



Speaking notes for
Hon. Bruce Ralston
Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

72nd Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist
Republic of Vietnam

Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

1180 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

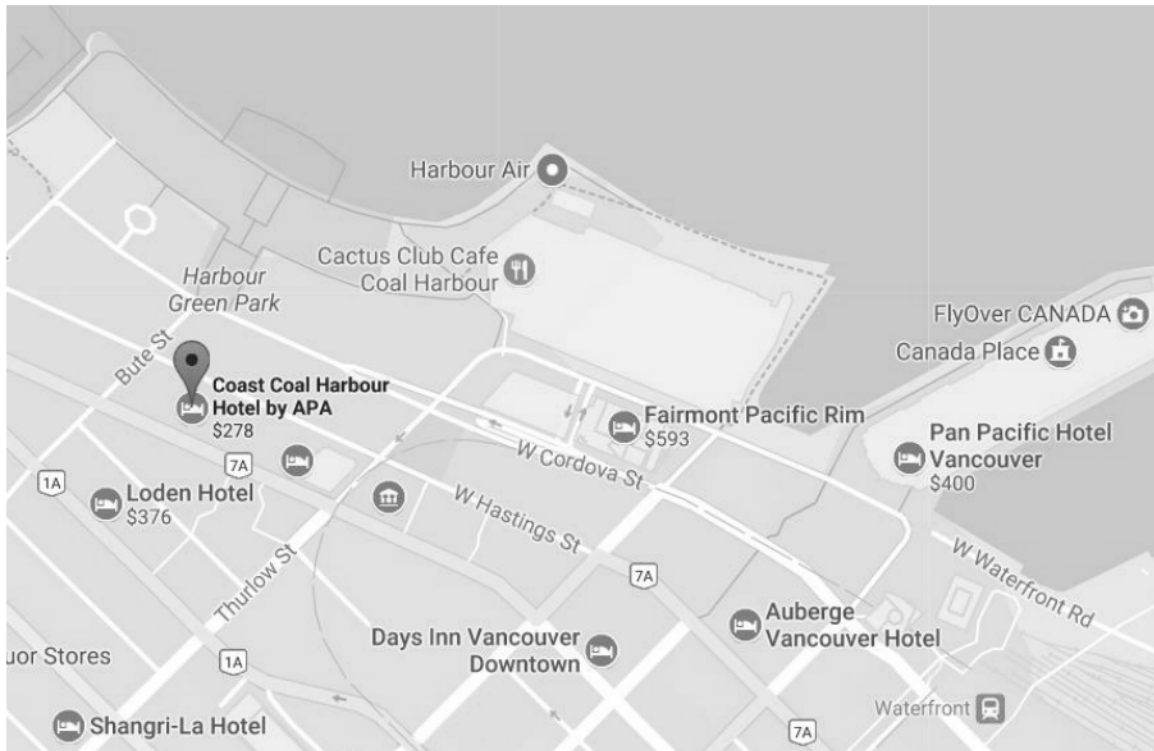
Coal Harbour Ballroom A

Friday, Aug. 25, 2017

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

(Recommended arrival time: 6:20 p.m.)

Speaking time: Approximately at 6:50 p.m.

Location:**Parking:**

The Consulate General has reserved 2 parking spaces at the main entrance of the hotel for Ministers Ralston and Chow from 6-8 p.m.

Contact:

- IGRS: Annette Jordan, Protocol Manager, Cell: ^{s.22}
- Consulate contact on-site: Consul Nga Nguyen, 604-629-0189 (ext. 102) Cell: ^{s.22}

Audience:

About 200 people will be attending. Included in the audience are Consular Corps, Vietnamese business community, Vietnamese community at large, officials from different B.C. ministries and institutions as well as members

of the Canadian business community. Media have been invited to attend as guests.

Itinerary

Time	Proceedings
6:15 p.m.	Minister Ralston arrives at the hotel and proceeds to Coal Harbour Ballroom A
6:00- 6:30 p.m.	Registration and networking. Officials will introduce Minister Ralston to representatives and guests
6:30 - 6:40 pm	Consul General will welcome all the guests to the celebration. Performance of the national anthem of Canada and national anthem of Vietnam
6:40 - 6:50 pm	Consul General of Vietnam Pham Manh Hai speaks
6:50 – 7:00 pm	Consul General Pham introduces Minister Ralston Minister Ralston speaks on behalf of the Province
7:00 – 7:10 pm	Photo-ops
7:10 - 8:00 pm	Buffet and Vietnam music performance

VIP list:

- Mr. PHAM Manh Hai, Consul General of Vietnam (*IGRS advice is to refer to the Consul General by his title)
 - Spouse: Mrs. Dang Thi Thanh Thuy
- Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade, and Technology
- Hon. George Chow, Minister of State for Trade

Event description:

Minister Ralston gives remarks on behalf of the B.C. government on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which will be on September 2nd (this is an early celebration).

Background:

- Minister Ralston will be speaking on behalf of the Premier.
- Country background:
 - Government system: Socialist republic
 - Head of State: President Tran Dai Quang
 - Head of Government: Nguyen Tan DUNG
 - 2016 GDP: \$202.6 billion US Dollars, up 6.2 percent from 2015
 - Population: 92.7 million (est. 2016)
- Vietnam is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a geo-political and economic organization of 10 countries which is headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is a single market and production base with a population of over 600 million people. Collectively, it is the third-largest economy in Asia, after China and Japan, and the seventh-largest economy in the world.

Featured speakers:

- Consul General of Vietnam PHAM Manh Hai (*IGRS advice is to refer to the Consul General by his title)
- Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Attire:

Business

Introduction

- Good evening. It is an honour and pleasure to be with you tonight on behalf of our Premier John Horgan, as we celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh [Tslay-wa-tooth] First Nations of the Coast Salish peoples.
- I would like to thank the Consul General for inviting me to celebrate this important day with you...
- Along with my friend and colleague the B.C. Minister of State for Trade, George Chow.

Vietnam

- Vietnam has been an important partner to Canada for many years.
- In 2013, Canada and Vietnam reached an important milestone in their relationship – 40 years of bilateral relations.

- Our province values the people-to-people, economic, and business ties we have with Vietnam.
- We have a large Vietnamese community in BC – almost 36,000, or 16%, of B.C. residents are of Vietnamese descent.
- British Columbians of Vietnamese heritage are an important part of our province's rich multicultural fabric.

Trade

- In addition to cultural connections, our province and Vietnam also have close economic ties.
- Vietnam has a strong, growing economy, and it is one of B.C.'s largest trading partners in the ASEAN region (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).
- Last year, the total B.C. exports to Vietnam in 2016 represented almost 15% of Canada's total export to the country.
- ...And we're excited that there has been a growing demand for fresh fruits from our Province, including apples, pears and quinces, apricots, cherries, peaches and plums, which totalled \$10 million in 2016.

- We are confident that these ties will continue to strengthen as our Province continues to promote trade with Vietnam and throughout Asia.
- And we will continue to work closely with the Government of Canada, along with Vietnam and other partners, to remove trade barriers and expand access between countries.

Education ties

- Vietnam is recognized as an important and growing market for international education for Canada and British Columbia.
- Increasingly, Vietnamese students wishing to study abroad are shifting their interest to Canada and B.C. as a study destination offering competitive costs and a positive study environment.
- For example, there were nearly 2,300 Vietnamese students who came to B.C. last year...
- ...And there are currently nearly 2,100 students from Vietnam, studying at our secondary and post-secondary institutions– making Vietnam the 10th worldwide for sending international students to our province.
- I hope that in the future, more students from Vietnam will choose our province as a great place to study, work and live.

Conclusion

- I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of the Consul General and his staff in promoting positive relations between BC and Vietnam.
- Our trade ties continue to grow, with exports and imports between us steadily increasing.
- And we are excited about future trade opportunities that exist between our two countries.
- Again, many thanks for inviting me to share in your celebration.
- And I wish you all good health and happiness as you celebrate Vietnam's 72nd National Day on September 2nd - Dô! (***Dô =cheers! pronounced Yo***)

-END-