

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT

### BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**I PREPARED FOR:** Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing

**II ISSUE:** Building social license – Getting the facts out to the public regarding the natural gas industry, hydraulic fracturing, responsible water use and greenhouse gas emissions/climate change.

### III BACKGROUND:

Many in the mainstream media take their cue from tweets (postings on the social media website Twitter) for next day stories. These tweets can then be re-tweeted (reposted or forwarded) by any individual who comes across the posting while using Twitter, a phenomenon which creates a cascade of misinformation. This is not unique to just Twitter, as other social media platforms, such as Facebook, have similar systems in place under different jargon (Facebook uses “wall posts” and a “like button”). Appendix 1 further explains how information can spread quickly through Twitter. One tweet can result in thousands of re-tweets.

Having a platform that allows information to travel this fast becomes an issue when dealing with information that is false and/or misleading. Researchers have begun to analyze fake content on Twitter. One such study<sup>1</sup> looks at content generated on Twitter during the event of the Boston Marathon Bombing that occurred in April of 2013. As displayed in Figure 2 of Appendix 2, the results indicated that 29% of the content on Twitter was rumors and fake content; while 51% was generic opinions and comments; and the remaining 20% was true information.

Misinformation about hydraulic fracturing (fracking) technology, water usage, and greenhouse gas emissions related to natural gas extraction and LNG production facilities is rampant in the community, particularly in social media. Allowing this kind of “framing” to occur is not in the public interest as social license is eroded.

It's rather difficult to win back the public once the misinformation is etched into the memory of British Columbians. As Winston Churchill pointed out: “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on”. Churchill's words can be taken quite literally in today's world that is so connected via the internet and its various social media platforms.

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<sup>1</sup> Gupta, a., et al (2013). \$1.00 per RT #BostonMarathon #PrayForBoston: Analyzing Fake Content on Twitter. Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology. Retrieved from [http://precog.iitd.edu.in/Publications\\_files/ecrs2013\\_ag\\_hl\\_pk.pdf](http://precog.iitd.edu.in/Publications_files/ecrs2013_ag_hl_pk.pdf)

#### **IV DISCUSSION:**

s.13, s.17

#### **V CONCLUSION:**

s.13, s.17

#### **APPROVED BY:**

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✓  
✓  
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Attachment

## Appendix 1 – The Power of a Retweet

**Figure 1**

Copyright

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<sup>2</sup> Followers are the people who have agreed to receive your tweets through Twitter. If you add someone else to the list of people you read, you “follow” them. Popularity on Twitter is often measured by the number of followers a person has. The top 100 most popular Twitter users, a list which includes pop stars and the President of the USA, have between **8.7-53.3 million followers**.

## Appendix 2 – Misinformation in Social Media

Figure 2 – Breakdown of Tweets related to Boston Marathon Bombing

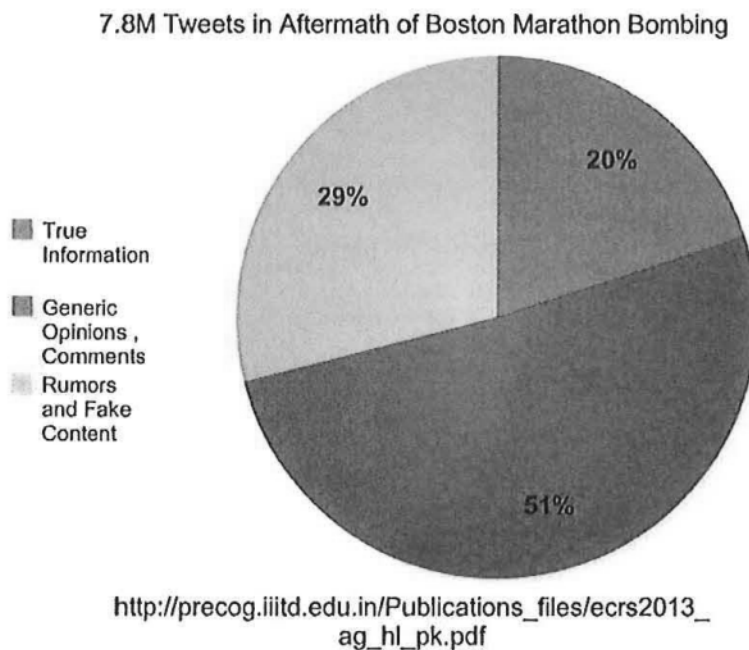
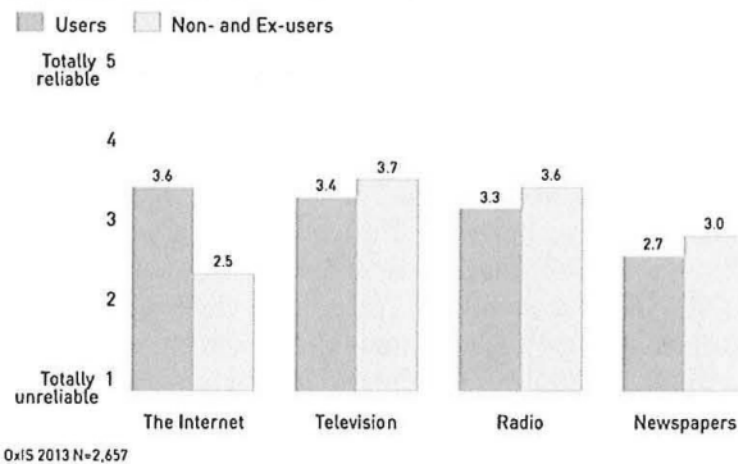


Figure 3

### Reliability of Information by Internet Users and Non-Users (QA4 by QH13)



Source: <http://pando.com/2014/05/06/hard-evidence-how-does-false-information-spread-online/>

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT

### BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

- I PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development
- II DATE AND TIME OF MEETING:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014
- III ATTENDEES:** LNG Direct Rail - Peter Kains, Stephen Rogers and Chris Hillard
- IV PURPOSE OF MEETING:** LNG Direct Rail will likely provide Minister Coleman a status update on their<sup>s.17, s.21</sup> and discuss land requirements in<sup>s.17, s.21</sup>

### V BACKGROUND:

- LNG Direct Rail Ltd. (LNG Direct) is proposing to construct a natural gas liquefaction plant at the<sup>s.17, s.21</sup> located approximately<sup>s.17, s.21</sup>. The LNG will then be transported by rail to Prince Rupert for export overseas.
- LNG Direct's proposal represents a<sup>s.17, s.21</sup> investment that would demonstrate cross regional benefits associated with LNG. The proposed capacity is<sup>s.17, s.21</sup>
- LNG Direct estimates that the project would generate approximately<sup>s.17, s.13, s.21</sup> a global engineering company with expertise in the design and construction of large energy projects, has reviewed LNG Direct's business model and advised that it is feasible.
- LNG Direct is aware that Ministry of Natural Gas Development (MNGD) is the lead for LNG projects and has been engaged with the MNGD's LNG Task Force. Chris Hilliard of LNG Direct has met with Brian Hansen twice in February/March and again on April 9 where Mr. Hilliard was asked to provide the province with detailed mapping on land requirements for both the<sup>s.17, s.21</sup> and their proposed tidewater locations. LNG Direct also met with Minister Bond on April 22, 2014.

### VI CURRENT STATUS:

- <sup>s.13, s.17, s.21</sup>

- <sup>s.13, s.17</sup>

- s.17, s.13

- s.17, s.13, s.21

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## **VII DISCUSSION:**

s.17, s.21

s.17, s.13, s.16

s.13, s.17

## **VIII SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:**

s.13, s.17

s.13, s.17

Attachment 1: s.17

**REVIEWED BY:**  
**Brian Hansen, ADM**

**APPROVED BY:**  
**Steve Carr, DM ✓**

s.17



**MINISTRY OF NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT  
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

June 6, 2014  
File: 280-20  
CLIFF: 85373

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development**

**ISSUE:**

To provide the Minister with background information supporting the release of the 2013/14 Public Accounts, tentatively scheduled to be released on July 11, 2014.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2013/14, the Ministry was within its approved appropriation. However, questions may be raised publicly with respect to ministerial spending, travel expenditures, purchasing card payments and government transfers. Ministry specific spending details within the Public Accounts are disclosed in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Supplementary Schedules and Detailed Schedules of Payments.

**MINISTRY'S OVERALL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:**

The Ministry reported a surplus of \$498 thousand primarily due to additional recoveries. Capital spending was \$665 thousand under budget.

**Operating Expenditures:**

<b>Description</b>	<b>\$ Thousands (000)</b>
2013/14 Estimates	371,560
Other Authorizations: Contingency Access	0
Total Appropriation	371,560
Total Spending	371,062
Under Expenditure	498

**Salaries:**

The Public Accounts will disclose salary payments made to ministers, OIC appointees, and all other non-OIC appointees who received \$75,000 or greater. Given that a large number of employees earned greater than \$75,000, all ministry employees earning more than \$90,000 were reviewed. All salaries appear reasonable and consistent with established compensation levels.

**Travel:**

Employee travel costs of \$5,000 or greater and all travel costs for the Minister and Deputy Minister are published in the Detailed Schedules of Payments. Reported ministerial travel costs are as follows:

Minister	Travel Costs	Explanation
Richard T. Coleman Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing	\$44,535.00	Ministerial Travel

The following Ministry employee's travel costs exceed \$20,000 in 2013/14:

Employee	Travel Costs	Explanation
CARR, STEVEN JAMES	\$71,776.00	Japan, Calgary, Asia Mission, Cabinet/Minister/LNG/Mine Meetings
HANSEN, BRIAN R	\$45,728.98	Meetings in Houston, Texas, LNG Meetings, Canada-Asia 2013 Conference

**Government Transfers (\$25,000 or greater):**

Supplier payments of \$25,000 or greater will be published in the Detailed Schedule of Payments. The amounts are made up of the combined total payments made by all ministries. Ministry payments were reviewed for reasonableness.

**Other Supplier Payments (\$25,000 or greater):**

The schedule of other supplier payments was reviewed. All suppliers were found to be appropriate and amounts were reasonable.

**Visa/MasterCard Purchasing Card Payments:**

An addendum of purchasing card payments is included in the Public Accounts. In 2013/14, the Ministry made 2,938 purchases with the purchasing card which amounted to \$780,782.80. A sample of transactions was reviewed, investigated and all deemed appropriate.

**Staff Appreciation Awards:**

In 2013/14, the Ministry spent \$2,084.60 for staff events and awards.

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Dir./Mgr.	RP	June 17 2014
Author	MM	May 23, 2014