

From: [Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX](#)  
To: [Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX](#)  
Cc: [Maartman, William EDUC:EX](#); [Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX](#); [Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: Re: Interview Request: Patti Bacchus - Georgia Straight - possible health tax exemption  
Date: Monday, March 5, 2018 3:00:00 PM

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He can do this within the next hour or so as well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2018, at 11:30 AM, Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX <[Craig.Sorochan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Craig.Sorochan@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Good morning,

Please see the request for an interview from Patti Bachuus. Let me know if Minister can call for an interview. If so, I can coordinate the call.

Or we can send the statement from the Minister that we sent to CBC last week.

Please advise on how best to move this one forward.

Thanks,

Craig

250-208-9130

### **Media Request**

**Sent:** Monday, March 5, 2018 11:08 AM

**Subject:** Interview request – health tax exemption

**Reporter** Patti Bacchus, Georgia Straight  
[bacchuseducation@gmail.com](mailto:bacchuseducation@gmail.com) or 604-250-1130

**Request:** Does the minister have a response to the VSB request for school board exemption from the new Employer Health Tax or funding to cover it? If possible I'd like to speak with him directly.

**Recommendation:** Please advise if Minister Fleming can call for an interview. Or we can send this statement from the Minister:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Implementation of the new Employers Health Tax is over one year away.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->At this point we are continuing to have conversations with school districts about the potential cost implications. It's too early to predict what those implications are.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Having said that, we do know that school districts will keep savings of \$15 million for the 2017/18 school year because of the 50% cut to MSP premiums, plus additional savings of about \$60 million through network savings and reduced pension contributions.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Our government has tabled a budget that is the largest single investment in K-to-12 education in the province's history, and that has the largest capital budget in BC history.

**Deadline** Tuesday, March 6, 2018 4:00 PM