premier and the Mayor of Seattle met by telephone to discuss the City's concerns regarding forestry activity in the Silverdaisy area. As directed, following that call, the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) has been in regular contact with Seattle City Light to ensure information related to current or proposed activities in the Silverdaisy area flows in a timely and transparent fashion.
- In December 2019, the B.C. Government announced that timber licenses would no longer be awarded in the area.
- In February 2020, four former SEEC commissioners wrote to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to express their gratitude for B.C.'s decision to halt future logging in the Silverdaisy area and to request consideration of permanent protection measures to ensure future governments cannot reverse that decision.
- In April, 2019, a joint Memorial or Request, addressed to the Premier, Speaker Darryl Plecas, and the Ministers of FLNRORD, ENV, and EMLI was introduced in the Washington State Legislature. It did not pass in the 2020 session and is currently inactive, but it could be reintroduced in the 2021 session.
- The joint Memorial is a non-legally binding mechanism requesting that the B.C. Government work with the City of Seattle and SEEC to prevent logging and mining in the upper Skagit watershed to ensure that the area's environmental and recreational resources are permanently protected.
- In January 2021, a letter signed by 108 U.S. stakeholders, including elected officials, local businesses, conservation, recreation, and wildlife groups wrote to the Premier expressing their opposition to logging and mining in the Upper Skagit Watershed. On January 22, the Deputy Minister of EMLI sent a response advising that the Province has an administrative law obligation to receive, review and consider all applications filed, including the Notice of Work permit application submitted by Imperial Metals in the Silverdaisy area of the Upper Skagit watershed. The response also advised that the decision will be made by a statutory decision-maker from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. Delegated decision makers are independent and not subject to political interference.
- In February 2021, the Mayor of Seattle wrote to the Premier to advise that the City of Seattle remains committed to working with B.C. to advance our mutual obligation to protect the Silverdaisy Area, and that staff have been directed to continue to engage with the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) to identify ways we can work together. On April 14, the Minister of EMLI sent a response that provided a similar update to the one sent to U.S. stakeholders in January, and to reiterate the importance of continuing the regular communications between staff from IGRS and the mayor's office.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- Two calls (in February and March) have been held between City of Seattle and IGRS staff to follow up on the February 21st letter.

Mining

- The Province is aware that SEEC is interested in acquiring the existing mineral tenures in the Silverdaisy area and seeing a park established.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- Imperial Metals has no current authorizations to conduct any mining or exploration activity in the Silverdaisy area, but has applied through a Notice of Work for an exploration program.
- Under the *Mineral Tenure Act* and the *Mines Act*, the Province's statutory decision-makers have an administrative law obligation to receive, review and consider all applications filed. Statutory decisions are made in accordance with the legislation, such that delegated decision-makers are independent.
- Imperial Metals' permit application is currently under review by the Statutory Decision Maker, who will make a decision once they have completed a thorough review of all the input that was submitted during the consultation process.

Contact: Nicole Vinette – 250 415-5681
Manager, International Relations

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: Transboundary Mining

Issue: Mining activities and transboundary waterways

Response:

- B.C. remains in constant contact with partners in the United States in relation to a wide range of cross-border environmental files.
- B.C. continues to work closely with counterparts in Alaska and Montana to implement the Memoranda of Understanding and Statement of Cooperation.
- B.C. also continues to work closely with Indigenous peoples to uphold the Province's commitments under the *Declaration Act*.
- The 2018 Environmental Assessment Act was introduced in order to modernize the Environmental Assessment process, and to better allow the Province to manage emerging concerns.
- B.C. aims to reflect the best available science in its environmental management processes.
- The Province continues to fund important efforts to address historic contamination, including preparatory work at the Tulsequah Chief Mine site.

Background/Status:

General

- In a letter dated June 13, 2019, U.S. Senators from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Washington wrote to Premier Horgan to express concerns about the lack of oversight of mining projects near transboundary rivers that flow into the United States. Premier Horgan responded on July 17, 2019, detailing how B.C. considers, monitors, and oversees resource projects in the province.

Washington

- In June 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that it will not hear an appeal by Vancouver-based Teck Resources in a case brought by the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington State. The court ruling awarded more than \$8 million in legal costs to the Colville Confederated Tribes and requires that Teck clean up the damage it has caused by releasing pollutants in the Columbia River and Lake Roosevelt under CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) legislation.

Alaska

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- On November 25, 2015, the former Premier of B.C. and Alaska Governor Bill Walker signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented through a Statement of Cooperation on the Protection of Transboundary Waters, which was signed October 6, 2016 by the former Minister of Energy and Mines, the former Minister of Environment, and Alaska Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott.
- The Statement of Cooperation is overseen by senior government officials from the B.C. government and the government of Alaska.
- Per the Statement of Cooperation, B.C. and Alaska have also established a joint water quality monitoring program.
- On August 3-5, 2019, Alaskan representatives hosted the three U.S. commissioners from the International Joint Commission, as well as the Canadian co-chair, to present their issues with B.C. transboundary mining activity. The trip included site visits, a roundtable discussion on transboundary mining concerns, and an internal meeting. The International Joint Commission described it as a fact-finding mission.
- A meeting between International Joint Commission commissioners and B.C. representatives took place on December 2, 2019.
- In February 2019, the Province and Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) collaboratively selected a proponent to develop a Remediation Plan for Tulsequah Chief Mine. A final Remediation Plan was submitted to the Province in April 2020. On August 12, 2020, in collaboration with the TRTFN, the Province committed to spending up to \$1.575 million for site preparation and studies to support early reclamation work at the Tulsequah Chief Mine site, which was undertaken in summer 2020. In April 2021, a further \$1.575 million was allocated to support further work during the summer 2021 field season. Details and the scope of this work are not yet finalized.

Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations

Montana

- As provided for in a 2003 Environmental Cooperation Arrangement and 2010 Memorandum of Understanding, B.C. and Montana have made commitments to protect and enhance the transboundary environment. The implementation of the agreements is being overseen by officials from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy and Montana's Department of Environmental Quality.
- B.C. ministries have received a number of letters on selenium in transboundary waters from U.S. agencies at both the state and federal level over the past several years.

Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

Both the Ministries of Environment & Climate Change Strategy and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation continue to engage with stakeholders on both sides of the border.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- Montana approved a water quality standard regulating selenium concentrations for the U.S. side of Lake Koocanusa in December 2020. British Columbia has not yet selected a proposed selenium water quality objective for Lake Koocanusa and is committed to a science-based process informed by the best data available, as well as seeking consensus with the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

Contact: Sukumar Periwal – 250-217-8278
Executive Director, International Relations & Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)

Issue: B.C.'s involvement and priorities in this subnational organization

Response:

- PNWER is a consensus-based organization that provides British Columbia an important opportunity to inform regional economic recovery and advance our interests and priorities.
- B.C. is a founding member of the organization, and MLA Rick Glumac is 2nd Canadian Vice President.

Background/Status:

- PNWER is a statutory public/private non-profit created in 1991 and includes the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, and the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Yukon and Northwest Territories.
- The Seattle-based organization brings together legislators, private sector leaders and federal agency representatives for dialogue and consensus-building.
- Annual membership dues are \$50,000 USD.
- Along with our 2021 dues payment, B.C. submitted a letter outlining our priorities for involvement in PNWER this year:
 - COVID-19 Management, Economic Recovery and Border Security;
 - Trade Policy;
 - Clean Energy and Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy; and
 - Forestry and Mass Timber Innovation.
- B.C.'s executive committee representative is MLA Rick Glumac, who, in September 2020 was elected second Canadian vice president.
- Members participate in working groups to address issues and opportunities facing the region, such as border policy, trade, water policy (including Columbia River Treaty), agriculture, invasive species, climate and energy policy, and tourism.
- In normal years, PNWER hosts an Annual Summit in July and an Economic Leadership Conference in November that attract public and private sector representatives from across the region. However, in 2020 both events were cancelled in lieu of webinars and online presentations.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PNWER has focused on regional economic recovery and the impacts of the Canada/U.S. border closure, with specific attention paid to travel and tourism across all jurisdictions.
- Intergovernmental Communications

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Intergovernmental B.C. has maintained that the border restrictions are important and that a public health-first approach is most appropriate to managing the pandemic.

- PNWER's CEO and some representatives are involved in the Future Borders Coalition, a cross-border advocacy group that is actively pursuing increased dialogue between the Canada and U.S. federal governments on border reopening.

Contact: Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761
Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC)

Issue: B.C.'s involvement in this subnational organization

Response:

- The Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) is an excellent forum for collaboration along the West Coast of Canada and the United States.
- Partnerships like the PCC are especially important in the current Canada-U.S. context. It allows B.C. to advance its priorities, such as climate action and clean energy policy.

Background/Status:

- The PCC was formed in 2008 as part of an MOU to align the climate change strategies of the Pacific coast jurisdictions of B.C., Washington, Oregon, California and, for a short time, Alaska.
- Subsequently, a secretariat was established and is operated by U.S.-based Ross Consulting.
- Participation is co-led by B.C.'s Climate Action Secretariat and IGRS.
- Working groups meet to align policy and advance climate priorities in areas such as low carbon fuel standards, electric vehicles and infrastructure, thermal decarbonization and ocean health.
- Membership costs of \$100,000 USD are currently paid by the Climate Action Secretariat.
- The PCC is a useful forum for strengthening bilateral relationships, in particular with California and Oregon.
- Current areas of focus include grid integration, planning for electric vehicle charging network and responding to ocean acidification.
- In March 2021, the PCC released a framework for collaborative action on "Climate Resilience on the Pacific Coast", which charts an implementation roadmap for coordinated work on priority areas for building climate resilience, including forest health and wildfires, protecting shorelines and working lands, and developing innovative financing, investment and insurance tools.

Contact: Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761
Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: Daylight Saving Time (DST)

Issue: Circumstances regarding whether to make DST permanent in B.C.

Response:

- The majority of British Columbia moved to Daylight Saving Time (DST) on March 14, 2021.
- In 2019, amendments to the *Interpretation Act* were passed to enable B.C. to switch to a "Pacific Standard Time" (permanent DST).
- The legislation was in response to the results of a province-wide survey released in September 2019. Out of the 223,273 people who responded to the survey, 93 per cent approved of ending the seasonal time change.
- B.C.'s policy position on the permanent move to DST has been that this would be considered alongside decisions in other jurisdictions in Canada and in the United States.
- 54% of British Columbians said it was "important" or "very important" for B.C. to be aligned with neighbouring jurisdictions in its time observance practices.
- An Order-in-Council will be needed to bring the provisions into force, if and when, B.C. decides to move to DST permanently.
- Other than the Yukon, no other jurisdiction in the Pacific Time Zone (or Alaska) has been able to implement permanent DST.
- Pacific coast states (Washington, Oregon, California) are focussed on managing the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine rollout and economic recovery.

Background/Status:

- In 2019, B.C. passed legislation to enable B.C. to switch to a "Pacific Standard Time," alongside jurisdictions in the U.S., including Washington state, Oregon and California.
- B.C. opted not to enact the legislation before the November 2020 time change, citing the issue of the COVID-19 pandemic and awaiting action from the Pacific U.S. states.
- At least 45 states have proposed legislation to change their observance of DST, of which 13 states have enacted legislation for full-time DST. All states observe DST except for Arizona and Hawaii which remain in standard time all year.

Yukon

- Announced April 3, 2020, Yukon switched to DST and formally announced the change would remain permanent.
- Yukon is aligned with most parts of B.C. until B.C. moves the clocks back in November 2021.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Washington

- In May 2019, Governor Jay Inslee signed a law to make DST permanent in Washington state, but has opted to wait for neighbouring jurisdictions before enacting the legislation.
- Subsequently, the Governor has become intensely focused on pandemic management, vaccinations and economic recovery.
- Washington has indicated that they would prefer to stay aligned with California.

Oregon

- In June 2019, Governor Kate Brown signed legislation to keep most of the state on permanent DST. This legislation is contingent on both California and Washington approving similar laws.

California

- In 2018, California voters supported making DST permanent.
- The bill died in November 2020, because the State Senate never brought the bill up for a vote.
- California will have to start over, involving a new bill, a new sponsor and a new vote.

Congressional Approval

- States need authorization from Congress to become exempt from the Uniform Time Act of 1966 which established the system of uniform DST throughout the United States.
- Senator Marco Rubio (Republican-Florida) has sponsored the Sunshine Protection Act, legislation that would make DST permanent across the United States, but Congress has yet to consider the issue.
- Pressure from state governments would likely compel Congress to take up the issue.

Contact: Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761

Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **Alaska Relations / Cruise Ships**

Issue: **Suspension of 2021 Alaskan cruise season**

Response:

- The suspension of the 2021 Alaskan cruise season was a decision taken by Transport Canada.
- Provincial ministers are in contact with their federal counterparts on this issue.
- Senior B.C. government officials are in regular contact with counterparts at Global Affairs Canada, who liaise closely with Alaskan legislators.
- As is the case with all border management issues, we must be guided by the advice of public health experts to protect the safety of British Columbians.
- British Columbia is willing to consider technical solutions that would facilitate some resumption of the cruise ship season.
- B.C. has never been the primary obstacle standing in the way of an Alaska cruise season. Two U.S. federal agencies – the CDC and Department of Homeland Security – have ultimate decision-making power over whether or not cruises set sail from U.S. ports. Until May 2021, these agencies prohibited cruises from operating. The Alaskan delegation came to us with their own ideas for technical stops, and we were willing to engage in that discussion, but it's the Department of Homeland Security who has the authority to regulate technical stops –Intergovernmental Communications
Intergovernmental Communications

- We look forward to welcoming the world back to British Columbia with a full resumption of the cruise industry in 2022 and will continue to advocate with Canada for a structured and planned reopening.

With respect to the June 10 proposed legislation:

- The temporary measure passed in the U.S. was designed to support Alaska's economy while Canada's ports were not welcoming visitors.
- Obviously, this new proposed legislation is of greater concern to British Columbia and Canada and we take that seriously.
- We have been engaged with the Federal government on this issue for some time and we are urgently raising this new bill with the federal Minister of Transportation and the Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. We have also spoken to the Prime Minister's Office about this.
- We will continue pushing the federal government to ensure they engage with the United States and assert Canadian interests in Washington DC.
- We are working collaboratively with the cruise ship industry and are advocating on their behalf with the federal government to ensure a structured and planned reopening.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- My colleagues, Minister Mark and Minister Fleming, are also meeting with the Cruise Industry Association this week to discuss.
- This is also not what cruise ship travelers want: Americans and international tourists want to visit Canadian destinations, and it enriches the experience cruise operators can offer to their passengers.
- We want to ensure that the tourism industries in both Canada and the U.S. come back strong.

Background/Status:

- On February 4, 2021, Transport Canada confirmed that cruise vessels carrying 100 or more passengers would remain prohibited from operating in Canadian waters until February 28, 2022, extending an interim order established in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The order further stated that "should the COVID-19 pandemic sufficiently improve to allow the resumption of these activities, the Minister of Transport has the ability to rescind the Interim Orders."
- The terms of the U.S. *Passenger Vehicle Services Act (PVSA)* state that cruise ships that do not operate under a U.S. flag must undertake at least one stop at a foreign port when sailing between domestic ports (i.e. between Seattle and Ketchikan). There is only one U.S.-flagged large cruise ship currently in operation, which serves Hawaii. Foreign-flagged ships serving the Alaskan cruise route stop at Canadian ports (Victoria, Vancouver and Prince Rupert) to satisfy this regulation.
- While both *the Jones Act* and PVSA regulate the operation of foreign-flagged ships sailing between U.S. ports, only the PVSA applies to cruise ships. *The Jones Act* applies only to vessels carrying cargo.
- Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental On February 12, 2021, the Alaskan Congressional delegation wrote a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau expressing their concerns in relation to the cruise industry and the lack of consultation with Alaskan stakeholders prior to the February 4 announcement.

- Canadian federal leaders including Transport Minister Alghabra and Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman have been in regular contact with members of the Alaskan Congressional delegation. Federal leaders have also taken meetings on the issue with Biden Administration officials, including Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. These high-level contacts have been supported by engagements with Congressional staff led by the Canadian consulate in Seattle. IGRS liaises with the Seattle consulate on a weekly basis.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- On March 5, 2021 the Alaska federal senators (Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan) introduced the *Alaska Tourism Recovery Act*. The bill would waive the requirement for foreign-flagged cruise ships to stop at a foreign port for the duration of the pandemic. The Act passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate on May 13, 2021 and was signed by President Biden on May 24.
- On May 5, 2021, CDC released the next two phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order (CSO) for cruise ships operating or seeking to operate in U.S. waters. CDC published technical instructions for cruise ship operators preparing to conduct simulated ("trial") voyages in advance of restricted passenger voyages under a COVID-19 Conditional Sailing Certificate.
- On June 9, 2021, the Premier spoke with Alaska's senior U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski. They discussed their shared values and concerns that affect the two coastal regions. Senator Murkowski and Premier Horgan talked about the challenges facing the people of B.C. and Alaska, many of which have been highlighted by the current pandemic. The Senator and the Premier also agreed to continued collaboration given the multiple areas of shared importance.
- On June 10, 2021, U.S. Senator from Utah Mike Lee introduced legislation to permanently remove the requirement for cruise ships to stop in Canada stating that the law was bad for American workers. The three bills Senator Lee introduced are:
 - *Open America's Ports Act*: Would repeal the PVSA and adjust cabotage requirements, accordingly, allowing all ships that qualify under the laws of the United States to transport passengers from U.S. port to U.S. port.
 - *Safeguarding American Tourism Act*: Would exempt large passenger vessels ("vessels with 800 or more passenger berths") from PVSA requirements, and adjust cabotage requirements, accordingly, allowing these ships to transport passengers from U.S. port to U.S. port.
 - Advice/Recommendations
 - *Protecting Jobs in American Ports Act*: Would repeal the "U.S.-built" requirement for passenger vessels operating between U.S. ports, thereby incentivizing American companies to develop voyages that increase traffic and economic activity – and opportunities for port workers – in American coastal cities and towns.
- Earlier, on May 14, 2021, Senator Lee and Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) introduced the *Open America's Water Act*, a bill that would repeal the *Jones Act* and allow all qualified vessels to engage in domestic trade between U.S. ports.
- Senator Lee has specifically targeted Canada, saying: "While Canada serves as a primary beneficiary of the law, which diverts commercial activity to its ports, the perverse incentives created by the PVSA also mean Canada controls northwestern American cruise seasons. During the pandemic, Canada has closed its ports to

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

foreign ships. Cruises cannot sail without this required “foreign stop,” and this move could crush the Washington and Alaska tourism economy.”

- Senator Lee has made previous efforts to repeal or reduce the regulatory scope of the *Jones Act*. He co-sponsored legislation in 2017 to exempt Puerto Rico and in 2019 introduced the *Open America’s Water Act* aimed at repealing the *Jones Act*. Neither bill passed Congress.
- Minister Fleming met with the federal Minister of Transportation on the new bill on Friday and was very clear with him that we need and expect the federal government to step up to defend Canada’s tourism sector. Intergovernmental Communications

Contact:

Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761

Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: B.C. – China Relations

Issue: B.C. – China Relations

Response:

- The federal government is responsible for Canada's relations with other countries. B.C. supports Canada's approach on China relations.
- B.C. supports Canada's approach to consular issues, including those involving Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, who are currently detained in China.
- B.C. recognizes the value of people-to-people and cultural ties with China. B.C. also recognizes its strong commercial and economic ties with China.
- B.C. supports Canada's approach to issues relating to the Uyghur population in Xinjiang. B.C. recognizes that the House of Commons has voted on the terminology of "genocide" in Xinjiang. This issue is within federal jurisdiction.
- B.C. supports Canada's approach to issues in Hong Kong, including support for the right to peaceful protest. B.C. shares Canada's concerns relating to the *National Security Law* and other laws imposed on Hong Kong recently.
- B.C. follows Canada's One China policy and does not maintain government-to-government relations with Taipei.
- The case of Ms. Meng is a federal Department of Justice matter, ^{Advice/Recommendations} _{Advice/Recommendations}
- Whether Canada will allow or restrict Huawei from contributing to 5G infrastructure is a decision for the federal government.
- B.C. supports the Department of Canadian Heritage (Sport Canada) in working with the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Committees, as well as other Canadian sport organisations, in ensuring that Canadian athletes are well supported for the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022.
- B.C. welcomes international education exchanges, as they strengthen important people-to-people, cultural and knowledge-sharing opportunities between B.C. and other jurisdictions.
- B.C. stands against racism in all its forms. B.C. believes diversity is our strength, and there is no place for racism or discriminatory behaviour against members of racialized communities in the province.
- B.C. is grateful to have benefited from the PPE provided by China during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially that from Guangdong, B.C.'s sister province.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Background/Status:

Canada – China Relations

- The Canada-China relationship has been strained of late due to a number of issues, including the detentions of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, and the ongoing trial of Meng Wanzhou in the B.C. Supreme Court.
- Canada recognizes the importance of engagement with China while continuing to defend Canadian values and interests. Canada is emphasising cooperation with partners to support and protect international rules and norms.
- A top priority of Canada remains the release of Mr. Kovrig and Mr. Spavor, as well as seeking clemency for all Canadians facing the death penalty.

B.C. – China Relations

- B.C. has developed strong connections with China across a variety of economic sectors, including clean technology, agriculture, energy and forestry.
- China is B.C.'s second biggest export market, behind the U.S. In 2020, China and Hong Kong ranked #2 as a destination for B.C. origin exports, with 14.8% of B.C.'s commodity exports shipped there.
- Despite the pandemic, Canada-China bilateral merchandise trade increased by 2.3% year-over-year in the first eleven months of 2020. China was the only G20 economy that saw growth in 2020, with a reported 2.3% real GDP growth. In 2021, it is expected to grow 8.1% (IMF).
- The large and diverse multi-ethnic Chinese diaspora communities in B.C. have long made, and continue to make, valuable contributions to the economy and social fabric of B.C.
- Although tourism was significantly impacted in 2020, China remains as a top source country for tourists into B.C. The B.C. government established the Chinese-Canadian Museum in Vancouver's Chinatown – the first in Canada.
- China is a top source country for international students in B.C. B.C. also runs many successful offshore schools in China. B.C. also has many important educational partnerships with China which strengthen knowledge-sharing and cultural exchange opportunities between B.C. and China.

Xinjiang

- The Government of Canada has made several public statements regarding the Chinese government's treatment of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang. Canada has called on Chinese authorities to release the Uyghurs and others who have been detained arbitrarily based on their ethnicity and religion.
- On January 18, 2021, the Canadian government announced a series of measures for Canadian companies to ensure they are not importing goods or producing products that have used forced labour from Xinjiang.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- On February 22, 2021, the House of Commons voted to declare the situation in Xinjiang “genocide”. All federal Cabinet members abstained from the vote.
- Advice/Recommendations
- B.C. is committed to the protection of human rights through formal means like the establishment of the Human Rights Commissioner, and around the world by supporting the efforts of the federal government.

Hong Kong

- On 15 March, 2019, mass protests broke out in Hong Kong in response to an Extradition Bill proposed by the Hong Kong government. The unrest continued into early 2020, until the outbreak of COVID-19 required lockdowns across Mainland China and Hong Kong.
- In May 2020, the announcement of the ‘National Security Law’ brought renewed protests in Hong Kong.
- On July 3, 2020, Canada announced a series of measures in response to the implementation of the National Security Law, including export control measures, the suspension of the Canada-Hong Kong extradition treaty and an update on the travel advice for Hong Kong.
- On November 12, 2020, Canada announced a new immigration initiative that aims to attract students and youth from Hong Kong to Canada by offering a new open work permit and broadening their pathways to permanent residency.
- In March 2021, the National People’s Congress (NPC) passed electoral reforms to Hong Kong which allows a Beijing-controlled election committee to vet all Legislative Council candidates and elect a large proportion of the Legislative Council members directly to the Hong Kong parliament.
- In response to the Hong Kong reforms, the G7 countries released a joint statement on March 12, 2021, expressing “grave concerns at the Chinese authorities’ decision fundamentally to erode democratic elements of the electoral system in Hong Kong” and calling for China to “respect fundamental rights and freedoms in Hong Kong”.

Taiwan

- Canada and Taiwan have thriving people-to-people and trade and investment ties. For 50 years, Canada has been without official relations with Taiwan’s government. This is consistent with Canada’s One China Policy.
- On April 14, 2021, the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion in support of the Halifax International Security Forum’s decision to honor the President of Taiwan with a prestigious award.

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- China responded to this action by warning that if Canada fails to “prudently and properly handle” the sensitive issues around Taiwan it could further inflict damage to bilateral relations.
- B.C. follows Canada’s One China Policy and does not maintain government-to-government relations with Taiwan. B.C.’s relations with Taiwan focus on commercial and cultural interests and it engages through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver.

Meng Wanzhou Case

- The case of Meng Wanzhou in the B.C. Supreme Court has been a focal point of Canada-China (and by default, B.C.-China) relations since December 2018.
- The case is ongoing in the B.C. Supreme Court. Ms. Meng’s defence is alleging various forms of abuse of process. Canada is contesting each of these allegations. A judge will rule on the allegations and decide based on the evidence presented and the law in question.
- The Prime Minister has maintained that the matter is one for the courts to decide, and that Canada upholds the Rule of Law and the independence of the judiciary.

Huawei

- Canada is the final country of the ‘Five Eyes’ (UK, US, Australia, NZ and Canada) to address the request from Huawei to build 5G infrastructure. All other countries have banned Huawei from doing so to some extent.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

2016 B.C. – Guangdong MOU

- On May 9, 2016, the B.C. Government under then Premier Christy Clark signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Guangdong Province. The MOU states that B.C. and Guangdong will work co-operatively to leverage opportunities with regards to China’s One Belt One Road Initiative.
- The B.C. government has a number of MOU’s with foreign governments. The B.C. government regularly works with foreign countries, including China, on trade and industries that affect B.C.

COVID-19

- China is a key supplier of PPE in global supply chains and has accounted for a

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

significant portion of medical supplies procured by the Government of Canada in response to COVID-19.

- China has approved four locally developed vaccines for general public use, by: Sinovac Biotech (1); Sinopharm (2); CanSino Biologics (1). China is distributing these vaccines in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world.
- On May 18, 2020, Canada co-sponsored a World Health Assembly resolution to conduct an impartial, independent, and comprehensive evaluation to review experiences gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international health response to COVID-19.
- Canada continues to trust the WHO as a platform for multilateral cooperation and centre of expertise on global issues, especially COVID-19.

Beijing Winter Olympic Games 2022

- Sport Canada as well as the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Committees are the main coordination entities responsible for Canada's participation in the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing.
- The Government of Canada is leading this issue and the Province supports their efforts in that regard.

Anti-Asian Racism and Discrimination in B.C.

- Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in B.C. and Canada, there were many reports in the media of B.C. residents of Chinese origin being discriminated against or being the subject of racist remarks.
- The Premier and other B.C. officials spoke out against this behaviour on a number of occasions, re-iterating that there is no place for racism or discriminatory behaviour against members of racialized communities in the province.

Contact:

Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761
Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **B.C. – India Relations**

Issue: **B.C. – India Relations**

Response:

- The federal government is responsible for Canada's relations with other countries. B.C. supports Canada's approach to relations with India.
- B.C. made a contribution of \$500,000 to the Canadian Red Cross as part of the international community's efforts to assist India through the current COVID-19 crisis. We extend our deepest sympathy and support for the people of India in this difficult time.
- B.C. values the strong people-to-people, economic and cultural ties it has with India. There is a large and diverse Indian diaspora community in B.C. B.C. encourages engagement from all communities within B.C. and recognises the value this diversity brings to the province.
- B.C. supports the right of peaceful protest and dialogue in B.C. and around the world in line with Canada's approach.
- B.C. stands against racism in all its forms. B.C. believes diversity is our strength, and there is no place for racism or discriminatory behaviour against members of racialized communities in the province.
- B.C. values the strong relationship it has with India in international education. B.C. welcomes international education exchanges, as they strengthen important people-to-people, cultural and knowledge-sharing opportunities between B.C. and other jurisdictions.
- B.C. is committed to the protection of human rights through formal means like the establishment of the Human Rights Commissioner, and around the world by supporting the efforts of the federal government.
- Matters pertaining to the international border and global vaccine supply are within the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Background/Status:

Canada – India Relations

- Canada and India have traditionally maintained strong bilateral relations built upon shared traditions of democracy, pluralism and commitment to multilateral cooperation and partnerships.
- B.C. has supported efforts made by Canada and India to move forward on trade negotiations, specifically on the Canada-India Comprehensive Economic

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Partnership Agreement and Canada-India Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

B.C – India Relations

- B.C. maintains strong commercial, cultural and people-to-people ties with India.
- India is B.C.'s sixth-largest export market. In 2020, India represented 2.4% of B.C.'s total international goods exports, with total exports amounting to \$951.4 million.
- Service exports from B.C. to India (including tourism and international education) have been impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis.
- There is a large Indian-origin community in B.C., with Punjabi now the most common mother tongue after English. Indians are the third-largest single ethnic origin group in B.C., with over 261,000 people (roughly 6% of B.C.'s total population).
- India is currently the top source country for international students in B.C. In 2019, 57,755 students from India studied in B.C. at all levels, comprising 31% of the total number of international students in the province. The number of international students from India studying in B.C. increased by more than 700% between 2013 and 2019 (from 6,595 in 2013 to 57,755 in 2019). Approximately 20% of international students from India in Canada are studying in B.C.

Agricultural Farmers Protests

- In September 2020, the Indian government passed three agricultural reform bills which will in effect deregulate parts of the agricultural sector in India. Agriculture is central to the livelihoods of many Indians, particularly in the Northwest states of Punjab and Haryana (collectively known as the "food bowl" of India).
- Farmers in India have been protesting the Indian government's proposed agricultural reforms since November 2020. The issue has reached somewhat of a stalemate in India, with protests continuing and no new talks currently planned between the government and the Farmers' unions.
- There have been many protests in B.C. from members of the Indian diaspora community, and others including B.C. local farmers, in support of the Indian farmers' movement.
- On November 30, 2020 Prime Minister Trudeau stated his support publicly for the farmers, stating that "Canada will always be there to defend the rights of peaceful protesters. We believe in the process of dialogue. We've reached out through multiple means to the Indian authorities to highlight our concerns." With these comments, Prime Minister Trudeau is believed to be the first world leader to comment on the situation in India.
- Also on November 30, Premier Horgan tweeted his support for the protests, saying that, "we stand in solidarity with #PunjabFarmers calling for meaningful dialogue and peace". No other Canadian Premiers made public comments on the issue.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- On December 17, 2020, the Consul General of India in Vancouver forwarded correspondence on behalf of the Indian government relating to the agricultural reforms.
- Security Concern; Intergovernmental Communications

- On February 11, 2021, Premier Horgan wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau to relay concerns relating to the protests.

Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019

- On December 11, 2019, the Indian government passed the *Citizenship (Amendment) Act*,
Intergovernmental Communications
Intergovernmental Communications
- The passing of this *Act* led to mass unrest in New Delhi in December 2019 and into January/February 2020. Protests on this issue also happened in B.C. in January 2020, particularly outside the Consulate General of India in Vancouver.
- In October 2019, statements were made regarding the *Act* by some B.C. Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), specifically Ravi Kahlon (MLA for Delta North, now Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation) and Rachna Singh (MLA for Surrey-Green Timbers, now the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism).

COVID-19

- COVID-19 hit India particularly hard, and India now has the second largest COVID-19 case count behind the U.S. The healthcare system is facing extreme challenges in managing spikes in case loads and escalating demands for oxygen, pharmaceuticals and other essential medical supplies.
- On March 24, 2020, the Indian government imposed a strict lockdown, which saw millions of people flee from urban centres to their rural hometowns, which resulted in mass displacement, food and income insecurity, and death.
- The pandemic has had severe consequences on India's economy, causing one of the largest contractions of GDP (-24%) in the world in Q2, 2020. The OECD estimates India's GDP will shrink by -10% in 2020/21 fiscal year.
- On April 22, 2021, the federal government suspended flights from India and Pakistan for a period of 30 days. During that period, passengers who travel to Canada from India via an indirect route will need to obtain a pre-departure negative COVID test before continuing travel to Canada. Prior to the ban, in

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

March/April 2021, India was the top source country for arriving passengers into B.C.

- India is one of four major pharmaceutical manufacturing countries that produces and distributes COVID-19 vaccines. India also has two of its own vaccines that it manufactures – Covishield and Covaxin.
- On March 24, 2021, India announced it would hold back some vaccines intended for export in order to address the rising cases domestically. Canada had been due to receive shipments of the AstraZeneca vaccine from India.

Contact:

Sukumar Periwal – 250 387-0761

Executive Director, International Relations and Strategic Policy

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **Order of British Columbia (OBC)**

Issue: **Status Report**

Response:

- The Order of B.C. is celebrating its 32nd anniversary this year.
- We extended the nomination deadline for the Order for 2021 as now, more than ever, we need to recognize people who serve with the greatest distinction and excel in any endeavour benefiting the people of B.C. or elsewhere.
- The latest recipients of the Order will be announced this summer with an investiture ceremony in the late fall.
- Nominations are accepted year round.

Background/Status:

- The Order represents the highest form of recognition the Province can extend to its citizens.
- The OBC was created in April 1989 under the authority of the *Provincial Symbols and Honours Act*, which is under the responsibility of Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS).
- Since 1989, the Province has recognized 460 British Columbians from a variety of sectors including business, volunteer, arts, and sporting communities and from all regions.
- The Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia is Chancellor of the Order.
- The composition of the Advisory Council is established by legislation. For 2021 it consists of:
 - the Chief Justice of British Columbia (chair), The Honourable Robert J. Bauman.
 - the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, The Honourable Raj Chouhan.
 - a Public University President in rotation (two-year term), Dr. Philip Steenkamp, Royal Roads University.
 - the President of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, Brian Frenkel (Councillor, Town of Vanderhoof).
 - the Deputy Minister of IGRS, Silas Brownsey; and,
 - two past members of the Order – Shirley Chan, and Ruth Williams.
- The cut-off date for nominations to be considered in the current calendar year is the first Friday in March – this was extended to April 9 in 2021.
- The Honours and Awards Secretariat received 259 nominations; one of the highest number of nominations received since the Order was established.
- OBC appointments are made by Order-in-Council.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Contact:

Lucy Lobmeier – 250 356-6177
Chief of Protocol and Executive Director, Office of Protocol

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **British Columbia's Medal of Good Citizenship**

Issue: **Medal of Good Citizenship refocused for 2021**

Response:

- British Columbians have made extraordinary efforts and sacrifices to keep their communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This year's B.C. Medal of Good Citizenship will focus exclusively on recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in their efforts during the pandemic.
- People who have acted in particularly generous, kind, or self-sacrificing manners for the good of their communities without expectation of reward.
- All Members of this House are asked to encourage nominations of people in their communities who have gone above and beyond in their efforts during the pandemic without expectation of reward.

Background/Status:

- In 2015, the Government of British Columbia launched the Medal of Good Citizenship (MGC), which was established in 1989 under the *Provincial Symbols and Honours Act* (PSHA) to recognize individuals who have acted in a particularly generous, kind or selfless manner for the common good without expectation of reward. The medal reflects their acts of selflessness, generosity and service to community life.
- The Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints members to the Medal of Good Citizenship selection committee, which must make recommendations annually. The selection committee last met in January 2021 and recommended 14 British Columbians receive the Medal.
- Nominations are accepted year-round through an online nomination process. The deadline for this year's COVID-19 response related nominations is September 19, 2021. This ensures recipients who have gone above and beyond in their efforts during the pandemic can be recognized starting with an announcement around December 5, 2021, International Day of the Volunteer. Non-COVID-19 response related nominations will be considered in 2022.
- 80 citizens and two communities have received the Medal of Good Citizenship since 2015. The latest 14 medal recipients were announced on March 31, 2021. See Recipient List in Appendix A.
- Due to the current restrictions on gatherings and events, the medal presentation ceremony for the most recent recipients will be hosted virtually in June 2021. In past years, one medal presentation ceremony was held in Vancouver for Lower Mainland recipients; one in Victoria for lower Vancouver Island recipients; and other ceremonies were held in communities around the province for other recipients.

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

- Medal of Good Citizenship recipients receive a medal, a miniature replica of the medal, a circular lapel pin displaying the B.C. shield of arms, a certificate, and are entitled to use the letters M.G.C. after their name.
- Efforts are always underway to secure more nominations for outside of the Mainland-Southwest and Vancouver Island/Coast regions.
- There is very close gender balance in terms of nominations received and recipients each year. In the latest group of 14 recipients, seven are male and seven are female.
- Pursuant to the Provincial Symbols and Honours Act, the Medal of Good Citizenship Selection Committee consists of the following:
 - a Chair appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for a term not exceeding four years; and,
 - up to six additional members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for terms not exceeding two years.
- Persons wishing to serve on the selection committee respond to a Notice of Position that is posted by the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office.

The current selection committee is composed of the following.

Name	Position	Appointment / Term
Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	Chair	21 Dec 2020 – 30 Jun 2022
Linda Alice King	Member	30 Jun 2018 - 30 Jun 2022
James Kent Macaulay	Member	8 Jul 2019 - 30 Jun 2022
Raymond Paul Louie	Member	8 Jul 2019 - 30 Jun 2022
Barbara Jayne Wilson	Member	8 Jul 2019 - 30 Jun 2022
Michelle Bryant	Member	8 Jul 2019 - 30 Jun 2021
Debra Lee Kozak	Member	8 Jul 2019 - 30 Jun 2021

Attachment: 2020 MGC Recipients by Region

Contact:

Lucy Lobmeier – 250 356-6177
Chief of Protocol and Executive Director, Office of Protocol

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

APPENDIX A – 2020 Recipients by Region

	First Name	Last Name	Region	City
1	Andrew	Beckerman	Vancouver Island/Coast	Victoria
2	Irene	Bischler	Kootenay	Cranbrook
3	Kristi	Blakeway	Mainland/Southwest	Maple Ridge
4	Zeeshan	Hayat	Mainland/Southwest	Vancouver
5	Fawzan	Hussain	Mainland/Southwest	Surrey
6	Randy (Cole)	Izsak	Mainland/Southwest	Surrey
7	Donna	Kane	Northern BC	Rolla
8	Imogene	Lim	Vancouver Island/Coast	Nanaimo
9	Farouq	Manji	Mainland/Southwest	Richmond
10	Robert	McMinn	Vancouver Island/Coast	Highlands
11	Stephanie	Quon	Mainland/Southwest	Vancouver
12	George	Reifel	Mainland/Southwest	Vancouver
13	Cara	Sinclair	Mainland/Southwest	Vancouver
14	Gale	Stewart	Mainland/Southwest	New Westminster

2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **Consular Corps Relations**

Issue: **B.C. Consular Corps**

Response:

- I have designated Minister Bruce Ralston as minister responsible for the Consular Corps of British Columbia, and asked him to use his relationships with consuls general and honorary consuls based in our province to build an economic recovery that works for everyone.
- The 81 countries who comprise the Consular Corps of B.C. represent their countries and promote their countries' trade within our province. As such they are key to B.C.'s goals of building connections in new markets, increasing exports and highlighting B.C. as a low-carbon supplier.

Background/Status:

- Maintaining strong relations with the B.C. Consular Corps is key to advancing British Columbia's international objectives and enables the Province to highlight British Columbia as a destination for trade, investment, tourism, education and immigration.
- The Province works to maintain strong relations with the foreign representatives in British Columbia through regular briefings and hosting official visits from foreign delegations.
- In the last fiscal year there were 33 virtual meetings with foreign dignitaries and Canadian officials posted abroad. These included 24 meetings with Consuls General; six with Ambassadors or High Commissioners posted to Canada; and three with delegations.
- The B.C. Consular Corps is comprised of 34 consular posts staffed by foreign diplomats and 52 consular posts staffed by honorary consular officers who are Canadian citizens. In total, 81 countries have representation in B.C.
- There are also four international organizations based in B.C.:
 - the Commonwealth of Learning;
 - the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission;
 - the North Pacific Marine Science Organization; and
 - the Pacific Salmon Commission.
- In addition, there is one "Special Office" - the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Vancouver and one "Other Office" - the Hong Kong (SAR) Economic and Trade Liaison Office.
- The Office of Protocol generally organizes two briefings per year for the Consular Corps by ministers and senior government staff. Due to the pandemic, no in-person briefings have taken place since 2019.

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- The latest virtual ministerial briefing was held on May 3, 2021 and included presentations on low carbon innovation/cleantech and overview of LNG/Liquid Hydrogen; the importance of reconciliation with the First Nations and Indigenous peoples of B.C.; the Economic Recovery Plan and progress on specific programs, including agritech, advanced manufacturing and mass timber; B.C.'s Mental Health and Addiction response/strategy in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; and B.C.'s Climate Change strategy and participation by B.C. in COP 26. 69 officials from the Consular Corps participated.

Contact:

Lucy Lobmeier – 250 356-6177
Chief of Protocol and Executive Director, Office of Protocol

2021/2022 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: **Canada-B.C. Agreement on French-Language Services**

Issue: **2018-2023 Agreement**

Background/Status:

Canada-B.C. Agreement on French-Language Services

- The Canada-B.C. Agreement on French Language Services was first signed in 2001.
- In 2018, the B.C. government signed the Canada-B.C. Agreement on French Language Services 2018 – 2023.
- Under the Agreement, the Federal government provides annual funding of \$700,000 and B.C. contributes the equivalent of \$700,000/year.
- This means a total funding commitment of \$1.4 million/year under the federal-provincial agreement.
- The five-year agreement focuses on supporting projects aligned with priority sectors identified through a consultation process.
- The B.C. government is committed to improving access to programs and services in French for Francophones and Francophiles throughout the province.
- This is part of the government's commitment to provide better services for people, and to support an inclusive, strong and sustainable province.
- The government will continue to work with community partners and the federal government to advance common linguistic priorities.

Federal Action Plan on Official Languages

- The federal government 2018-2023 Action Plan for Official Languages focuses on supporting Francophone not-for-profit organizations.
- The Plan's federal funding will go towards strengthening official languages minority communities, francophone immigration and settlement services, francophone heritage and tourism, teacher recruitment, better access to justice services, health organizations and second language learning.

Attachment: Budget allocation for 2020-2021 projects

Contact:

Véronique Mercier – 250 387-4791
Director, HR, Corporate Initiatives and Francophone Affairs

2021/2022 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Francophone Affairs Program Budget Allocation 2020-2021 Projects

ACTIVITY	PARTNER(S)	FEDERAL FUNDING	PROVINCIAL FUNDING
Intergovernmental Communications			

2021/2022 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Intergovernmental Communications

	TOTAL	\$700,000.00	\$700,000.00
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2021/22 Estimates Note - Advice to the Premier

Title: French Language Services - \$250,000

Issue: Funding Allocations

Background/Status:

Provincial Funding for French Language Services

- The Provincial Government has enhanced its support of services in French with a historic \$250,000 allocation in the 2018 Budget. This was the first time since 2001 that provincial dollars were designated for French services.
- Each year for five years, \$250,000 will be provided for projects proposed by the community to enhance services in French and promote the official language linguistic vitality of B.C.
- This means a total funding commitment of \$1.25 million over five years.
- This funding is in addition to the 2018-2023 Canada-B.C. Agreement on French Language Services.
- Not-for-profit organizations providing a service or program to B.C. Francophones and/or Francophiles are asked to submit an online application describing their project's objective, measurable results and target audiences.
- Funding applicants must indicate how their projects align with B.C. government key priorities.
- This is part of the government's commitment to provide better services for people, and to support an inclusive, strong and sustainable province.
- In 2020 – 2021, four projects were supported. These projects helped build a more inclusive province, supported early learning and child care, and increased French-language resources and made them more accessible. (see table on page 2).
- The 2021 – 2022 submission period is now closed, and funding applications are currently being reviewed.

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French Language Services - \$250,000 Budget allocation 2020-2021

Project	Partner	Amount
French-language Child Care Centres Development in B.C.	Fédération des Parents Francophones de la C.-B.	\$105,000
Embracing Indigenous Peoples and Culture	Collège Éducacentre	\$63,000
A Place of Gathering – French Language Resource Centre in B.C.	L'Alliance française de Vancouver	\$75,000
Les P'tits Matins & Maman Poule	Kootenay Kids Society, in partnership with L'Association des Francophones des Kootenays Ouest	\$7,000
TOTAL:		\$250,000

Contact:

Véronique Mercier – 250 387-4791
Director, HR, Corporate Initiatives and Francophone Affairs Program

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT
Organization Chart (May 3, 2021)

