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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13; s.14

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s.12; s.14

O'Connor, Lara FIN:EX

From: Michell, Jennifer FIN:EX
Sent: December 1, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Foster, Doug FIN:EX
Cc: Wood, Heather FIN:EX
Subject: Budget day Decision Note
Attachments: BN - Budget Day in April - V3 - clean.pdf

Hi Doug

Attached is the signed BN from Minister Robinson.

Jennifer Michell

Director, Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives
Office of the Deputy Minister | Ministry of Finance

From: Thomson, Krystal FIN:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 1, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Michell, Jennifer FIN:EX <Jennifer.Michell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Spilker, Robyn FIN:EX <Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca>; Lawson, Liam FIN:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Signed BN

Attached.

Krystal Thomson

Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Finance
250-888-0263 | krystal.thomson@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Finance

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

To: Minister of Finance**Date Requested:****Initiated by:** Lori Wanamaker
DM, Ministry of Finance**Date Prepared:** November 10, 2020**Ministry
Contacts:** Doug Foster, FIN/DMO
Fisnik Preniqi, FIN/TBS**Phone Number:**
Email:**Cliff #:**

TITLE: Proposed Legislative Changes for Post- Election April Budget Date and Other
Matters

PURPOSE:(X) REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUMMARY:

- Current legislation provides for an October post-election Budget Date of not later than the 4th Tuesday in March, or 120 days after the appointment of an Executive Council (Cabinet), whichever is later. s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

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BACKGROUND: Existing Legislation

Budget Transparency and Accountability Act (BTAA)

- The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (BTAA) prescribes the timing, content and tabling/public release of various key provincial financial and operational documents. This includes timelines for the tabling/public release of *Budget/Estimates*, and *Quarterly Reports*.
- Following the Province's shift to a Fall election date, the BTAA was amended in the last legislative session to allow additional time for developing a post-election *Budget*. It is now required to be tabled on or before the fourth Tuesday in March, or 120 days after the Executive Council is appointed, whichever is later. This compares to the fourth Tuesday in February for a non-election year.

s.12; s.13

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- The BTAA prescribes that the *Third Quarterly Report* must be made public no later than February 28, but it can be delayed by up to a month if that delay allows it to be tabled with the *Budget* (e.g. delayed up to the fourth Tuesday in March with the required tabling of the *Budget*). However, the legislation does not currently allow a delay into April.

Financial Administration Act (FAA)

s.12; s.13

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- The FAA specifies some circumstances where the government can provide a funding appropriation through a *Special Warrant* (OIC), such as in emergencies and a period after an election¹ if the Legislature is not in session. s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act (BBMAA)

- A *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* (BBMAA) provision prohibits the government from tabling a deficit budget. This provision has been temporarily suspended so that it does not apply to fiscal years 2021/22 to 2023/24.

¹ A special warrant can be approved after an election and up to 120 days from the appointment of an Executive Council (Cabinet); for example, if a Cabinet is appointed on Nov.30, 2020, special warrants can be approved up until March 31, 2021.

- The BBMAA also establishes a 20% holdback of ministers' salaries, tied to individual and collective responsibilities. Half of the holdback (10%) is returned at year-end to a minister if that minister has not overspent the ministry's budget, and half of the holdback (10%) is returned to all the ministers if the government has collectively achieved a surplus that is at least half of the surplus that was budgeted (if a deficit was budgeted, ministers receive the holdback if a deficit is avoided at year end).

• s.12; s.13

DISCUSSION:

s.12; s.13

² Budget is required to be tabled by the later of April 30 or 120 days after the appointment of the post-election Cabinet.

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s.12; s.13

OPTIONS:

s.12; s.13

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s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

Decisions:

s.12; s.13

Signed:

Minister of Finance/
Chair of Treasury Board



Date: Dec 1, 2020