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**From:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** June 30, 2021 4:34 PM  
**To:** Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX; Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX; Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX; Brown, Edena FLNR:EX; Malo, Courtney FLNR:EX  
**Cc:** Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX; McInnis, Nigel GCPE:EX; Bucci, Paul GCPE:EX; Pierson, Nova GCPE:EX; FLNR Executive  
**Subject:** FW: Final Heat Wave KMs  
**Attachments:** Heat Wave KM Final.docx

All – note below and attached. Including FLNR executive

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**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 30, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** GCPE Comm Directors <PABDirectors@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Final Heat Wave KMs

Hi all,

Please find attached the final KMs from Minister Farnworth's availability today on the heat wave.

My MO is sharing this doc with caucus as well.

Thanks,

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Director | EMBC  
Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre  
**Phone:** (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** s.17

## **Extreme Heat Messaging**

**June 30, 2021**

### **Top Lines**

- Over the past several days, B.C. has seen an unprecedented heat wave, with record-breaking temperatures across the province that have lasted into the night.
- I want to offer my sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones over this past week.
- Our systems across the province are working hard.
- I want to thank the first responders who have been working tirelessly to respond to calls at this time.
- Please take a moment to check in with people in your life – your parents and grandparents, and elderly or vulnerable neighbours – to make sure they are ok and if they need support.

### **Provincial Supports**

- As a province, we've provided support in a number of ways to help people and communities get through this unprecedented heat wave.
- We have worked with local communities and First Nations and made supports available to them. This includes reimbursements for:
  - Transportation to and from cooling centers in communities where no scheduled public or reasonable transportation exists.
  - Staff wages and overtime to open a civic facility that would otherwise not be open.
  - Water for distribution within the facility.
- Emergency Management BC is also working with the First Nations Health Authority and Indigenous Services Canada throughout this event.
- BC's Health Authorities and BCCDC also provide resources to support local governments in developing Heat Alert and Response Plans and in declaring heat alerts and sharing information about how to stay safe.
- For those receiving support from BC's Home Health, nurses contacted clients and scheduled visits to make sure people with underlying health conditions were hydrated and staying as cool as possible.
- In long-term care networks, staff were redeployed to keep residents cool and hydrated.

### **Public Health Advice**

- We are asking everyone to remember the advice distributed by Emergency Management BC last week:
  - Never leave children or animals alone in a parked car
  - Drink plenty of fluids
  - Keep cool in air-conditioned buildings, or take a cool bath or shower

- Plan activity before 10am or after 4pm
- Avoid tiring work or exercise in hot, humid environments
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing and a wide brimmed hat
- Many businesses and organizations that offer air conditioning and a cool centre, such as libraries, are extending hours to provide relief for those who do not have access to a cool place.

### **Ambulance Call Volumes and Supports**

- We appreciate the incredible work paramedics and dispatchers are doing during this challenging time and we recognize they're doing everything they can to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively.
- I offer my gratitude to the paramedics throughout our province.
- Minister Dix has taken significant actions that have reduced wait-times for the most critical calls.
- But paramedics are facing two public health emergencies and record high call volumes. The stories we've heard over the past few weeks are heart wrenching.
- BCEHS is hiring 170 paramedics right now, in addition to the hundreds of paramedics we've hired since we formed government.
- Since 2016/17, B.C. has increased funding to BC Emergency Health Services by 25%. BCEHS also continues to strengthen paramedic mental health supports.

### **Moving Forward**

- This kind of heatwave is not typical of British Columbia, but with the reality of climate change, we can't ignore the potential for this to become more common in the future.
- And weather records have been broken and broken again. This week has seen the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Canada.
- Because we can't ignore the possibility of a next time, and it's clear that we can't rely on what we've done in the past.
- So after we're past this, we all need to take a hard look at what we need to change for the future.
- We're taking more than a dozen actions this year as part of the first phase of the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to help set the stage for future work.