

## Ministry of Citizens' Services

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# Fee Requests

## Background:

- On Oct. 21, the Opposition asked about a number of specific fee requests in response to Freedom of Information requests. The Opposition's own press release shows their shift to asking for "all sent AND received" emails.
- The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* clearly outlines when a fee request can be made for the production or preparation of records.
- The Opposition has applied for fee waivers in some instances, claiming their request for all sent and received is in the "public interest."
- There were 1,279 political party requests in 2016/17, compared 5,838 requests in 2019/20 – an increase of 356%.

## Contrast:

- 26 • Freedom of Information is a critical part of our democracy, but it does require considerable resources.
- In the last two years alone:
  - Political parties have filed over 10,000 FOI requests
  - Those requests have cost nearly \$32 million
- There has been a 350% increase in FOI requests from political parties since we formed government.
- Public servants are concerned that these sweeping requests are costly, and make it harder for the FOI system to provide timely service on other requests.
  - E.g. For individuals, businesses and the media.

## Solution:

- ① ~~We~~<sup>I am</sup> We're happy to respond to FOI requests – it's an important part of being open and transparent.
- Fees are not new – the old government charged them for large requests too. The Act has not changed
- What *is* new is an increase in massive requests from “a political party” for all sent *and* received emails with no topic for staff across government.
- ② • We had already increased the budget and hired additional public service staff to deal with the 350% increase in requests from political parties.
- Now we're seeing an increase in the broad scope of these requests – and that takes more public servants' time to process them.
- All applicants have options to help find what they're looking for, while reducing or eliminating fees.
- Analysts in the public service are ready to help applicants narrow their requests, ~~such as~~ by adding a particular subject.
- ① • We're following the advice of public servants and the fee request rules laid out in the *Act*.
- ② <sup>Conclusion. I am proud of the work the public servants in my ministry is doing.</sup> • Last year we released almost 1.7 million pages. We're going to ~~keep being~~ transparent.

Continue to

Our goal is adhering to the act, we are following the rules, we follow the advice of public servants, and we will continue to be transparent.

### Why do I now only have one opportunity to receive a fee estimate?

- The public servants who work in our Freedom of Information system are dealing with a massive spike in broad, subject-less requests.
- They're making independent decisions to keep the FOI system running for everyone who depends on it – including individuals and the media. *business*
- They're ready to help applicants narrow a request down – such as by adding a topic – to help applicants find what they're looking for.

### On requests to have fees waived in the "public interest":

- Those decisions are made independently in the public service.
- We're following the advice of public servants.
- They're making independent decisions to keep the Freedom of Information system running in response to a massive spike in requests.

### What can you charge fees for?

- The rules are exactly the same as when the members opposite were in government.
- We're following those rules and the advice of public servants.

## How do you know how many requests the Opposition put in?

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- FOI requests indicate whether the request is from a political party, media, an individual or a business.
- It's exactly the same as when the Members Opposite were in government.
- It's not hard to guess which political party is responsible for the 350% jump in requests from political parties since we formed government.

## Background:

- Section 75 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)* permits public bodies to require that an applicant pay fees for an FOI request.
- **There are limits, but overall the fee is based on the amount of time required for a public body to locate, retrieve and produce records, prepare them for disclosure, ship and handle them and for providing copies of the records.**
- Schedule 1 of the *FOIPPA* Regulation sets out the maximum fees permitted.
- Fees cannot apply to:
  - the first three hours spent locating and retrieving a record;
  - time spent severing information from a record;
  - requests by an applicant for their own personal information, only for general FOI requests; or,
  - time spent assessing harms in a record.
- Fees can apply to any time spent:
  - producing the record; or,
  - preparing the record for disclosure.
- Applying fees where appropriate can help reduce overly broad requests so that effective service can be provided to all applicants.
- As part of the 'duty to assist,' analysts will work with applicants to reduce the scope of requests and any associated fees.
- Fee estimates must be reassessed after a request is narrowed/clarified with an applicant.

# No Records Response

## Background:

- The Opposition has questioned government's records management practises, and responses to FOI requests.
- They have also asked about a number of No Records Responses to FOI requests for emails from Ministers, political staff and civil servants.

## Contrast:

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- When the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister in charge of FOI, his government repeatedly broke records management rules.
- The Member for Kamloops-South Thompson's staff got caught deleting emails after a request came in.
- Then they tried to cover it up by triple deleting.
- Even after someone blew the whistle, they lied about it and charges were laid.
- The Member for Kamloops-South Thompson even admitted to triple-deleting his own emails:
  - "I have triple deleted my emails from time to time." (CBC, Oct. 22, 2015)
- We're not going to take lessons on good records management from the members opposite.

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- An email account isn't necessarily an appropriate place to store important government records.
- If there was an indication records weren't stored appropriately, the civil service would follow up.

## Solution:

- ① We follow the advice of public servants. The vast majority of emails are transitory.
- The civil service tells us that transitory records should be disposed of to keep the Freedom of Information system running smoothly.
- Records of decision and non-transitory records are being kept in appropriate record keeping systems.
- In many cases, that's not an email account.
- **Last year we released almost 1.7 million pages of documents. We're going to keep being transparent.**
- ② If the Opposition wants to understand a decision – they might have better luck submitting a request for different kinds of documents with a specific subject.
  - <sup>such as</sup> E.g. **briefing notes, records of decision, agendas.**
- That's what the media does when they want to learn more about our work on housing and childcare.
- That's what individuals do when they want to know about how their case was handled by government.
- If the Opposition needs help finding the information they're looking for, one of the analysts in the public service would be happy to help.

no delete  
next page



Will you bring back the “no delete” policy that was brought in by Premier Clark?

- That was superficial damage control.
- The B.C. government sends and receives more than 350 million emails every year. That’s 5 billion pages that would cover 3X the distance to the Moon.
- Keeping all emails would overwhelm the system.
- No jurisdiction in Canada prohibits the deletion of transitory emails.
- In fact, it would go against the advice of the former Information and Privacy Commissioner.

## What records can be deleted/what's the difference between transitory and non-transitory?

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- Government policy and the recommendations from the OIPC are clear: some records must be kept, but many are transitory and should be removed.
- That means keeping records that are essential to understanding the business of the government, for example how a decision was reached.
- Most emails that go back and forth between Ministers and staff are transitory.
- Civil Servants tell us keeping every transitory record would impact our ability to protect confidential information and deliver timely FOI service.
- The Information & Privacy Commissioner said:
  - “The routine destruction of transitory records is necessary to reduce the volume of government records and the cost of managing records.”  
(Elizabeth Denham, Oct 22, 2015)
- **There are no Canadian jurisdictions that prohibit the deletion of transitory records.**

## Background:

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- FOI in B.C. is administered by Information Access Operations (IAO).
- To date, in fiscal 2020/21 our on-time response rate is nearly 90%. In 2019/20, the province closed 12,920 requests with an on-time rate of 83%.
  - In 2016/17, British Columbia received 9,310 FOI requests and closed requests with an on-time rate of 80%.
- Records that are requested through FOI go through rigorous processing and sign-off to compile the records and identify harms.
- CIRMO's budget increased from \$15.3 million in 2016/17 to just under \$21.25 million in 2019/20. IAO expenditures reflect only a portion of the total expenditures government incurs for the provision of FOI services.

### *On deletion of transitory records, from the Government Records Service Guide:*

- "Many records do not need to be retained. The Transitory Records Schedule authorizes you to dispose of records of temporary value as soon as their business use ends. This guide will help you identify these records.
- Transitory records are records of temporary usefulness that are needed only for a limited period of time in order to complete a routine action or prepare a final record.
- As with all records, they can exist in any format or medium (paper or electronic), and can be created and shared using a variety of technologies (e.g., email, social media, Live Meeting, SharePoint, wikis).
- Transitory records are not required for financial, legal, audit or statutory purposes and are not regularly filed in the office recordkeeping system.
- They do not need to be filed using the Administrative Records Classification System or your office's Operational Records Classification System.
- By promptly removing transitory records, employees are better able to identify and file key records into their office recordkeeping system, where they can be easily found. As well, government avoids unnecessary costs for storing and processing transitory records."

# Private Email Accounts

## Background:

- The Opposition has asked about the use of personal accounts by political staff suggesting it's not appropriate.

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## Main Message:

- ① We have reminded Ministers and staff to avoid the use of personal email.
- If personal email is used in an extenuating circumstance, staff and Ministers are told to follow the Appropriate Use Policy.
- That means any emails sent or received should be transferred into the government system.
- ② • The Appropriate Use Policy is the same policy that was in place when the members opposite were in government.
- We are following it to ensure information is handled appropriately.

## On emails the Opposition has obtained through FOI:

- ③ • The Opposition has this email because it was retained in a gov't account and released through FOI
- The policy is being followed.

## Background:

②

- The Appropriate Use Policy sets out the policy requirements around accessing and storing government information, as well as using government information technology resources.
- The Appropriate Use Policy requires that employees must use their government email accounts when conducting government business.
- If employees have used personal or other non-government email for government business, they must take appropriate steps to ensure these records are transferred from those accounts to a Protected Government System.
  - Step 1: <sup>First</sup> Send a copy of the email to your government email account (GAL). This ensures that the information is stored in a Protected Government System.
  - Step 2: <sup>Next</sup> Once confirming the transfer to your government email account, immediately delete the email from <sup>the</sup> your personal or other non-government email account, including from <sup>the</sup> your deleted items folder.
- ~~As per the Appropriate Use Policy, only in extenuating circumstances are employees permitted to use their personal email or other non-government email.~~

Here are the steps & process one should take.

## Section 43 Requests

### Background:

- Government has processed all 615 individual FOIs in response to a political party's request for emails to/from a list non-government emails addresses belonging to staff and Ministers.
- There were no records in response to 98% of the requests. <sup>s.13</sup>
- On Oct. 9, 2019, the Opposition asked about the OIPC's Sept. 24 decision to deny BC's request to disregard the FOI request. *FOIPPA* has a clause, Sec. 43, protecting the FOI system from requests that could inappropriately overload it.

### Contrast:

- 2 • Processing these requests has cost almost \$2M.
- There has been a 350% increase in FOI requests from political parties since we formed government.
- In the last two years alone:
  - Political parties have filed over 10,000 FOI requests
  - Those requests have cost nearly \$32 million

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- If they have any additional information to share, we'll take a look at it.

## Solution:

- ① • This wasn't a request for information. It was a fishing expedition – and it turned up nothing.
- Over 200 people had to search for records – a total of 6,500 searches.
- In almost ALL cases there were no records. People are using gov't email for gov't business. *Hon. Speaker*
- • The Opposition has a very small number of records because people are following the policy and transferring them into the gov't system.
  - The Appropriate Use Policy is the same as under the old government.
  - If a non-gov't email is used in an extenuating circumstance, the email gets transferred into the gov't system to create a record.
- They have these documents because the policy is being followed. ~~They're things like:~~ *Such documents are* *But for the information of the public and those who are not familiar with the process.*
  - Emails from the start of someone's employment, before they're issued a government email.
  - Receipts for flights sent to the wrong email.
  - Squaring up expenses after you left government.
  - Receiving an article on your non-gov't email and forwarding it into the gov't system to read at work.

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We're going to keep being transparent.

- **Sec 43. of the *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act* protects the FOI system from requests that could inappropriately overload it.**
- **The application to disregard this request was made independently by senior public servants.**
- Processing these requests has impacted government's ability to respond to other FOI requests in a timely manner.
- Public servants worked hard to mitigate the impact on journalists, academics, and people across B.C. who use the Freedom of Information system.



## Background:

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The Appropriate Use Policy states that:

“Employees must use their government email accounts when conducting government business. This includes while working outside of the workplace.

**In extenuating circumstances, Employees may use their personal email or other nongovernment email, as long as the following conditions are met:**

- a) a copy of the email is sent to their government email account, ensuring that the Government Information is stored in a Protected Government System;
- b) the email is immediately deleted from their personal or non-government email account as soon as possible after dealing with the extenuating circumstance; and
- c) the amount of Confidential Information collected, accessed, used or disclosed is limited to the least amount necessary to deal with the extenuating circumstance.” (p. 7)

## Records Management – Main Message

### Background:

- The Opposition has questioned government's records management practises, and responses to FOI requests.

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### Contrast:

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- The Opposition has nothing to teach us on FOI.
- The Leader of the Opposition was the Minister in charge when staff got caught using an elaborate triple deleting system.
- The Member for Kamloops-South Thompson's staff deleted emails after a FOI request came in, and then tried to cover it up by triple deleting.
- Even after someone blew the whistle on them, they tried to cover it up and charges were laid.
- I'm not about to take lessons on good records management practices from the members opposite.

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- If they have any additional information to share, we'll take a look at it.

## Main Message:

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- Freedom of Information is a critical part of our democracy.
- I'm committed to ensuring that records are retained appropriately and that we're providing timely FOI service to British Columbians.
- We've made important changes to make government more transparent.
- The number of requests from political parties is up 350%, but people are getting their records faster.
  - So far this year, our on-time response rate is nearly 90%, after nearly a decade at 80% or less under the old government.
- We made important changes requested by journalists and others:
  - giving them twice as much exclusive time with records before they're public, and
  - allowing them to file FOIs without worrying that others can see a description of their request.
- FOI staff are also looking at ways to make more records available through proactive disclosure.
- Last year we released almost 1.7 million pages of documents. We're going to keep being transparent.

Other things:

***On use of private email in documents obtained through FOI:***

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- The Opposition has this email because it was retained in a gov't account and released through FOI.
- The policy is being followed.

***On quotes taken out of context:***

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- They should make sure they've read the whole document.

***On a no records responses:***

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- Public servants tell us that an email account isn't necessarily an appropriate place to store important government records.

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- **If they have any additional information to share, we'll take a look at it.**

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- To date, in fiscal 2020/21 our on-time response rate is nearly 90%. In 2019/20, the province closed 12,920 requests with an on-time rate of 83%.
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### *On deletion of transitory records, from the Government Records Service Guide:*

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- Transitory records are not required for financial, legal, audit or statutory purposes and are not regularly filed in the office recordkeeping system.
- They do not need to be filed using the Administrative Records Classification System or your office's Operational Records Classification System.
- ✓ By promptly removing transitory records, employees are better able to identify and file key records into their office recordkeeping system, where they can be easily found. As well, government avoids unnecessary costs for storing and processing transitory records."

## Quotes – Freedom of Information

### Quotes:

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- I'm not going to take advice from the Opposition.
- The Leader of the Opposition was the Minister in charge of Freedom of Information during the triple-delete scandal.
- The Member for Kamloops-South Thompson's own staff had to blow the whistle after a colleague deleted emails related to the Highway of Tears after an FOI request had come in.
  - "I again questioned the appropriateness of deleting emails after an FOI request, but this time with Liberal Research Director Jen Wizinsky. She too brushed off my concerns, explaining, 'It's like in the West Wing. You do whatever it takes to win.'"
  - "I want to stress that this is not an isolated incident. It is my belief that the abuse of the Freedom of Information process is widespread and most likely systemic within the Clark government." (*Tim Duncan, May 18, 2015*)
- The Member for Kamloops-South Thompson even admitted to triple-deleting his own emails:
  - "I have triple deleted my emails from time to time," (CBC, Oct. 22, 2015)
- The Member for Abbotsford West said he doesn't even know how to use email.

- This is what the Former Information and Privacy Commissioner said about records management under the old government:
  - “In the course of this investigation, we uncovered **negligent searches for records, a failure to keep adequate email records, a failure to document searches, and the willful destruction of records responsive to an access request.** Taken together, these practices threaten the integrity of access to information in British Columbia.” (Oct. 22, 2015)
  - “It is **difficult to overstate the seriousness of the problems** that my office discovered in the course of this investigation and the resulting effect on the integrity of the access to information process in our province”. (Elizabeth Denham, OIPC report Oct. 22, 2015)
- The old government had an astonishingly poor record on transparency:
  - “The government said it was unable find a single email, memo, briefing note or other correspondence from top officials in the Health Ministry and premier’s office during two years in which it was rocked by the scandal, forced to apologize and launched an outside review.” (Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, October 30, 2015)

# Outstanding Requests

## Background:

- The Opposition may ask about the status of outstanding FOI requests.

## Contrast:

- The Opposition has nothing to teach us on FOI.
- The Leader of the Opposition was the Minister in charge when staff got caught using an elaborate triple deleting system.
- The Member for Kamloops-South Thompson's staff deleted emails after a FOI request came in, and then tried to cover it up by triple deleting.
- Even after someone blew the whistle on them, they tried to cover it up and charges were laid.
- The Member for Kamloops-South Thompson even admitted to triple-deleting his own emails:
  - "I have triple deleted my emails from time to time," (CBC, Oct. 22, 2015)
- I'm not about to take lessons on good records management practices from the members opposite.



# Outstanding Requests

## Background:

- The Opposition may ask about the status of outstanding FOI requests.

## Main Message:

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- I hold myself to a high standard as Minister.
- Freedom of Information is a critical part of our democracy.
- We are currently processing those requests. *For my awareness, - They are being fulfilled not received. All of my records have been provided*
  - The applicant will be receiving the records as soon as possible.
- I would note that the applicant agreed to a number of extensions on the requests.
  - It seems obtaining those records wasn't a priority at the time.
- There has been a 350% increase in FOI requests from political parties since we formed government.
- That has had operational impacts on our ability to deliver timely Freedom of Information service.
- We're going to continue to be transparent.

# Long Delays in Releasing Records

## Background:

- The Opposition has questioned government's records management practises, and responses to FOI requests.

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## Main Message:

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- Freedom of Information is a critical part of our democracy.
- And the Opposition has nothing to teach us on FOI.
- In fact, Drew McArthur, the then-acting Information Commissioner had this to say about the previous government:
  - "I am frustrated to see that the government routinely operates in contravention of BC law."
  - "This level of contravention is unacceptable. I find it difficult to imagine a circumstance where government would tolerate its citizens breaking the law..., yet this is the circumstance in which government found itself."
- I'm committed to ensuring that records are retained appropriately and that we're providing timely FOI service to British Columbians.
- We've made important changes to make government more transparent.

- The number of requests from political parties is up 350%, but people are getting their records faster.
  - So far this year, our on-time response rate is nearly 90%, after nearly a decade at 80% or less under the old government.
- We made important changes requested by journalists and others:
  - giving them twice as much exclusive time with records before they're public, and
  - allowing them to file FOIs without worrying that others can see a description of their request.
- FOI staff <sup>continue to</sup> ~~are also~~ looking at ways to make more records available through proactive disclosure.
- Last year we released almost 1.7 million pages of documents. We're going to keep being transparent.

**Contrast:**

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- The Opposition has nothing to teach us on FOI.
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# Cellular Coverage

collaborative effort  
 Urgent  
 Background: advocacy

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## Message:

- In an emergency, people need to be able to connect with first responders right away, from anywhere in B.C.
- Cell service is also critical day-to-day to help people do business, access services and stay connected.
- **We're working hard with industry and the federal government to expand cellular coverage in rural & Indigenous communities, especially along highway**
- ✶ • **Cellular providers make their own decisions about where to make infrastructure investments.**
- But we reach out regularly to providers to underline the need for expanded cellular coverage, including along major corridors of Highways 3, 16, 37 and 97.
- We announced B.C.'s largest-ever investment in Internet connectivity that will support the network access that cell towers need to operate.
- ✶ • We also continue to work with the federal gov't on federal funding to expand cell coverage.

- The federal government is currently studying the expansion of cellular services as part of their national connectivity strategy.
- We are making progress.
- *we have done:* In 2018, Rogers installed a cell tower in Witset First Nation along Highway 16.
- It provides continuous coverage between Smithers and New Hazelton.
- Every First Nation along the Highway of Tears now has access to cellular coverage for the first time.
- The Ministry of Transportation has also added Wi-Fi to 12 highway rest areas since 2017.
- We know there's more work to do.
- We're going to keep working with cellular providers and other levels of government to find new ways to further expand cellular coverage in B.C.

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If asked about support for a specific community:

- I would be happy to speak further with the member about how we can work together to support people in their community.

*Thank member opp for  
mythor advocacy. I believe in working  
in collaboration and in partnership.*

## Background

- Although government cannot direct cellular providers where to make their infrastructure investments, the province has conveyed the need to expand service in B.C. *my ministry & cellular providers have had these important conversations*
- Recently, the national telecommunications regulator acknowledged that all Canadians should have access to voice services and internet access services on both fixed and cellular wireless networks.
- *next steps* British Columbia encourages internet service providers to also consider future cellular services that may be needed whenever they complete construction of local or regional transport networks.
- The Cellular Highway Expansion Program, an obligation under a non-monetary agreement (Connecting British Columbia Agreement) between government and TELUS concluded December 2016. TELUS provided more than 1,700km of added cellular service along unconnected primary and secondary highway segments at its own expense.
  - The Connecting British Columbia Agreement resulted in cellular service being expanded on more than 18 B.C. highways, covering more than 1,700km of additional provincial roads, increasing cellular coverage to 500km or approximately 71% of Highway 16.
  - This expansion included additional service for 176km of Highway 3 and 213km of Highway 16, with 159km between Prince George and Prince Rupert increasing the coverage from 48% to 70%.
- Having continuous cellular coverage along Highway 16 will promote a safer highway, where 911 calls can be placed and provides for a safer environment.
- Despite progress made to increase cellular connectivity along Highway 16, 27% of Canada's Highway of Tears between Prince George and Prince Rupert still has no cellular service.
- Cellular coverage on Highway 16, has been unresolved for years and is an issue directly tied to Reconciliation and for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- On this basis, the province provided one-time support to Northern Development Initiative Trust for its Cellular Expansion along Highway 16



program. Northern Development, through its procurement process, selected Rogers to expand cellular coverage to Witset First Nation.

- Highway 16 travellers benefitted from 22km of new cellular coverage from the Rogers cellular build underway in Witset First Nation announced in October 2018.
- So long as there is cellphone coverage in an area, any cellular provider will route a 9-1-1 call to the nearest emergency call centre.
- The Ministry of Transportation has provided Wi-Fi at 12 highway rest areas since 2017:
  - Hunter Creek on Hwy 1 – 11km west of Hope
  - Bradner on Hwy 1 – 53km east of Vancouver
  - Cole Road on Hwy 1 – 73 km east of Vancouver
  - The Last Spike on Hwy 1 – 24km east of Sicamous
  - Taylor River on Hwy 4 – 37km west of Port Alberni
  - Britton Creek on Hwy 5 – 67km south of Merritt
  - Glacier View on Hwy 16 – 7km north of Smithers
  - Slim Creek on Hwy 16 – 120km east of Prince George
  - Mount Terry Fox on Hwy 16 – 6km east of Tête Jaune
  - Boulder Creek on Hwy 16 – 53km west of Hazelton
  - Galena Bay on Hwy 23 – 49km north of Nakusp
  - Loon Lake on Hwy 97C – 40km east of Merritt

# Cyber Security / Privacy

## Highlights:

- The Opposition has stated that the Lifelabs breach “raises serious questions about how private companies and this government handle our personal information.” (News Release, Dec. 18, 2019)
- They have called on government to reveal “what advice was John Horgan given and what actions he has taken since he found out.”

## Contrast (on Lifelabs):

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- These are on-going challenges that affect all governments – regardless of political stripe.
- It’s ironic to see the members opposite try to make political hay out of <sup>this non-issue</sup> the Lifelabs situation when the Leader of the Opposition seems to have taken responsibility for it.
- They wrote the contract with Lifelabs.
- The Leader of the Opposition stated, quote: “If we're in some way responsible for how the contract got written, then we did it wrong.” (CKNW, Dec. 19, 2019)

## Main Message:

- British Columbians must have the utmost confidence that their information is secure and protected.
- Our government is committed to continuously strengthening privacy protection.
- *If* Any privacy breach – small or large – is investigated thoroughly, following strict protocols, to quickly address the breach and minimize any impact.
- When it comes to cyber attacks - Cyber criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated and that requires ongoing vigilance and up-to-date technology to continue to fend off these attacks.
- In British Columbia, the Office of the Chief Information Officer provides government with [strategy and leadership in IT security.]
- *what we continue to do:* Our staff of experts have systems to protect our networks that operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, (including: )
  - *we have* Firewalls, Intrusion Prevention systems, anti-virus software, and a vulnerability scanning program
- We're committed to continuously strengthening protections and taking quick action to protect British Columbians' information.

*I respect the expertise & competence of our experts, in IT Security.*

### **What about Lifelabs?**

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- We take the situation extremely seriously.
- Millions of people rely on Lifelabs for healthcare.
- Lifelabs has led the response.
- We expect Lifelabs will cooperate with the privacy commissioner's investigation and continue to work closely with our security experts to protect people's information.

### **Should there be mandatory privacy breach notification as recommended by the OIPC?**

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- Government notifies the OIPC on a monthly basis of all suspected or actual privacy breaches that may have occurred in ministries.
- In the rare event that a serious privacy breach is suspected, the OIPC is proactively notified as soon as possible.
- We're going to continue to work with the OIPC and all our partners to protect British Columbians' information.

## Background:

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- ✓ Any privacy breach – small or large – is investigated thoroughly, following strict protocols, to quickly address the breach and minimize any impact.
- ✓ The protocols include:
  - Immediately reporting the breach to a centralized government reporting line that is monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
  - Consulting privacy investigators to develop incident response and investigation plans.
  - Notifying affected individuals of the breach, where appropriate.
  - Learning from the breach to reduce the possibility of a similar incident.
- ✓ Serious breaches reported to the OIPC decrease by 60% between 2015/16 and 2018/19, reflecting staff's commitment to working proactively to avoid privacy incidents.
- ✓ The number of files the OIPC has opened to review core government breaches decreased by 13% over the same period.
- ✓ Government notifies the OIPC on a monthly basis of all suspected or actual privacy breaches that may have occurred in ministries.
- ✓ In the (rare) event that a serious privacy breach is suspected, the OIPC is notified as soon as possible.
- ✓ Should a privacy incident occur, our priority is to contain the breach and ensure those affected are notified, where appropriate.
- ✕•✓ The Ministry of Citizens' Services does not have a role in investigating privacy breaches in non-ministry public bodies or Crowns.
- ✓ Our privacy investigation staff are available to offer helpful, expert guidance in these situations.

What protections are in place when data is in the custody of a contractor?

- ✓ B.C. Government service agreements follow procurement rules that include both privacy protection and security schedules.
- ✓ These clearly set out the requirements that contractors must abide by.
- ✓ Service providers who manage personal information are also required to take privacy & security training.
- ✓ If government receives any evidence that a service provider is non-compliant with any terms of their agreement, the service provider must investigate or cooperate with government's investigation, depending on the circumstances.

# NTT Contract

Thank staff

## Highlights:

- The Opposition is claiming that contractors hired by NTT to deliver health related IT services improperly accessed health records.
- The documents that the Opposition released in relation explicitly state that no health data was ever at risk and the contractors were only providing IT support. ie. Password resets etc.

## Main Message: *the opposition*

- contact w/PHSA

- B.C. Government service agreements follow procurement rules that include both privacy protection and security schedules. *- If there was a breach, our team of experts will fix it immediately*
- These clearly set out the requirements that contractors must abide by. *- Our public servants are among the best. I am very proud to say that in BC, we have cutting edge cyber security.*
- Service providers who manage personal information are also required to take privacy & security training.
- In this case, the Oppositions *straight from their own press release* ~~own~~ release contains documents that confirm all privacy policies and regulations were strictly adhered to:
- And I quote:
  - "NTT DATA has engaged temporary back up support to assist with technical tickets **ONLY** in the US; all privacy policies and regulations are being strictly adhered to and no personal information is being transferred. The support in the US **DOES NOT** have access to health authority systems."

s.13

s.13

*- this isn't an issue  
- not a breach  
- untrue.*

*- follow the facts, follow the evidence  
- respecting public servants*

## Background:

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- Any privacy breach – small or large – is investigated thoroughly, following strict protocols, to quickly address the breach and minimize any impact.
- The protocols include:
  - Immediately reporting the breach to a centralized government reporting line that is monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
  - Consulting privacy investigators to develop incident response and investigation plans.
  - Notifying affected individuals of the breach, where appropriate.
  - Learning from the breach to reduce the possibility of a similar incident.
- Serious breaches reported to the OIPC decrease by 60% between 2015/16 and 2018/19, reflecting staff's commitment to working proactively to avoid privacy incidents.
- The number of files the OIPC has opened to review core government breaches decreased by 13% over the same period.
- Government notifies the OIPC on a monthly basis of all suspected or actual privacy breaches that may have occurred in ministries.
- In the rare event that a serious privacy breach is suspected, the OIPC is notified as soon as possible.
- Should a privacy incident occur, our priority is to contain the breach and ensure those affected are notified, where appropriate.
- <sup>s.13</sup> The Ministry of Citizens' Services does not have a role in investigating privacy breaches in (non-ministry public bodies or Crowns.)
- Our privacy investigation staff are available to offer helpful, expert guidance in these situations.



# Internet Connectivity

## Background:

s.13

## Message:

- During COVID-19 people have been depending on high-speed internet access more than ever before.
- Slower internet makes it difficult for people to work or learn from home, especially during peak usage.
- That's why we added a targeted COVID-19 funding intake to the Connecting British Columbia program to upgrade network capacity and performance in rural and Indigenous communities.
- We know households and workplaces need these benefits quickly, so we made sure upgrades must be completed by June 30 to be eligible for funding.
- People will be better able to work from home or virtually visit with their loved ones during COVID-19.
- Our government has made important progress connecting British Columbians.
- ✓ Since July 2017, projects to improve high-speed internet access are underway or completed in 479 communities, including 83 Indigenous communities.

Is the COVID-19 intake is new funding? *I'd be happy to talk further to the members further*

- When COVID-19 hit, we knew that people needed better internet quickly.
- This targeted intake is a new way to access the record \$50 million expansion announced in 2019.

Main Message - Connectivity:

- We have made B.C.'s largest-ever investment to expand access to high-speed internet for rural and Indigenous communities, including a record \$50 million expansion in 2019.
- Since July 2017, projects to improve high-speed internet access are underway or completed in 479 communities, including 83 Indigenous communities.
- High-speed internet is critical to learn, do business, access services and stay in touch with loved ones.
- We know it supports good jobs and strong local economies by helping people stay and work in their communities instead of having to move to find work.
- ✓ **Funds are available for communities right now with the open intake of the Connecting B.C. program.**
- We're going to keep working together to connect more communities.

If asked about support for a specific community:

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- I would be happy to talk more with the member about how we can work together to support people in their community.

If asked about areas with limited connectivity:

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- B.C. has some of the most rugged and diverse terrain in Canada and our province is home to some difficult-to-service areas.
- We're working hard with the federal government and the <sup>(telecom companies)</sup> private sector to connect more communities to internet service throughout B.C.

## Background

- A COVID-19 funding intake has been added to the Connecting British Columbia program to help internet service providers upgrade networks in rural and Indigenous communities.
- This funding helps ISPs improve network capacity and performance to improve services for their customers.
- ISPs were invited to apply for up to \$50,000, or 90% of eligible equipment costs, for each project.
- Households and workplaces need these benefits quickly, so upgrades must be completed by June 30 to be eligible for funding.
- These grants will help ensure people working and learning from home have the internet access they need during this uncertain and challenging time.
- Government launched a \$50-million expansion of the Connecting British Columbia program<sup>s.13; s.17</sup>
- This investment is the largest yet for the program, which previous received two contributions valued at \$10 million (2015) and \$40 million (2017).
- The Connecting British Columbia program is designed to position B.C. to benefit from national funding opportunities as well.
- Eligible applicants, including Internet service providers, can apply for provincial and federal funding to help bring high-speed internet services to underserved rural, remote and Indigenous communities in B.C.
- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is ~~currently accepting applications to the~~ <sup>This year</sup> ~~second intake of its \$750-million Broadband Fund. Applications must be received by March 27, 2020.~~ <sup>opened up the application to the</sup>
- Canada's Department of Innovation, Science and Industry is anticipated to release new intake details for the Universal Broadband Fund ~~in 2020~~ <sup>This year</sup>. Another intake of the Rural and Northern Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program is also expected to open ~~in 2020~~ <sup>this year</sup>.  
*We are working w/ our Federal counterparts.*
- Canada's Connectivity Strategy has set a target of 50 megabits-per-second download speeds available to 90% of Canadians by 2021, 95% by 2025 and the hardest to reach Canadians by 2030.

- An estimated 33% of rural and 35% of rural Indigenous communities have internet access at speeds meeting this target.

## Law Courts Inn Lease

### Background:

- The Province has decided to not renew the lease for the Law Courts Inn, a restaurant and event space located in the Vancouver Law Courts building.
- The Inn has been operating in that location since 1972 and the society that operates the Inn has expressed opposition to the decision not to renew the lease.
- The space will be converted to offices for use by the Judiciary.

### Main Message:

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- Managing government-owned and leased buildings and office space is an important part of what my ministry does on behalf of British Columbians.
- This includes the Vancouver Law Courts building at Robson Square, where the Law Courts Inn is a tenant.
- The current lease for the Law Courts Inn expires September 30, 2020 and the Province has decided not to renew or extend the lease.
- There is a growing need for government office space in downtown Vancouver, and it is increasingly challenging to find viable space in this market.
- Given the restaurant's location within the Vancouver Law Courts, the Province intends to use the space to accommodate more office space for the Ministry of Attorney General/Judiciary.

- We need to balance the costs of renting new office space in this competitive real-estate market with the revenue we receive for the space we lease to third-party organizations.

s.13; s.17

If asked about keeping the restaurant open:

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- The Law Courts Inn has been a tenant in Robson Square since the 1970s, and I know many people will be sad to see it go.
- We must take future use into consideration when we renew leases, especially for spaces we lease to third parties within an owned building.
- Given its prime location, we have decided not to renew the lease for the Law Courts Inn and instead convert that space for government use.
- The current lease for the Law Courts Inn will expire on September 30, 2020.

s.13

- 
- The Ministry of Attorney General and the Judiciary is expanding, which has created a demand for office space within the Vancouver Law Courts building.
  - It's important to note that as more people return to work under physical distancing measures more office spaces will be needed.



**Was this decision made due to COVID-19?**

---

- This decision about the Law Courts Inn was made prior to the COVID pandemic.
- The Province is not terminating the lease prematurely; we have given LCI notice that we do not intend to renew their lease when it expires at the end of September 2020.

## Background:

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- On June 26, 2020, the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) received a letter from the Lawyers Inn Society (LIS) expressing their concerns and opposition to the Province's decision not to renew or extend the lease for the Law Courts Inn (LCI) restaurant. The letter was also addressed to the Attorney General and government opposition. They allege that the Province failed to maintain the Robson Square water feature on the property, which has negatively impacted their ability to generate revenue.
- The letter also claims that the restaurant provides community service by hosting corporate, social and public events and waiving room rental fees for several volunteer and pro bono organizations (58 in four years).
- The current Lawyers' Inn Society lease expires September 30, 2020, and the Province has decided to not renew the lease. Instead, given the restaurant's prime location within the Vancouver Law Courts, the Province is considering converting the space to accommodate offices for the Ministry of Attorney General/Judiciary.
- There is a growing need for government offices in downtown Vancouver, including space required for court operations, and it is increasingly challenging to find viable space in B.C.'s expensive and competitive real estate market. Also, many restaurants have opened near Robson Square and the Vancouver Law Courts, changing the landscape since 1972. This has increased competition for the LCI.
- s.17
- Since 2017, LCI claims they have invested around \$200,000 on tenant improvements, made possible through fundraising and donations from the legal community.
- In the 1970s, Chief Justice Nathaniel Nemetz ensured that meeting/social space was available within the Vancouver Law Courts for the (LIS). As a result, the LCI restaurant was established in 1972.
- The Province owns the building and it leases 6,562 square feet of space to Lawyers' Inn Society for the operation of the LCI.

# Connecting BC COVID Intake Projects

## Background:

s.13

## Message:

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- During COVID-19 people have been depending on high-speed internet access more than ever before.
- Slower internet makes it difficult for people to work or learn from home, especially during peak usage.
- That's why we added a targeted COVID-19 funding intake to the Connecting British Columbia program to upgrade network capacity and performance in rural and Indigenous communities.
- We know households and workplaces needed these benefits quickly, so we made sure that upgrades must be completed by June 30 to be eligible for funding.
- So today I'm happy to report that 47 projects were approved during the intake for a total of \$2.4 million.
- That means more than 12,000 households in 123 communities will now benefit from better broadband.
- People will be better able to work from home or virtually visit with their loved ones during COVID-19.

- And our government continues to make important progress connecting British Columbians.
- Since July 2017, projects to improve high-speed internet access are underway or completed in more than 479 communities, including 83 Indigenous communities.

- When COVID-19 hit, we knew that people needed better internet quickly.
- This targeted intake is a new way to access the record \$50 million expansion announced in 2019.
- 47 projects were approved for a total of \$2.4 million in project value.

## Main Message - Connectivity:

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- We have made B.C.'s largest-ever investment to expand access to high-speed internet for rural and Indigenous communities, including a record \$50 million expansion in 2019.
- Since July 2017, projects to improve high-speed internet access are underway or completed in 479 communities, including 83 Indigenous communities.
- High-speed internet is critical to learn, do business, access services and stay in touch with loved ones.
- We know it supports good jobs and strong local economies by helping people stay and work in their communities instead of having to move to find work.
- **Funds are available for communities right now with the open intake of the Connecting B.C. program.**
- We're going to keep working together to connect more communities.

## If asked about support for a specific community:

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- I would be happy to talk more with the member about how we can work together to support people in their community.

- B.C. has some of the most rugged and diverse terrain in Canada and our province is home to some difficult-to-service areas.
- We're working hard with the federal government and the private sector to connect more communities to internet service throughout B.C.

## Background


- A COVID-19 funding intake has been added to the Connecting British Columbia program to help internet service providers upgrade networks in rural and Indigenous communities.
- This funding helps ISPs improve network capacity and performance to improve services for their customers. ISPs were invited to apply for up to \$50,000, or 90% of eligible equipment costs, for each project.
- Upgrades were to be completed by June 30 to be eligible for funding.
- 47 projects were approved; more than 12,000 households in 123 communities will benefit; \$1.55 million was allocated to the COVID project intake; \$880 thousand from other sources was leveraged for a total of \$2.4 million in project value
- Projects are <sup>now</sup> being validated <sup>now</sup> through Northern Development <sup>with</sup> final reports ~~due by July 31st~~ <sup>are out</sup> so that <sup>Proponents can</sup> receive their funds from the program. <sup>will</sup>
- Government launched a \$50-million expansion of the Connecting British Columbia program, with an intake for applications starting in December 2019.
- Eligible applicants, including Internet service providers, can apply for provincial and federal funding to help bring high-speed internet services to underserved rural, remote and Indigenous communities in B.C.
- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is currently accepting applications to the second intake of its \$750-million Broadband Fund. Applications must be received by March 27, 2020.
- Canada's Department of Innovation, Science and Industry is anticipated to release new intake details for the Universal Broadband Fund in 2020. Another intake of the Rural and Northern Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program is also expected to open in 2020.
- Canada's Connectivity Strategy has set a target of 50 megabits-per-second download speeds available to 90% of Canadians by 2021, 95% by 2025 and the hardest to reach Canadians by 2030.
- An estimated 33% of rural and 35% of rural Indigenous communities have internet access at speeds meeting this target.



# COVID-19 Ministerial Order

s.13

## Key Messages:

- This government takes the privacy of British Columbians very seriously.
- This is balanced with protecting the health and safety of our citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Our front-line workers deserve the best possible technology to fight COVID-19.
- After careful and thorough consideration, we have decided to extend this ministerial order into December 2020.
- This will ensure technology that has proven effective in the response to COVID-19 will remain available to healthcare providers and other frontline workers.
-  This is also technology that is routinely used in other provinces – even outside the pandemic.
- British Columbia has succeeded in flattening the curve, but we must remain vigilant against the threat COVID-19 poses to our communities and families.
- For example, persistent chat tools are helping teams working remotely to communicate with each other quickly and efficiently.
- This approach balances privacy considerations with the needs of a workforce impacted by public health guidelines during this ongoing pandemic.
- The health and safety of people in B.C. is a top priority.
- This order helps to maintain people's access to services at a time when most people are practising physical distancing and seeking alternatives to in-person services.

# COVID-19 Ministerial Order

## Examples:

- For example, patient-care teams may require multiple communication tools – things like phones, text messaging, chat programs and other methods – during their response to this public health emergency. This order helps enable their use.
- Someone in self-isolation may only know how to use one specific chat app on their phone to communicate with a public health nurse. This order ensures they can do that.
- Reduced barriers help healthcare workers remain nimble as we monitor for outbreaks and take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.
- Post-secondary and K-12 schools throughout B.C. will benefit from the ministerial order. Many schools and post-secondary institutions are transitioning to online and digital learning platforms. This order ensures students at all levels can continue to learn, while staying healthy and safe.

## If asked about the OIPC:

- I'd like to thank the Information and Privacy Commissioner and his staff for their comments on the drafting of this ministerial order and for continuing to work with my ministry on this issue.
- My ministry will continue to work closely with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in respect to this order until it is rescinded.

# COVID-19: Key supports

## Highlights:

- Key Government supports for people and businesses.

## Message:

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### People

- The **Emergency Benefit for Workers** provides a **\$1,000-dollar payment** to people <sup>who</sup> lost their income.
  - <sup>It</sup> Has helped over 550,000 British Columbians
- A **top up to the BC Climate Action Tax Credit** will provide up to an additional \$451 in July for a family of four. (\$174.50 for adults. \$51.25 for kids)
- Temporary Rental Supplement provides up to \$500/month to reduce the cost of rent and ensure landlords continue to receive income.
  - Over 80,000 renters are benefiting
- A 3-month credit for BC Hydro customers who've lost income. Average credit of \$477
  - Over 100,000 applications have been approved worth more than \$30 million.
- We brought in **job-protected leave** for people unable to work because of COVID-19.
- We got the federal government to commit to providing **two weeks paid sick leave**.
- For the many people who carry student loans, we suspended all repayments until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- We secured over 3,000 spaces at hotels and community centres in over 45 communities to support people experiencing homelessness, incl:
  - More than 800 spaces in Vancouver, including 261 for people from Oppenheimer Park.
  - More than 500 spaces in Victoria, including 344 for people who had been living on Pandora Avenue and in Topaz Park.
- We're providing safe hotel rooms for women and children leaving violent relationships.
- \$300 per month COVID-19 crisis supplement for people receiving income or disability assistance.

## **Businesses**

- We cut property tax bills for businesses by 25%, providing \$700 million in immediate relief
  - Average urban business will save \$5,600
- We moved quickly to defer many business taxes until the end of September
  - This includes the EHT, the PST, the tobacco tax, the Municipal and Regional District Tax, the motor fuel tax, and the carbon tax.
- Small businesses that were forced to close can have their hydro bills forgiven for three months – saving an average of \$363.

- We moved to enhance the commercial rent relief program – which provides a 75% reduction in rent for hard hit businesses – by preventing evictions of commercial tenants that could qualify.
- We allowed restaurants to purchase alcohol at wholesale prices, saving them up to 25%.
- We provided \$10 million in grants to tourism organizations, to support marketing campaigns for this summer.
- We brought forward concerns of businesses to improve access to federal programs:
  - the 75% wage subsidy
  - loans for small and medium businesses
- We have provided emergency funding to support child care centres – over \$150 million to support more than 4,500 child care centres.

# Taking the Question on Notice

## Background:

- To use if you need to look further into a question being asked.

## Main Message:

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- This pandemic has disrupted many aspects of everyday life, the processing of documents and applications is no exception.
- If the Member has specific information they would like me to look into, I'm available to discuss it after Question Period

s.13

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- I'm happy to take the Members question on notice and will provide an answer at a later date.

*I am empathetic to the day to day life, during Covid. disruptions*

s.13

# Anti-Racism

## Key Messages:

- Diversity is a part of British Columbia's identity and one of the province's greatest strengths.
- But the harsh reality is many in our community face racial discrimination as part of their daily lives.
- During this pandemic, we've seen the best in people with many going above and beyond to support and care for others.
- And sadly, and we've also seen very troubling actions driven by fear and ignorance.
- We have all watched in horror at what is going on to the south of us.
- And we have our own challenges here at home.
- Hate has absolutely no place in B.C. Acts of violence and aggression are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Across government, and alongside <sup>the</sup> community ~~leader~~s, we are working with community leaders and organizations to find ways we can work together to combat racism and discrimination in our province.
- Together, we will build a stronger B.C. and a better future for everyone.

## Government Action to Combat Racism

- Our government has taken concrete actions to combat racism and ensure that everyone feels safe, included and respected in all communities throughout this province.
- We re-established the B.C. Human Rights Commission.
- We launched Resilience BC a province-wide network to address racism at the community level and ensure all British Columbians are free from discrimination and intimidation.
- The network will help individual communities throughout the province better respond to incidents of racism with strategies that work for them.
- The Victoria Immigrant and Refugee <sup>Centre</sup> Services Society has been chosen as the provincial hub and soon we will choose up to 40 community-based organizations to deliver anti-racism and anti-hate programs.
- We are working closely with the community leaders and organizations to raise awareness of hate crimes and to ensure there are clear reporting processes in place.

## Anti-Racism

### The Resiliencebcnetwork.ca website (Launch June 11, 2020)

- In response to the rise in hate crime activity during COVID-19, and as a part of the *Resilience BC* program, the Province is investing \$40,000 to create new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. This website is at: [resiliencebcnetwork.ca](https://resiliencebcnetwork.ca)
- Some key highlights include:
  - Providing all content in 12 additional languages;
  - Enhancing information on what to do if you are a victim or bystander of a hate crime or incident;
  - Providing videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that highlighting the “what to do” as a witness or a victim information. This video will be available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, and Japanese.

### **1) What about racist incidents that have happened in B.C. during COVID-19?**

- I am saddened and very concerned by the recent increase in hate crimes and incidents towards people of Asian heritage during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- It is appalling that anyone would use this time to promote misconceptions or engage in acts of discrimination, hate or violence.
- COVID-19 affects us all and discriminating against others won't protect us from the virus.
- This virus doesn't discriminate, and neither should British Columbians.
- We understand that many people are afraid, but that's no reason to spread fear and hatred.
- We need to stand up for each other, especially during a crisis.
- I encourage anyone who experiences or witnesses a racist incident like this to report it to the police.
- Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said fear will only obstruct the important work public health officials are doing to protect all British Columbians.
- Kindness will bring us through this global health crisis stronger than ever as we work to build a more inclusive and welcoming province.



## **Police Act Reform**

### **Message:**

- **Ensuring the police are held accountable to the highest standards for fair and unbiased conduct is crucial to maintaining public trust. That's why we:**
  - **Passed legislation last year to strengthen the Independent Investigation Office's capacity and improve the quality and timeliness of its investigations.**
  - **Introduced new binding standards on police stops – or 'street checks' – to promote unbiased policing. Under the new standards, police are not permitted to make arbitrary stops or ones based on race.**
- **But we know more work can and must be done.**
- **B.C.'s Police Act is outdated and out of step with our government's approach and our work with police services on important issues—including harm reduction and mental health.**
- **That's why we struck an all-party committee to engage with communities and experts on how the 45-year-old act can be modernized to reflect today's challenges and opportunities for delivering police services.**

### **Background:**

- **On July 8th, Minister Farnworth tabled a motion in the House to strike a "Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act," chaired by MLA Singh and comprised of four NDP, four Liberal, and one Green member.**
- **The Committee will conduct consultations and engage with communities and experts on modernizing the Act and all related agreements, with a specific focus on systemic racism.**
- **As part of this work, they will be examining and making recommendations on:**
  - **Independent oversight, transparency, service delivery, and training of police;**
  - **Role of police with respect to complex social issues like harm reduction and mental health and wellness;**
  - **Scope of systemic racism within BC's police agencies; and**
  - **Alignment of the Police Act with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.**
- **The Committee will provide a final report—including recommendations—to the Legislative Assembly in May 2021.**

## Multiculturalism QP Binder

- Tab 1 – KMs – Core Messaging – Multiculturalism
- Tab 2 – Hate Crime Stats in BC
- Tab 3 – COVID-19 and Asian related hate crimes
- Tab 4 – National Association of Japanese Canadians' Report
- Tab 5 – Resilience BC
- Tab 6 – Race-Based Data Collection
- Tab 7 – Stop Racism Alliance
- Tab 8 – Surrey Board of Trade Delivers a Call to Action Against Racism
- Tab 9 – USA Anti-Racism Direct Action / *Police Reform*.
- Tab 10 – Wilkinson Letter to the Premier regarding Asian related hate crimes
- *empowering community's at the grassroots level.*

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## CORE MESSAGING

Updated: June 2020

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

### **Multiculturalism**

#### **General Key Messages**

- Diversity is a part of British Columbia's identity and one of the province's greatest strengths.
- We are proud of our multicultural society - it's part of the reason this is such an amazing place to live.
- Everyone deserves to live free from fear and oppression, and fully able to express their cultural identity.
- It's going to take all of us working together — government, organizations and people at the grassroots level to make the change that is needed.
- Our government has taken some important first steps, including the reinstatement of the Human Rights Commission and the creation of Resilience BC, a province-wide anti-racism network.
- We know there is much more work to do to make B.C. safer for people and we are absolutely committed to doing this work.
- Together, we will build a stronger B.C. and a better future for everyone.

#### **Celebratory Key Messages**

- Today and every day, we celebrate the inclusive, multicultural province and country we are so lucky to live in.
- Our lives and communities are enriched every day by the diverse cultures that make up British Columbia.
- Diversity also makes B.C.'s economy stronger and creates opportunities as we strengthen relationships around the world.
- As we celebrate diversity, and honour the cultural traditions and celebrations we share, we commit to standing together against racism, prejudice and those who seek to divide us.
- Our government will always stand up for diversity, inclusion and mutual respect, and work to build a better future for every person, in every community.

## **Responsive Key Messages**

- In Canada and around the globe, racism, extremist violence and hate is on the rise, fuelled by those who use prejudice and racism as tools for political gain.
- As we mourn the lives lost to acts of racism/terrorism, we commit to stand together against hatred and violence in all its forms. People deserve to feel safe in their communities, homes and places of worship. [EXAMPLE ONLY]
- Here in B.C., we are not immune. We recognize there's still significant work to do to address broader issues of systemic racism.
- The harsh reality is that many in our community have to deal with racism every day of their lives.
- Our lives are made better by the inclusive, multicultural province and country we are so fortunate to live in. We cannot allow those who spread hate to take this from us.
- We ALL have a responsibility to ensure our communities are safe and inclusive for everyone.
- It's going to take everyone - governments, organizations and individuals to protect and defend the amazing rich cultural diversity we all have the privilege to live in.
- For our part, our government will continue to defend the values of diversity, equality and mutual respect as we work together to build a better province and a more peaceful world.

## **Statistic and Background:**

- B.C. is the most ethnically diverse province in Canada.
- B.C. is home to 203 First Nations, as well as Métis and Urban Indigenous communities.
- Other residents of the province trace their origins to more than 200 countries or regions.
- Adding to our diversity, we welcome more than 40,000 new immigrants every year.

## **Ministry Programs:**

### **Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grants**

- Communities throughout B.C. will be safer and more inclusive for people, with 75 projects supported through the latest round of BC Multiculturalism Grants.
- Through these grants, we are assisting community organizations to deliver projects that strengthen intercultural connections, and increase trust and understanding to reduce incidents of racism, hate and discrimination.

### **Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards**

- The Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards is an annual event to honour and celebrate outstanding contributions to enhancing multiculturalism and anti-racism efforts in B.C.
- The 2020 Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards were hosted by Premier John Horgan and Minister Anne Kang and were streamed live from the Province's social media platforms.

### **Resilience BC**

- Resilience BC is a province-wide anti-racism network that will improve community capacity to respond to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism.
- The program is being delivered through a hub and spokes model that will support partners in 40 communities in across B.C. This model allows for a more systemic and collaborative approach in addressing racism and hate activity in communities by:
  - Developing supports and resources that are proactive, bold and well-coordinated across the province;
  - Increasing community capacity to respond to emerging trends and incidents of racism and hate;
  - Making training and best practices education more available to communities; and
  - Enhancing communication between communities, ministry staff, the cross-ministry anti-racism and anti-hate working group, and the BC Hate Crimes Team.

### **The Resilience BC website (Launch June 11, 2020)**

- In response to the rise in hate crime activity during COVID-19, and as a part of the Resilience BC program, the Province is investing \$40,000 to create new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. This website is at: [resiliencebcnetwork.ca](https://resiliencebcnetwork.ca)
- Some key highlights include:
  - Providing all content in 12 additional languages;

- Enhancing information on what to do if you are a victim or bystander of a hate crime or incident;
- Providing videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that highlighting the "what to do" as a witness or a victim information. This video will be available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, and Japanese.

### **TAC Other Supports:**

TAC has taken the following actions to promote human rights, diversity and inclusion:

- Hosted a live anti-racism Town Hall on the government social media platforms. Government participants included Minister Kang as moderator and PS Ravi Kahlon as one of the panel members. This event had one of the highest levels of engagement with more 6400 live 'clicks-to-view' for an average of 15:17 mins each as well as garnering 990 questions and comments.
- Invested \$40,000 to create new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. All content at [resiliencebcnetwork.ca](https://resiliencebcnetwork.ca) is available in 12 additional languages and will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information.
- Reached out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups and other stakeholders through regular conference calls with Premier and Minister Kang that had more than 300 participants.
- Added to the government's COVID-19 homepage direct links to translations in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Spanish and Korean.
- Announced a \$1 million grant to the City of Vancouver to support further planning and initial programming for the Chinese Canadian Museum. The funding helped establish a project office and pocket gallery in the Chinese Cultural Centre in Vancouver Chinatown.
- Reinstated the BC Human Rights Commission, an independent office of the provincial legislature tasked with promoting and protecting human rights through education, research, policy development and public investigations into issues of systemic discrimination in the province.
- Formed a new cross-ministry anti-racism and anti-hate working group to identify new ways to coordinate responses to incidents of racism in communities and to address broader, more complex issues of systemic and institutional racism.
- Funded in 2019/20 more than 30 communities across B.C. to challenge racism and hate.
- Reframed the Multiculturalism Grants Program which provide \$300,000 in grants annually to better support organizations in their work to encourage intercultural dialogue, reduce barriers and create a more inclusive province.

- Revamped the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards to showcase courageous responses to racism and hate in communities.
- Held the 2020 Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards through a livestream to honour 45 nominees.
- Hosted Hall of Honour events throughout 2019 at the legislature to raise the profile and celebrate key cultural events in the province, including Nowruz, Vaisakhi, Diwali, Islamic Heritage Week and Multiculturalism Week.

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ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Updated: June 22, 2020

Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

## Hate Crimes Stats in B.C.

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Our government is committed to building a safe, welcoming, inclusive society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
- Every person deserves to live free from fear and intimidation, and to be able to fully express their identity.
- Here in B.C, we recognize there is still significant work to address broader issues of systemic racism.
- The harsh reality is that many in our community have to deal with racism every day of their lives.
- It's unacceptable that in a province as diverse as B.C., people are facing prejudice and even violence.
- We all must join together and denounce racism and violence in our communities.
- It's going to take everyone – governments, organizations and individuals working together to put a stop to racism.
- For our part, our government is committed to continuing the work, build an inclusive, and welcoming province where everyone can participate freely and fully in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of British Columbia. Some of these actions include:
- Reinstating the BC Human Rights Commission in 2018.
- Forming a new cross-ministry, anti-racism and anti-hate working group last November.
- Launching the Resilience BC, program, a new provincewide network of supports designed to increase community capacity respond to hate and racism incidents.
- Creating new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. All content on the new Resilience BC portal is available in 12 additional languages and will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information.
- Hosted a live anti-racism Town Hall on the government social media platforms. Government participants included Minister Kang as



## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

moderator and PS Ravi Kahlon as one of the panel members. The town hall attracted one of the highest levels of engagement, garnering more than 6400 live views and 990 questions and comments.

### **If asked: about the rise in racially motivated attacks against people of Asian Heritage during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

- During this pandemic, we've seen the best in people with many going above and beyond to support and care for others.
- And sadly, and we've also seen very troubling actions driven by fear and ignorance.
- I am deeply concerned by the recent rise in racially motivated physical and verbal attacks and vandalism against people of Asian heritage in our province since the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Hate has absolutely no place in B.C. All of us have to stand together and denounce racism and violence in our communities and declare hate has no place in B.C.
- Together, we will build a stronger B.C. and a better future for everyone.

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- We know that hate crimes are underreported for several reasons, and so the statistics don't always provide us an accurate picture of what's actually happening.
- Without a national definition of what constitutes a hate crime, the statistics are likely further underestimated.

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- We are also working to address broader, more complex issues of systemic and institutional racism.

### **KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:**

Statistics Canada 2018 police-reported crime statistics

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On Feb. 26, 2020, the CCJS Juristat on hate crimes in Canada released its latest stats, including data that showed that reported crimes dipped slightly in B.C. from 255 in 2017 to 248 in 2018.

The report also highlights that in 2018, there were 1,798 police-reported hate crimes in Canada, down 13% from the record-high of 2,073 incidents reported in 2017. Despite the decline, the number of hate incidents reported in Canada in 2018 was the second highest since 2009.

### Increase in anti-Asian racist incidents during COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in anti-Asian racist incidents and crimes in B.C. On May 22, 2020, Vancouver Police Department held a press conference to announce that the department has identified 77 hate-associated police files. This is up from 51 in comparison to the same time period in 2019. In addition, there are 10 active files from April and May that police are currently investigating that could potentially be classified as hate-related upon further investigation. Police have opened 29 investigative files for anti-Asian crime. There were four during the same time period in 2019. No charges have been laid according to a VDP news release.

### Data accuracy

Hate crimes are significantly under-reported due to a variety of factors (i.e., language capacities, trust levels with police, awareness of what constitutes crime); This needs to be taken into account when interpreting the 2018 hate crime statistics as the indicator of a positive trend. At the same time, an increase in reported crimes in a specific community may be due to a variety of factors – while it could mean that the overall numbers of crimes in that community has increased, it also could also mean that the population is more aware about to report hate crime or comfortable reporting incidents that have occurred.

### Highlights

Reported hate crimes increased in Vancouver (from 183 in 2017 -187 in 2018 and Victoria (from 10 in 2017 to 24 in 2018) increased in 2018.

### B.C.'s Stats in Canada in police-reported hate crimes (33 metropolitan areas)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Vancouver</b>	116	116	146	183	187 (ratio of 7.1 per 100,000 ppl – above national average)
<b>Victoria</b>	17	7	17	10	24 (ratio of 6.1 per 100,000 ppl – above national average)
<b>Abbotsford – Mission</b>	4	7	7	10	6 (ratio of 3.1 per 100,000 ppl – below national average)
<b>Kelowna</b>	2	3	1	2	3 (ratio of 1.4 per 100,000 ppl – below national average)

The Criminal Code defines a hate crime as a criminal offence committed against a person or property which is motivated by the suspect's bias, prejudice or hate against an identifiable group based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor.

Link to report: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/200226/dq200226a-eng.htm>

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### Approvals (initials only)

Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
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ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Update: June 22, 2020  
Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

COVID-19 and Asian  
related hate crimes

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- I am deeply saddened by the recent increase in hate crimes and incidents towards people of Asian heritage during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- There is no place for hate in British Columbia and racist acts will not be tolerated.
- COVID-19 affects us all and discriminating against others won't protect us from the virus.
- ~~We~~<sup>I</sup> understand that many people are afraid, but that's no reason to spread fear and hatred.
- Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said fear will only obstruct the important work public health officials are doing to protect all British Columbians.
- We need to stand up for each other, especially during a crisis.
- I encourage anyone who experiences or witnesses a racist incident like this to report it to the police.
- Kindness will bring us through this global health crisis stronger than ever as we work to build a more inclusive and welcoming province.

If asked: What has the government done recently to address the rise in racially motivated attacks against people of Asian Heritage in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Our government continues to work across ministries and with partners throughout the province to advance anti-racism efforts in every community.
- We have taken decisive<sup>bold</sup> action to respond to immediate needs during the pandemic and to confront the broader issues of systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.

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- Over the past few months, the Premier and I have reached out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups through regular phone calls and stakeholder meetings that have had more than 300 participants.
- We heard concern for translated materials on COVID-19, and made it a priority to provide direct links on the government's COVID-19 homepage to translations in: Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Korean and Spanish.
- In addition, substantial progress has been made under the Resilience BC, a provincewide anti-racism network that will support partners in 40 communities in their work to end racism, discrimination and hate through its hub and spokes model.
- Resilience BC will increase community capacity to combat to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.
- In May, we have selected the <sup>VIRRCs</sup> Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society <sup>most recently</sup> to as the program's provincial hub and we <sup>we have ed. 40</sup> are currently in the process of selecting the community spokes, which I hope to ~~announce early this summer.~~
- I'm also happy to share that as a part of Resilience BC, the Province has launched a new website [resiliencebcnetwork.ca](https://resiliencebcnetwork.ca) as an online resource to support people who experience or witness a racist incident.
- All information on this website is offered in 12 languages and it will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information This video will be available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, and Japanese.
- On May 27, the Premier Horgan and I hosted a live stream of the 2020 Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards. The ministry received forty-five nominations, representing individuals and organizations being recognized for their excellence in fostering inclusiveness and anti-racism efforts in their communities.
- As well, it was an absolute pleasure for me to moderate the Province's Town Hall on Anti-Racism on June 12th. For this important forum, our panelists were PS Ravi Kahlon, as well as BC Multicultural Advisory Council members: Dr. Ismaël Traoré and Patricia Barkaskas who contributed to a thought-provoking discussion on racism.

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- **There was an overwhelming positive reception to the town hall. The live broadcast had one of the highest levels of engagement, garnering more 6400 live views and 990 questions and comments. This event was aired live on the government social media platforms and can be viewed at any time on the government's Facebook page.**
- **Government members including the Premier and I signed and promoted B.C.'s Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Janet Austin drafted "Different together" pledge, giving our support to opposing racism in all its forms.**
- **These are just some of the recent actions we taken to address racism and build an inclusive, and welcoming province where everyone can participate freely and fully in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of British Columbia.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### BACKGROUND:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in anti-Asian racist incidents and crimes in B.C. On May 22, 2020, Vancouver Police Department held a press conference to announce that the department has identified 77 hate-associated police files. This is up from 51 in comparison to the same time period in 2019. In addition, there are 10 active files from April and May that police are currently investigating that could potentially be classified as hate-related upon further investigation. Police have opened 29 investigative files for anti-Asian crime. There were four during the same time period in 2019. No charges have been laid according to a VDP news release.

Source: <https://mediareleases.vpd.ca/2020/05/22/vancouver-police-raise-concern-over-increase-in-hate-crime/>

An April 2020 poll, conducted by Corbett Communications in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, found that one out of five people do not think it's safe to sit next to an Asian or Chinese person on a bus if they are not wearing a mask. The poll also found that 15% of respondents were aware of racist incidents in their neighbourhoods since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

In 2018, the latest data available from Statistics Canada, in Canada, there were 56 hate crimes reported to police that targeted East Asian or Southeast Asian people, out of a total of 780 hate crimes motivated by race or ethnicity.

TAC has taken the following actions to promote human rights, diversity and inclusion:

TAC has taken the following actions to promote human rights, diversity and inclusion:

- Hosted a live anti-racism Town Hall on the government social media platforms. Government participants included Minister Kang as moderator and PS Ravi Kahlon as one of the panel members. This event had one of the highest levels of engagement with more 6400 live 'clicks-to-view' for an average of 15:17 mins each as well as garnering 990 questions and comments.
- Launched Resilience BC, a new provincewide network to support community respond to incidents of racism through better coordination and training. The program will receive \$540,000 annually. The full rollout of Resilience BC's hub and community spokes model will take place by early summer 2020.
- Creating new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. All content on the new Resilience BC portal is available in 12 additional languages and will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information.
- Reached out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups and other stakeholders through regular conference calls with Premier and Minister Kang that had more than 300 participants.
- Added to the Province COVID-19 homepage direct links to translations in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Spanish and Korean.
- Announced a \$1-million grant to the City of Vancouver to support further planning and initial programming. The funding helped establish a project office and pocket gallery in the Chinese Cultural Centre in Vancouver Chinatown.
- Reinstated the B.C. Human Rights Commission on Nov. 1, 2018. This independent office of the provincial legislature is tasked with promoting and protecting human rights through education, research, policy development and public investigations into issues of systemic discrimination in the province.
- Established a new cross-ministry anti-racism and anti-hate working group to identify new ways to coordinate responses to incidents of racism in communities and to address broader, more complex issues of systemic and institutional racism.

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- Funded in 2019/20 more than 30 communities across B.C. to challenge racism and hate.
- Reframed the Multiculturalism Grants Program which provide 300,000 in grants annually to better support organizations in their work to encourage intercultural dialogue, reduce barriers and create a more inclusive province.
- Revamped the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards to showcase courageous responses to racism and hate in communities.
- Held the 2020 Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards through a livestream to honour 45 nominees.
- Hosted Hall of Honour events throughout 2019 at the legislature to raise the profile and celebrate key cultural events in the province, including Nowruz, Vaisakhi, Diwali, Islamic Heritage Week and Multiculturalism Week.

### **Ongoing Cross-government Actions:**

- In May 2019, the B.C. government passed legislation last year to strengthen the Independent Investigation Offices capacity and improve the quality and timeliness of their investigations. We have also introduced new binding standards on police stops or street checks to promote unbiased policing. Under the new standards, police are not permitted to make arbitrary stops or ones based on race.
- In July 2019, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions expanded the StopOverdoseBC public awareness campaign to reach South Asian and Chinese Canadian audiences.
- In May 2019, the Province announced that \$40 million will be provided to build and revitalize First Nations-run treatment centres throughout British Columbia.
- Our government re-establish a Human Rights Commission for B.C.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General launched a five-year Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV) pilot program to promote community safety and prevent radicalization to violence across the province.
- The Ministry of Education leads the erase program that works to ensure that our schools are safe, respectful and inclusive.
- The Province continues to support the Bamboo Shoots curriculum supplement which helps K-12 students learn about Chinese Canadian history and contributions in B.C. As well, the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education recently asked the BC Black History Association to help our government in creating more curriculum resources for Black history in BC and Canada.
- The Gender Equity office works across government to ensure GBA+ is implemented across the public service, so that diverse groups of women, men and non-binary individuals and people of all races, ethnicities, religions, ages, and abilities are considered in government policies, programs and initiatives.
- B.C. is the first province in Canada to pass legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

**CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE**

**Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Updated: June 22, 2020  
Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang**

### **National Association of Japanese Canadians' Report**

#### **RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Our government recognizes the significant harm that came to Japanese Canadians as a result of government actions before, during and after the Second World War.**
- **We know that changing attitudes and healing the wounds of the past is a long process.**
- **We are working with the National Association of Japanese Canadians on a path forward that honours survivors and acknowledges these injustices.**
- **Last year, we supported the National Association of Japanese Canadians with a \$30,000 grant to help NAJC hold a series of community consultations and to support the development of a report on recommendations that came forward.**
- **We have reviewed the recommendations and have engaged other ministries to collect information on work already underway to advance some of the recommendations that came forward.**
- **This information was shared with the National Association of Japanese Canadians at a meeting that took place in early February 2020.**
- **I understand the National Association of Japanese Canadians are working now to refine their recommendations into a proposal for our consideration.**
- **We are committed to continuing our work with the National Association of Japanese Canadians on this important matter.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Community Association (GVJCCA) has released two video messages in response to Premier John Horgan's comments on systemic racism in B.C.'s history during his weekly address on June 3, 2020.

One message was presented by Judy Hanazawa, President of GVJCCA and the other by Mary Kitigawa, elderly survivor of Japanese internment camps, and a 2018 Order of BC recipient. Both videos messages speak to the Premier's omission of historical wrongs towards the Japanese community when he gave examples of racism throughout B.C.'s history.

The videos have been placed on Youtube with a link to Kitigawa's message posted on the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) Facebook. To date, there have been no media coverage of these video messages. (link to messages: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8R5iBXpfBB88V4V-J2U1Ew>)

On Feb 7, 2020, TAC met with NAJC to discuss the recommendations in the "Recommendations for Redressing Historical Wrongs Against Japanese Canadians in BC: Community Consultations Report" (The NAJC Report). The report is available on the NAJC website: [http://najc.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/NAJC\\_BC\\_Redress\\_report\\_only20191031.1421.pdf](http://najc.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/NAJC_BC_Redress_report_only20191031.1421.pdf)

At the meeting, the ministry shared their preliminary findings about some of the recommendations with the NAJC and asked for clarification on others.s.13

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### BACKGROUND:

On Dec. 29, 2019, the Vancouver Sun published a front page article: "Report On Historical Wrongs 'About Now And Future' by By Dan Fumano on the National Association of Japanese Canadians' recommendations to the BC government to redress historical wrongs towards Japanese Canadians during and after the Second World War.

The article includes a comment from Susanne Tabata, a director of the NAJC's national executive board, who states that "The NAJC will come back to the B.C. government, probably by April, with a more detailed proposal for moving forward with the recommendations in last month's report."

On Nov. 15, 2019, Minister Beare met with the National Association of Japanese Canadians to formally receive a copy of the NAJC Report. The event was not open to media, but was it was live streamed to allow stakeholders, who were not able to attend in person, to witness. The report contains feedback from a series of community consultation meetings held across B.C. to provide members from the Japanese Canadian community in B.C. a forum to offer recommendations for redress and legacy initiatives for historical wrongs. The report includes five recommendations:

1. Enhance public school education in British Columbia such as increasing references to Japanese-Canadian history in K-12 curriculum, make resources available on-line and support additional

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

research initiatives.

2. Take concrete steps to combat racism and discrimination, such as creating an independent body to review the effectiveness of existing anti-racism initiatives, support victims of racism and develop new programs.
3. Raise public awareness through memorialization such as establishing a permanent commemorative day for Japanese-Canadians on April 1 and providing funds for existing and new museums and exhibits, maintain and create new monuments.
4. Create a Japanese Canadian Committee Legacy Fund such as creating an independent fund that can be administered by the Japanese-Canadian community to provide supplementary income to senior survivors in hardship, support community wellness programs, scholarships.
5. Redeliver a formal apology acknowledging the BC Government's role by having the Premier deliver a more planned and meaningful apology in the legislature than the one delivered by MLA Naomi Yamamoto in 2012.

Prior to the official hand off to Minister Beare, the organization had been active in reaching out to media. The article: "Righting a historical wrong" published in the Times Colonist on Nov. 03, 2019 directly referred to the upcoming the release of the report and its demands on government to fully endorse all the recommendations of the report.

While many of the recommended initiatives resulting from these meetings are similar the Chinese-Canadian Legacy projects undertaken by the Provincial government between 2014 and 2018, s.13

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In April 2018, Premier Horgan, Minister Beare and PS Kahlon met with Lorene Oikawa, president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC). At this meeting, NAJC president Oikawa put forth the proposal of hosting a series of Japanese Canadian community consultation meetings across B.C. to provide community members a forum to offer recommendations for redress and legacy initiatives for historical wrongs. Minister Beare followed up with NAJC in August 2018. In March 2019, the Province provided \$30,000 to NAJC in support of this initiative.

Between June and August 2019, the NAJC held nine community meetings in B.C. (Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, Victoria, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna and New Denver/Nelson). In addition, six meetings were held for internment survivors and their descendants now living in other parts of Canada, an online survey was conducted, and written submissions were also received.

### Historical wrongs:

Japanese-Canadian pioneers began settling in B.C. in the 1870s, many working in mining, fishing, lumber, agriculture and service industries on Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and B.C.'s lower mainland. During World War II, all Japanese-Canadians living within 160 kms of the coast were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in internment camps throughout British Columbia and Alberta under the War Measures Act. Many Japanese-Canadians properties were seized and sold. Japanese-Canadians were forbidden from returning to coastal B.C. until 1949. Many never returned. The federal and provincial governments apologized for the discriminatory treatment Japanese-Canadians suffered in 1988 and 2012. Due to lack of consultation with the NAJC and community, the NAJC has recommended the Premier Horgan redeliver a formal apology acknowledging the B.C. Government's role.

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Updated: June 22, 2020  
Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

## Resilience BC

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Every person deserves to live without fear of violence or discrimination.
- It is very concerning that we are seeing an increase in racially motivated attacks since the COVID-19 outbreak.
- These incidents are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Last fall, our government launched Resilience BC, a provincewide anti-racism network that will support partners in 40 communities in their work to end racism, discrimination and hate.
- Resilience BC will increase community capacity to respond to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.
- We have selected the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society to as the program's Provincial Hub.
- The Call for Proposals for the spokes closed on May 22 and we are now in the process of selecting the successful proponents which will be announced this summer.
- I'm also happy to share that as a part of Resilience BC, the Province has launched a new Resilience BC portal ([resiliencebcnetwork.ca](https://resiliencebcnetwork.ca)), an online resource to support people who experience or witness a racist incident.
- All information on this website is offered in 12 languages and multilingual videos will be added to the site in the near future.
- Resilience BC is one of many ways we're working to build a safer, more inclusive province.
- Together, we can build a better future where everyone has the opportunity to participate and celebrate B.C.'s multicultural diversity that makes us strong.

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### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

Resilience BC is a province-wide anti-racism network that will improve community capacity to respond to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.

The program is being delivered through a hub and spokes model that will support partners in 40 communities in across B.C. in addressing racism and hate activity. This model allows for a more systemic and collaborative approach by:

- Developing supports and resources that are proactive and well-coordinated across the province.
- Increasing capacity of communities to respond to emerging trends and incidents of racism and hate.
- Making training and best practices education more available to communities.
- Enhancing communication between communities, ministry staff, the cross-ministry anti-racism and anti-hate working group, and the BC Hate Crimes Team.

The program will receive \$540,000 annually. The full rollout of Resilience BC will take place by the end of June 2020.

### The Resilience BC website (launched June 11, 2020)

- In response to the rise in hate crime activity during COVID-19, and as a part of the Resilience BC program, the Province is investing \$40,000 to create new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. This website is at: [resiliencebcnetwork.ca](http://resiliencebcnetwork.ca)
- Some key highlights include:
  - Providing all content in 12 additional languages;
  - Enhancing information on what to do if you are a victim or bystander of a hate crime or incident;
  - Providing videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that highlighting the "what to do" as a witness or a victim information to also be available in Providing videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that highlighting the "what to do" as a witness or a victim information. This video will be available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, and Japanese.

### BACKGROUND:

During the summer 2019, PS Kahlon met with community leaders across the province to discuss local, emerging issues on racist and hate incidents. In total, over 360 people attended the dialogues. Dialogues were held in Courtenay, Cranbrook, Duncan, Nanaimo, Vancouver (metro region), Abbotsford, Kelowna (region), Osoyoos, Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Prince Rupert, and Victoria.

On Nov. 20, 2019, during Multiculturalism Week, the government launched *Resilience BC*, a provincewide, anti-racism network, in direct response to feedback received during the community consultations.

\*\*Please also refer to the Issues Note: Hate Crimes Stats in B.C.

Communications:	Rachel Nesbitt	250-387-0104
Program:	Alison Dudley	236-818-1150
<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
AD	SB	CH

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Update: June 22, 2020

Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

## Race-Based Data Collection

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Our government recognizes the value and importance of race-based data collection in understanding the impact of government policies and practices on racialized communities in B.C. s.13
- Race based data can inform the development of more equitable policies, programs and services and help address systemic racism within our institutions.
- To this end, Premier John Horgan has written the provincial Human Rights and Information and Privacy commissioners requesting their advice on developing a policy for race and ethnicity-based data collection across ministries.
- The Premier has asked that the advice take into account how race and ethnicity-based data collection can inform housing, education, policing, poverty reduction and healthcare policies.
- The Premier has asked for a response by Sept. 1, 2020 on how data can be collected in a way that balances efficiency with privacy concerns.
- Once this advice is received, we are committed to looking at ways it can be implemented across ministries in collaboration with the Cross Ministry Anti-Racism and Anti-Hate Working Group.

### If asked about the role of race-based data collection as the Minister of Citizens Services

- The Ministry of Citizens' Services uses data in innovative ways to inform decision-making and improve policy, services and government programs.
- Protection of government data is a top priority in this work, especially when it concerns peoples' personal information.
- The Data Innovation Program challenges government's data experts to find ways we can make the Province work better for people in B.C.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- In the program, data experts use data without personal identifiers that is obtained from multiple ministries, which helps create a more holistic view of complicated issues like homelessness and healthcare. Examples of projects include:
  - Linking Ministry of Health data to socio-economic measurements to learn more about the impacts of not having a family doctor and improve outcomes for people;
  - Bringing together data from different government sources to better understand the pathways to homelessness and evaluate the effectiveness of government interventions;
  - And, examining how people in Vancouver's Downtown East Side have accessed services over time to inform future programming.

Data used by the program is stored on a central server in a secure facility where strict controls maintain individual privacy.

### **If asked about data and privacy:**

- Citizens' Services is also responsible for the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIPPA), which sets the rules for how data containing peoples' information may be used.
- FOIPPA establishes how public bodies may collect personal information, their obligation to protect it and how it may be used.
- The Information Management Act (IMA) provides rules governing the creation, storage and disposal of records as government becomes increasingly digital.

### **If asked: Does the government collect data related to COVID-19 based on race and other identity markers?**

- Dr. Bonnie Henry has said it's important to have racialized data related to COVID-19.
- Her team is putting in place a number of things so we can better understand how this pandemic has impacted people in different communities.
- That said, from the beginning of the pandemic we have been working in partnership with Metis Nation BC and the First Nations Health Authority to collect data on Indigenous peoples and COVID-19.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- This data has been very important in helping us understand the impact of the pandemic on Indigenous communities.

**If asked: What percentage of Black, Indigenous and other people of colour have either been infected or died from the virus?**

- Dr. Bonnie Henry has said it's important to have racialized data related to COVID-19.
- Her team is putting in place a number of things so we can better understand how this pandemic has impacted people in different communities.
- For example, the BC COVID-19 survey that we asked British Columbians to fill-out will help us understand the impact of the pandemic on different communities.
- We have been working with Metis Nation BC and the First Nations Health Authority to collect data on Indigenous peoples and COVID-19.
- This data helps both organizations to support Indigenous communities.



## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On June 19, 2020, Health Minister Adrian Dix held a teleconference to respond to allegations of racist practices in B.C.'s health-care system. Minister Dix announced that the Province has directed Mary-Ellen Turpel Lafond to investigate allegations of emergency room doctors and nurses playing a game guessing the blood alcohol level of patients, mainly Indigenous patients based on the allegations. Minister Dix has condemned these actions as racist and unacceptable. These incidents highlight the need for race-based data collection.

On June 16, 2020, Premier John Horgan wrote to Kasari Govender, the provincial Human Rights Commissioner, and to Michael McEvoy, the Information and Privacy Commissioner requesting their advice on developing a policy for race and ethnicity-based data collection across ministries to help inform government policy. The Premier has asked that the advice take into account how race and ethnicity-based data collection can be applied across multiple ministries, and include differential impacts and outcomes of government policy on housing, education, policing, poverty reduction, and healthcare.

Specifically, the Premier has asked for recommendations on the following:

- Issues arising from race and ethnicity-based data collection and dissemination of disaggregated data that protects individual privacy;
- Examples of standards for data collection or management that can be applicable in a British Columbian context;
- Gaps and shortcomings in currently available data sets;
- The need for an intersectional lens that examines race and ethnicity as well as class, gender, geography, immigration status and the challenges of first-generation immigrants, and other data points;
- Methodologies for gathering and reporting statistics in a credible and permanent manner; and
- Transparency policies to ensure disaggregated data is available for scholars, academics, public policy analysts, non-profit and community organizations.

Furthermore, the Premier asks for input on how this system could be implemented to support the development of a national standard on collection and best practices for procedures. The Premier Horgan asked for a response by Sept. 1, 2020.

On June 19, 2020, the Globe and Mail published an article, "*B.C. Premier John Horgan wants to begin collecting race and ethnicity-based data across ministries to help inform government policy*" making the public aware of the Premier's request.

### Background

The call for race-based data collection has been a long-standing issue that has been brought to the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Premier acknowledges in his letter that the Multicultural Advisory Council of British Columbia has urged race and ethnicity-based data collection as a top priority for action. Moreover, recently the topic has been raised during Minister Kang's conference calls with multiculturalism stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supporters of race-based data collection assert that the absence of this data inhibits a fulsome understanding of how different communities are being impacted by the pandemic and in turn is a barrier to the development of better services and supports for these communities. For example, there is speculation that racialized front-line workers, especially those of Filipino descent may be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

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The BC Data Council falls under the Ministry of Citizens' Services. The Council oversees data standards, and would likely be responsible establishing a board approach to race-based data collection.

The City of Vancouver's Racial and Ethnocultural Equity Advisory Committee is currently canvassing a petition for race-based data collection by the Province of B.C. The committee has created an online spreadsheet to track and allow for organizations/individuals to endorse this call. (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mdclgcUsqa-sK-te8U-Sh2l53xByyzHvUbl4-wTwf38/edit?usp=sharing>).

The City of Vancouver's Racial and Ethnocultural Equity Advisory Committee advises on issues of racial equity and on enhancing access and inclusion for Vancouver's diverse cultural communities to fully participate in city services and civic life.

Ontario's Anti-Racism Act, 2017 has incorporated the collection of race-based data as a key measure in eliminating systemic racism and advancing racial equity supports the social, economic and cultural development.

### Appendix:

#### Media Coverage on the race-based data collection during COVID-19 pandemic

- Horgan says he wants to collect race-based data - Globe and Mail - 19-Jun-2020
- Black MPs, senators call for action on racism - National Post - 17-Jun-2020
- Ontario's police watchdog to start collecting race-based data - Globe and Mail - 12-Jun-2020
- Race-based COVID-19 data collection should be mandatory, says City of Vancouver committee – CBC News (CBC Toronto) - 09-Jun-2020
- Ontario appoints Philpott to lead pandemic data effort - Globe and Mail - 04-Jun-2020
- Racism is a public-health crisis that needs addressing - Globe and Mail - 03-Jun-2020
- Canada has a colour blindness problem when it comes to anti-black racism - Ladysmith Chronicle - 03-Jun-2020
- Singh urges Ottawa to start collecting race-based data - Globe and Mail - 02-Jun-2020
- Pandemic, climate crises unmasking inequalities - Times Colonist (Victoria) - 31-May-2020
- Virus shows need for race-based data - The Daily Courier (Kelowna) - 28-May-2020
- David Suzuki: Pandemic and climate crises unmask inequalities - The Georgia Straight - 26-May-2020
- Manitoba charts new course by collecting race-based data on COVID-19 - Globe and Mail - 13-May-2020
- PHAC still won't commit to collecting race-based data - The Province - 07-May-2020
- Crucial data gaps hurt pandemic response - Globe and Mail - 24-Apr-2020

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Programs:		
Ministry of Citizens' Services/	Kim Emerson, GCPE Manager	778 698-1847
TAC Multiculturalism	Alison Dudley, Exec. Dir. Multiculturalism Branch	236-818-1150
<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
AD	SB	CH

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Updated: June 22, 2020

Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

## Stop Racism Alliance

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Our government is committed to building a safe, welcoming, inclusive society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
- We share Stop Racism Alliance's concerns and appreciate their attention to this important issue.
- Our government will always stand up for equality and justice; and fight for a better world.
- It is very concerning that we are seeing an increase in racially motivated attacks since the COVID-19 outbreak.
- These acts are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this province. There is absolutely no place for hate in B.C.
- It's going to take everyone – governments, organizations and individuals working together to put a stop to racism.
- For our part, our government is committed to continuing the work to build an inclusive, and welcoming province where everyone can participate freely and fully in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of British Columbia. Some of these actions include:
- Reaching out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups and other stakeholders during COVID-19 through regular conference calls with Premier and I that had more than 300 participants.
- Adding to the government's COVID-19 homepage direct links to translations in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Spanish and Korean.
- Creating new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. All content on the new Resilience BC portal is available in 12 additional languages and will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- **Hosting a live anti-racism Town Hall on the government social media platforms. Government participants included Minister Kang as moderator and PS Ravi Kahlon as one of the panel members. The town hall attracted one of the highest levels of engagement, garnering more than 6400 live views and 990 questions and comments**
- **Endorsing B.C.'s Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Janet Austin drafted "Different together" pledge, giving our support to opposing racism in all its forms.**
- **Launching Resilience BC, a new provincewide network of supports designed to increase community capacity to respond to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.**
- **In the coming weeks, I hope to announce the community spokes of the Resilience BC program.**
- **These are some of the actions our government has taken to address issues of hate and violence at a local level and to ensure everyone feels safe in B.C.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### BACKGROUND:

An activist group called the Stop Racism Alliance led by Richmond City Councillor Chak Au is very active regarding calls to action for the province around racism. They have been quite vocal in the media, with their latest concern being the increase in racism attacks towards people of Asian descent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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In the article, "*Metro community groups unite to stand against pandemic-related racism*" (The Province, May 3, 2020) Richmond City Councillor Chak Au, is quoted as saying, "There needs to be other channels for dealing with actions that are nonetheless very damaging. I would like to see more effort by government officials to make people understand that the (COVID-19) virus is not related to any one cultural or ethnic group."

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Communications:	Rachel Nesbitt	250-387-0104
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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Update: June 22, 2020

Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

## Surrey Board of Trade Delivers a Call to Action Against Racism

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- We share Surrey Board of Trade's concerns and appreciate their attention to this important issue.
- It's going to take all levels of government, organizations and people at the grass roots levels to help make the change that is needed.
- Every person deserves to live free from fear and oppression, and to be able to fully express their identity.
- It's unacceptable that people still face racial discrimination and violence as part of their everyday lives, both around the world and in Canada.
- To this end, our government continues to work across ministries and with partners throughout the province, taking into consideration these calls to action in all aspects of our work.
- We agree that we still have significant work to do to address broader issues of systemic racism in our province.
- Our government continues to work across ministries and with partners throughout the province to advance anti-racism efforts in every community. This includes:
  - Reaching out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups and other stakeholders during COVID-19 through regular conference calls with Premier and I that had more than 300 participants.
  - Adding to the government's COVID-19 homepage direct links to translations in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Spanish and Korean.
  - Creating new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. All content on the new Resilience BC portal is available in 12 additional languages and will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- **Endorsing B.C.'s Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Janet Austin drafted “Different together” pledge, giving our support to opposing racism in all its forms.**
- **Hosting a live anti-racism Town Hall on the government social media platforms. Government participants included Minister Kang as moderator and PS Ravi Kahlon as one of the panel members. The town hall attracted one of the highest levels of engagement, garnering more than 6400 live views and 990 questions and comments.**
- **These are just some of the recent actions we taken to address racism and build an inclusive, and welcoming province where everyone can participate freely and fully in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of British Columbia.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### KEY FACTS ABOUT THE ISSUE:

On June 1, 2020, in response to the death of George Floyd, and the increase in racial attacks since the COVID-19 pandemic, Surrey Board of Trade delivered a Call to Action to Businesses, Organizations, Governments, Media to Confront Racism.

### The Call to Actions when considering internal and external initiatives:

Source: <https://businessinsurrey.com/2020/06/anti-racism-call-to-action-by-surrey-board-of-trade/>

1. **Diversity:** Does the initiative engage with the diversity of our community, including geographic, income, and other social differences?
2. **Collaboration:** Does the initiative prioritize collaboration with communities of different backgrounds and does it use an interdivisional approach?
3. **Relationship-Building:** Is the initiative building relationships between diverse communities and your business that are intentional and reciprocal?
4. **Accountability:** Does the initiative demonstrate accountability to your clients and to its internal commitments by maintaining a clear and legitimate decision-making process?
5. **Transparency:** Is the initiative transparent to your clients, including resource and political implications?
6. **Accessibility:** Does the initiative use non-academic and non-bureaucratic language and employ multimedia and alternate formats to communicate with different cultures in accessible ways?
7. **Creativity and Openness:** Is the initiative creative and open to change and experimentation to meet historic, current, and emerging needs?
8. **Sustainability:** Is the initiative sustainable over time and responsive to changing needs?
9. **Responsiveness:** Does the initiative conduct ongoing checks, use continuous improvement, and ensure flexibility in response to feedback from different communities?

Further, changes are needed to ensure that children and youth, including those who identify as queer and transgender, have access to the programs, protections, and supports that all children and youth need to grow up healthy, safe, and confident. We must look at the following strategies to counter racism activity:

1. Children & Youth Development
2. Health & Community Services
3. Job Opportunities & Income Supports
4. Policing & The Justice System
5. Community Engagement

### Background:

See *Anti-Asian hate crimes IN*.

Communications:	Rachel Nesbitt	250-387-0104
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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

Black Lives Matter

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Update: June 22, 2020

Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

### USA Anti-Racism Direct Action

#### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Killing of George Floyd US  
Chanel Moore Canada  
Naj Brunns Wick

- I am saddened and outraged at the multiple tragedies that have impacted the Black community in the US and here in Canada.
- Here in B.C. we are not immune to racism, and we have unfortunately seen an increase in hate crimes against members of the Asian-community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We still have significant work to do to address broader issues of systemic racism in our province.
- We ALL have a responsibility to ensure our communities are safe for everyone.
- Our government continues to work across ministries and with partners throughout the province to advance anti-racism efforts in every community This includes:
  - Reaching out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups and other stakeholders during COVID-19 through regular conference calls with Premier and I that had more than 300 participants.
  - Adding to the government's COVID-19 homepage direct links to translations in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Spanish and Korean.
  - Launching Resilience BC a provincewide network to increase community capacity to respond to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.
  - Creating new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. All content on the new Resilience BC portal is available in 12 additional languages and will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information.
  - Reinstated the Human Right Commission and implementing GBA+ across the public service to ensure diverse groups of women, men and non-binary individuals and people of all races, ethnicities,

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

religions, ages, and abilities are considered in government policies, programs and initiatives.

- Establishing a new cross-ministry anti-racism and anti-hate working group to identify new ways to coordinate responses to incidents of racism in communities and address broader, more complex issues of systemic and institutional racism.
- Hosting a live anti-racism Town Hall on the government social media platforms. Government participants included Minister Kang as moderator and PS Ravi Kahlon as one of the panel members. The town hall attracted one of the highest levels of engagement, garnering more than 6400 live views and 990 questions and comments.

### Will your government conduct a review of policing in BC?

- Everyone deserves to be treated fairly by the police – and our government acknowledges that for many Black, Indigenous, and other People of Colour, that hasn't always been the case.
- Ensuring the police are held accountable to the highest standards for fair and unbiased conduct is crucial to maintaining public trust.
- To that end, our government passed legislation last year to strengthen the IIO's capacity and improve the quality and timeliness of their investigations.
- We have also introduced new binding standards on police stops – or 'carding' – to promote unbiased policing. Under the new standards, police are not permitted to make arbitrary stops or ones based on race.
- But we know there is more work to do. Earlier this week, Minister Farnworth met with the Premier to discuss BC's outdated Police Act
- The Premier asked him to strike an All-Party Committee to engage with communities and experts on how the 45-year-old Act can be modernized to reflect the challenges and opportunities for delivering police services with a specific focus on systemic racism.
- ~~When the Legislature resumes later this month,~~ Minister Farnworth will table a motion to strike this committee, and our government will look forward to receiving their recommendations.

earlier this month (July)  
convened the All Party Committee

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

### **If asked about the protests**

- Hate has no place in our province.
- Our government fully supports British Columbians in speaking up against racism.
- We must continue to uphold the importance of inclusion, tolerance and respect.
- Peaceful demonstration is our right, one that is important to all of us.
- I'm very pleased that this has been done peacefully in B.C.
- We also must not forget that we are still in the middle of a pandemic that is affecting our communities and our loved ones.
- Out of respect for them, we must be careful in how we exercise our right to peaceful demonstration.
- I encourage anyone who may be demonstrating to please take precautions to maintain health and safety.
- Please continue to keep that safe distance, and wear masks.
- It is imperative to make sure we are not allowing this virus to spread.

### **If asked: About unlawful behaviour during a protest**

- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible for ensuring that an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement is maintained throughout B.C. to ensure the safety of the public.
- That being said, enforcement decisions and individual investigations occur at arm's length from government and we cannot interfere with, or direct police on such matters.
- While the police will respect lawful protest, they will also act pursuant to the Criminal Code of Canada and direction of the courts, if necessary to address unlawful conduct.
- Further questions on this matter, are best directed to the honourable Mike Farnsworth, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

### **If Asked: Will your government conduct a review of policing in BC?**

- **Everyone deserves to be treated fairly by the police – and our government acknowledges that for many Black, Indigenous, and other People of Colour, that hasn't always been the case.**
- **Ensuring the police are held accountable to the highest standards for fair and unbiased conduct is crucial to maintaining public trust.**
- **To that end, our government passed legislation last year to strengthen the IIO's capacity and improve the quality and timeliness of their investigations.**
- **We have also introduced new binding standards on police stops – or 'carding' – to promote unbiased policing. Under the new standards, police are not permitted to make arbitrary stops or ones based on race.**
- **But we know there is more work to do. Earlier this week, Minister Farnworth met with the Premier to discuss BC's outdated Police Act**
- **The Premier asked him to strike an All-Party Committee to engage with communities and experts on how the 45-year-old Act can be modernized to reflect the challenges and opportunities for delivering police services with a specific focus on systemic racism.**
- **When the Legislature resumes later this month, Minister Farnworth will table a motion to strike this committee, and our government will look forward to receiving their recommendations.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### KEY FACTS ABOUT THE ISSUE:

In response to the death of George Floyd, there have been protest marches in Vancouver, and other parts of the province. To date, the protests have been peaceful, but the large gatherings have raised concerns from the Provincial Health Officer about the increase risk of the spread of COVID-19.

#### Background:

On May 25, 2020, in United States, George Floyd, an African American man died while being handcuffed and lying face down on a city street during an arrest. Derek Chauvin, the arresting officer, kept his knee on the right side of Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds resulting in Floyd's death. Multiple videos of Floyd's death depicting former police officer Derek Chauvin's knee on Floyd's neck have been shared on social media.

An independent autopsy commissioned by Floyd's family found that Floyd's death was "a homicide caused by asphyxia due to neck and back compression that led to a lack of blood flow to the brain".

Floyd's death has led to demonstrations and protests in the Minneapolis–Saint Paul area. These events were initially peaceful, but soon became violent resulting in the destruction of public property, including the smashing of windows at a police precinct, buildings and vehicles being set on fire, and many stores were looted and damaged. In some incidents, police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Additional protests have been organized in over 100 cities throughout the United States, as well as internationally, including Vancouver and Victoria.

*See: Rise in Anti-Asian Hate crimes IN*

Communications:	Rachel Nesbitt	250-387-0104
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<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
AD	SB	CH

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Update: June 22, 2020

Ministers Responsible: Hon. Anne Kang

### Letter to the Premier regarding Asian related hate crimes

#### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Our government is committed to building a safe, welcoming, inclusive society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
- We are angry, saddened and concerned over the recent increase in hate crimes.
- There is absolutely no place for hate in B.C.
- Our government has taken some good first steps, including the reinstatement of the Human Rights Commission and the creation of Resilience BC, a community-based anti-racism network.
- We know there is much more work to do to make B.C. safer for people and we are absolutely committed to doing this work.
- To this end, we are working across ministries and with partners throughout the province to strengthen and enhance anti-racism efforts in every community.
- It's going to take everyone – governments, organizations and individuals at the grass roots levels to put a stop to racism.
- We are stronger together and we can succeed in building a better B.C. for every person in every community.

If asked: What has the government done recently to address the rise in racially motivated attacks against people of Asian Heritage in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Our government continues to work across ministries and with partners throughout the province to advance anti-racism efforts in every community. We have taken decisive action to respond to immediate needs during the pandemic and to confront the broader issues of systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.
- Over the past few months, the Premier and I have reached out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups through regular phone calls and stakeholder meetings that have had more than 300 participants.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- **We heard concern for translated materials on COVID-19, and made it a priority to provide direct links on the government's COVID-19 homepage to translations in: Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Korean and Spanish.**
- **In addition, substantial progress has been made under the Resilience BC, a provincewide anti-racism network that will support partners in 40 communities in their work to end racism, discrimination and hate through its hub and spokes model.**
- **Resilience BC will increase community capacity to combat to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism across the province. In May, we have selected the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society to as the program's provincial hub and we are currently in the process of selecting the community spokes, which I hope to announce early this summer.**
- **I'm also happy to share that as a part of Resilience BC, the Province has launched a new website [resiliencebcnetwork.ca](https://resiliencebcnetwork.ca) as an online resource to support people who experience or witness a racist incident. All information on this website is offered in 12 languages and it will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information This video will be available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, and Japanese.**
- **On May 27, the Premier Horgan and I hosted a live stream of the 2020 Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards. The ministry received forty-five nominations, representing individuals and organizations being recognized for their excellence in fostering inclusiveness and anti-racism efforts in their communities.**
- **As well, it was an absolute pleasure for me to moderate the Province's Town Hall on Anti-Racism on June 12th. For this important forum, our panelists were PS Ravi Kahlon, as well as BC Multicultural Advisory Council members: Dr. Ismaël Traoré and Patricia Barkaskas who contributed to a thought-provoking discussion on racism.**
- **There was an overwhelming positive reception to the town hall. The live broadcast had one of the highest levels of engagement, garnering more 6400 live views and 990 questions and comments. This event was aired live on the government social media platforms and can be viewed at any time on the government's Facebook page.**
- **Government members including the Premier and I signed and promoted B.C.'s Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Janet Austin**

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

drafted “Different together” pledge, giving our support to opposing racism in all its forms.

- These are just some of the recent actions we taken to address racism and build an inclusive, and welcoming province where everyone can participate freely and fully in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of British Columbia.

### **IF ASKED ABOUT CREATING A HOTLINE FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS TO REPORT RACIST INCIDENTS:**

- People deserve to be safe in their communities.
- Unfortunately, we know this isn’t always the case, which is why people need access to the right resources:
- Resilience BC is looking at ways communities could collaborate on tracking racist incidents that are not reported to the police.
- Several groups such as the National Council of Canadian Muslims and the Vancouver Asian Film Festival have developed unique reporting tools for specific communities and there is an opportunity to look at how this could be coordinated more broadly.

### **IF ASKED ABOUT INCREASING FUNDS TO MULTICULTURALISM AND ANTI-RACISM PROGRAMS:**

- The government continues to invest in actions that combat racism and support multiculturalism.
- Most recently, the government established Resilience BC, new provincewide network to increase community capacity to respond to hate activity and address systemic and institutionalized racism across the province.
- We will be investing \$540,000 annually. Roughly double that of its predecessor, OARH program.
- The full rollout of Resilience BC will take place by early summer.
- Additionally, through Multiculturalism grants, our government invests \$300,000 annually to support local community groups and organizations in building intercultural understanding, addressing racism and promoting inclusion across the province.



## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

### **IF ASKED ABOUT INCREASING POLICE RESPONSE:**

- Hate crime and violence are never acceptable, and the safety of all British Columbians is always a top priority.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General works to ensure an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement is maintained throughout B.C. and that police continue to make timely operational decisions and deploying resources accordingly.
- Further questions on this matter are best directed to my colleague, Honourable Mike Farnworth.

### **IF ASKED: WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT CONDUCT A REVIEW OF POLICING IN BC?**

- Everyone deserves to be treated fairly by the police – and our government acknowledges that for many Black, Indigenous, and other People of Colour, that hasn't always been the case.
- Ensuring the police are held accountable to the highest standards for fair and unbiased conduct is crucial to maintaining public trust.
- To that end, our government passed legislation last year to strengthen the IIO's capacity and improve the quality and timeliness of their investigations.
- We have also introduced new binding standards on police stops – or 'carding' – to promote unbiased policing. Under the new standards, police are not permitted to make arbitrary stops or ones based on race.
- But we know there is more work to do. Earlier this week, Minister Farnworth met with the Premier to discuss BC's outdated Police Act.
- The Premier asked him to strike an All-Party Committee to engage with communities and experts on how the 45-year-old Act can be modernized to reflect the challenges and opportunities for delivering police services with a specific focus on systemic racism.
- When the Legislature resumes later this month, Minister Farnworth will table a motion to strike this committee, and our government will look forward to receiving their recommendations.

### **IF ASKED ABOUT INCREASING EDUCATION SUPPORTS:**

- Our government recognizes and values the contributions of British Columbians of Chinese descent as an essential part of our province's success and cultural richness.

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- That's why, we have committed to establishing a Chinese Canadian museum that reflects the enormous contributions of this community to B.C.
- In November 2019, we opened a project office and pocket gallery in Vancouver Chinatown.
- We will have more progress to share on our commitment to establish a Chinese Canadian Museum soon.
- As well, the Province continues to promote the Bamboo Shoots curriculum supplement which helps K-12 students learn about Chinese Canadian history and contributions in B.C.
- This curriculum has been well-received, and we encourage all school districts to ensure that teachers are aware of this great resource.

### **IF ASKED ABOUT PROSECUTION SERVICES:**

- British Columbians should have confidence that if they are the victim of a hate crime, it will be appropriately prosecuted.
- BC Prosecution Service has a policy on hate crimes that guides prosecutors dealing with offences motivated by the offender's bias, prejudice, or hate towards others.
- These offences are to be regarded as serious matters and the *Criminal Code* contains specific offences and sentencing provisions relating to hate crimes.
- There is a particular public interest in prosecuting these offences, motivated by hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, where the evidence supports the charges.
- The BCPS recognizes that the current extraordinary circumstances require an application of our existing policies that properly responds to the particular public interest presented by the current pandemic.

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### KEY FACTS ABOUT THE ISSUE:

On May 20, 2020, Andrew Wilkinson MLA, Vancouver-Quilchena and Leader of the Liberal Party released an open letter addressed to the Premier to media, regarding the recent racist attacks against Asians. In it, MLA Wilkinson calling on government to:

- Create a hotline for British Columbians to report racist incidents;
- Increase funding to multiculturalism and anti-racism programs;
- Develop more educational tools and resources for the K-12 education curriculum to combat racism and educate students about the contributions of Asian Canadians to British Columbia;
- Ensure local police forces have sufficient resources to respond quickly and fully investigate hate crimes and racist incidents; and
- Ensure that the Attorney General's Crown Prosecution service treats racist incidents as a priority for charge determinations and prosecutions.

Source: <https://bcliberalcaucus.bc.ca/letter-to-premier-horgan-on-combatting-racism-in-british-columbia/>

### Background:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in anti-Asian racist incidents and crimes in B.C. On May 22, 2020, Vancouver Police Department held a press conference to announce that the department has identified 77 hate-associated police files. This is up from 51 in comparison to the same time period in 2019. In addition, there are 10 active files from April and May that police are currently investigating that could potentially be classified as hate-related upon further investigation. Police have opened 29 investigative files for anti-Asian crime. There were four during the same time period in 2019. No charges have been laid according to a VDP news release.

Source: <https://mediareleases.vpd.ca/2020/05/22/vancouver-police-raise-concern-over-increase-in-hate-crime/>

### TAC Actions to Fight Racism:

TAC has taken the following actions to promote human rights, diversity and inclusion:

- Hosted a live anti-racism Town Hall on the government social media platforms. Government participants included Minister Kang as moderator and PS Ravi Kahlon as one of the panel members. This event had one of the highest levels of engagement with more 6400 live 'clicks-to-view' for an average of 15:17 mins each as well as garnering 990 questions and comments.
- Launched Resilience BC, a new provincewide network to support community respond to incidents of racism through better coordination and training. The program will receive \$540,000 annually. The full rollout of Resilience BC's hub and community spokes model will take place by early summer 2020.
- Invested \$40,000 to create new and enhanced materials online to support people who experience or witness racism. All content at [resiliencebcnetwork.ca](http://resiliencebcnetwork.ca) is available in 12 additional languages and will feature videos by the Vancouver Asian Film Festival that share "what to do" as a witness or a victim information.
- Reached out to faith leaders and multiculturalism and immigrant serving groups and other stakeholders through regular conference calls with Premier and Minister Kang that had more than 300 participants.
- Added to the Province COVID-19 homepage direct links to translations in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Spanish and Korean.
- Announced a \$1-million grant to the City of Vancouver to support further planning and initial programming. The funding helped establish a project office and pocket gallery in the

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Chinese Cultural Centre in Vancouver Chinatown.

- Reinstated the B.C. Human Rights Commission on Nov. 1, 2018. This independent office of the provincial legislature is tasked with promoting and protecting human rights through education, research, policy development and public investigations into issues of systemic discrimination in the province.
- Established a new cross-ministry anti-racism and anti-hate working group to identify new ways to coordinate responses to incidents of racism in communities and to address broader, more complex issues of systemic and institutional racism.
- Funded in 2019/20 more than 30 communities across B.C. to challenge racism and hate.
- Reframed the Multiculturalism Grants Program which provide 300,000 in grants annually to better support organizations in their work to encourage intercultural dialogue, reduce barriers and create a more inclusive province.
- Revamped the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards to showcase courageous responses to racism and hate in communities.
- Held the 2020 Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards through a livestream to honour 45 nominees.
- Hosted Hall of Honour events throughout 2019 at the legislature to raise the profile and celebrate key cultural events in the province, including Nowruz, Vaisakhi, Diwali, Islamic Heritage Week and Multiculturalism Week.

### **Ongoing Cross-government Actions:**

- The B.C. government passed legislation last year to strengthen the IIO's capacity and improve the quality and timeliness of their investigations also introduced new binding standards on police stops – or 'carding' – to promote unbiased policing. Under the new standards, police are not permitted to make arbitrary stops or ones based on race.
- In July 2019, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions expanded the StopOverdoseBC public awareness campaign to reach South Asian and Chinese Canadian audiences.
- In May 2019, the Province announced that \$40 million will be provided to build and revitalize First Nations-run treatment centres throughout British Columbia.
- Our government re-establish a Human Rights Commission for B.C.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General launched a five-year Countering Radicalization to Violence (CRV) pilot program to promote community safety and prevent radicalization to violence across the province.
- The Ministry of Education leads the erase program that works to ensure that our schools are safe, respectful and inclusive.
- The Province continues to support the Bamboo Shoots curriculum supplement which helps K-12 students learn about Chinese Canadian history and contributions in B.C. As well, the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education recently asked the BC Black History Association to help our government in creating more curriculum resources for Black history in BC and Canada.
- The Gender Equity office works across government to ensure GBA+ is implemented across the public service, so that diverse groups of women, men and non-binary individuals and people of all races, ethnicities, religions, ages, and abilities are considered in government policies, programs and initiatives.
- B.C. is the first province in Canada to pass legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

Approvals (initials only)		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
AD	SB	CH

# Richmond Night Market

## Highlights:

- Media has reported the Richmond Night Market is in “jeopardy” due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- Raymond Cheung, the entrepreneur who introduced the Asian night market to Metro Vancouver 20 years ago, says the business isn’t eligible for any government supports.

## Main Message:

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- The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges that none of us could have foreseen.
- I was concerned to see the news about the difficulties facing the Richmond Night Market.
- Our government appreciates the importance of this market to people in our province.
- I’ve asked staff to reach out to the owner of the market to see what kind of supports are available.
- When the pandemic hit, our government acted right away to bring in support for people and businesses.
- For example, we cut property tax bills for businesses and deferred many business taxes.
- I have been working closely with <sup>Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture</sup> the tourism and industry, and we welcomed their submission to our recovery process.
- Our government will continue to support BC businesses as we build an economic recovery that puts people first.