

Key messages

- I want to thank everyone for their hard work in fighting this year's wildfires:
 - The men and women of the BC Wildfire Service
 - The contract crews
 - The men and women from other provinces and other countries
 - There are currently 151 fires burning, but our crews have successfully extinguished 789.
 - We appreciate their efforts to keep everyone safe.
 - We need the public to do its part and to follow the campfire bans and activity restrictions that are in effect.
-
- I'm standing here at the site of xxxx wildfire.
 - It's extraordinary to see firsthand the devastation this year's wildfires are causing.
 - It's an unprecedented wildfire season.
 - As I've seen different areas impacted by fires, I'm struck by the resiliency of British Columbians
 - From the emergency response officials, frontline firefighters, health care workers, social assistance workers and countless volunteers
 - Everyone has been working to try to keep each other safe
 - The impacts from the wildfires will be felt for sometime
 - As a government we're committed to helping people recover from the economic impacts these wildfires have wrought
 - And we're committed to restoring these forests and ecosystems.
-
- I met with members from the BC Cattlemen's Association this morning and reiterated our commitment to assist ranchers who have been impacted by thie wildfires.

- To date we've budgeted an estimated \$6 million to help ranchers replace fences and other infrastructure destroyed by wildfire
- We're committed to working with ranchers to find alternate grazing areas for their livestock, and we're working with them to enhance forage
- Unfortunately, the economic impacts of this year's wildfires also extend to tourism and forestry.
- We will be working closely with the different sectors and local governments to ensure we have the appropriate programs and supports in place to assist with recovery and rebuilding.

Wildfire media conference call
Monday, Aug. 14, 2017, 1:00 p.m.
(dial in for pre-brief at 12:55 p.m.)

Dial-in info:

s.15,s.17

(for speakers)

- Thank you for joining us this afternoon.
- It was another very busy weekend for the BC Wildfire Service, as changing weather conditions brought new challenges in the form of gusty winds and lightning in many parts of the province.
- I continue to be impressed with the remarkable efforts by our firefighters, crews, contractors on the wildfires, and the support from RCMP, staff and volunteers assisting with evacuations or helping out at reception centres.
- We recognize that the impacts of this summer's wildfires will be felt for a long time, which is why we have established a cabinet task force specifically to deal with the wildfires and future recovery efforts.
- Residents of the hardest-hit areas have certainly been affected and we are assisting them as much as we can.
- Those affected include small businesses owners and operators
- Small businesses are often the economic lifeblood of rural communities.
- Today, we're launching a new program to provide emergency financial assistance to eligible small businesses.
- This program will be delivered through the Canadian Red Cross and will make \$1,500 emergency grants available to

eligible small businesses, First Nations (whose livelihoods are based on cultural practices) and not-for-profit organizations in areas that have been under evacuation orders or evacuation alerts.

- Funding comes from the \$100 million in funding provided to the Red Cross earlier this summer.
- Eligibility for these grants includes businesses directly impacted by road closures along:
 - Highway 20;
 - Highway 97 south of Prince George to areas covered by evacuation alerts;
 - Highway 26 to Barkerville; and,
 - the eastern Cariboo Regional District communities of Horsefly and Likely.
- We will make adjustments to the eligibility criteria based on areas affected as required.
- These grants are intended to give eligible businesses - those with 50 or fewer employees — a helping hand as they resume operations.
- I want British Columbians to know that our government is there for them during this difficult time.
- We want to have the necessary programs and supports in place to help mitigate the social, economic and environmental impacts of wildfires.
- In the meantime, this year's fire season is far from over.

- I would ask all British Columbians and visitors to the province to remain vigilant and do their part to help prevent human-caused wildfires.
- I'll now turn it back to Kevin.

[END]

Wildfire media conference call
Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017, 1:00 p.m.
(dial in for pre-brief at 12:50 p.m.)

Dial-in info:
s.15, s.17

† (for speakers)

- Thank you for joining us on the line this afternoon. I'm dialing in from Williams Lake.
- Earlier this morning I was in Kamloops, meeting with the BC Cattlemen's Association, and I also had an opportunity to take a closer look at the Elephant Hill fire.
- The Elephant Hill fire has now burned more hectares than were burnt in all wildfires last year.
- First I want to thank all of the men and women who have worked so hard over the past few weeks to keep the public safe from wildfires, and to all those who have assisted people have been evacuated from their homes.
- Over the past few weeks, I've met with numerous people who have been impacted by this year's unprecedented fire season.
- I've spoken with firefighters, emergency service providers, volunteers, and people have been forced to evacuate from their homes, as well as the countless volunteers.
- My heart goes out to all those who have lost their homes or had their livelihoods severely impacted.
- I've been struck by the kindness of British Columbians – and also their resiliency.
- I want them to know that this government is there for them.

- We recognize that the impacts from this summer's wildfires will be felt for some time; which is why we have struck a cabinet task force specifically to deal with wildfires and recovery.
- We want to ensure that we have the necessary programs and supports in place to help mitigate the social, economic and environmental impacts.
- The BC Wildfire Service's motto is "hit hard and hit fast" and it's been doing exactly that.
- Our hardworking ground crews are supported by hundreds of aircraft, heavy equipment operators, B.C. contractors and out-of-province firefighting personnel.
- This summer, we are experiencing one of the worst fire seasons in the province's history — and unfortunately it's not over yet.
- Earlier today, the BC Wildfire Service announced the possibility of an area restriction order to cover the entire Cariboo Fire Centre that would go into effect noon tomorrow.
- This is not an easy decision to make. The order covers all Crown land and means that all people can only be in the area if:
 - Travelling to or from his or her principle residence;
 - Using a highway as defined in the Highway Act, or
 - Travelling as a person acting in an official capacity;
 - or

- Travelling for the purpose of supporting wildfire suppression activities
- If this order is implemented, it will be supported by increased enforcement patrols.
- The great variable is the weather and the final decision will be made tomorrow morning.
- If the forecasted winds do not materialize, the restriction might not be needed.
- But regardless, I would ask that everyone remain vigilant, and do their part to help prevent human-caused wildfires.
- I'll now turn it back to Kevin.

[END]

August 14, 2017

Media Avail – grizzly bear trophy hunt ending
s.15,s.17 # (speakers code)

Thank you for dialing in.

Today, I'm pleased to announce that we're delivering on another one of our platform commitments.

Acting on the wishes of the majority of British Columbians, effective November 30, the grizzly bear trophy hunt will end in this province. While the trophy hunt will end, hunting for food will be allowed to continue.

As well, in the Great Bear Rainforest, grizzly bear hunting will end completely.

This meets and goes beyond the original commitments that were made as part of an MOU with Coastal First Nations to end the commercial grizzly bear hunt in their territories.

In the fall, we'll be consulting with First Nations and stakeholder groups on implementation of the ban.

We will also launch a broad consultation process for renewing and improving wildlife management in this province.

As part of a renewed wildlife management strategy, we want to re-invest all hunting licence revenue – some \$9 to \$10 million – back into wildlife management.

We believe all British Columbians should have a say in managing our wildlife resources and we wish to develop short- and long-term plans for our wildlife through a collaborative process.

Details on how to become involved will be announced in early fall.

Operator, I would now like to open it for questions.

[Operator says last question in the queue]

Thank you everyone. If you have any follow-up questions, please call the ministry's media relations line at 250 356-5261.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

Adrian Dix

Health Minister

NICOLA VALLEY HOSPITAL ED GROUND-BREAKING

Nicola Valley Hospital and Health Centre
3451 Voght Street
Merritt

Friday, August 18, 2017

12:15 p.m. (pre-brief)

12:30 p.m. (speech)

Event Profile:

This event is for the ground-breaking for the new emergency department at Nicola Valley Hospital.

Audience:

Approximately a dozen people are expected to attend, including representatives from Interior Health, Thompson Regional Hospital District and local elected officials. Media are invited.

What does the audience want to hear?

The audience expects to hear how the announcement will improve emergency care in Merritt and the Coquihalla corridor.

Will anyone from the ministry be in attendance?

No.

Event Details:

Upon arrival, Minister Dix will be greeted by Tracy Watson, communications consultant with Interior Health, who will accompany the minister to the pre-brief. The event will take place outside adjacent to the hospital. The event will conclude with a photo-op.

Event Contact:

Tracy Watson
Interior Health communications consultant
250 574-1523
Tracy.Watson@interiorhealth.ca

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you.
- I would like to acknowledge with respect the history, customs and culture of the Nlaka'pamux (**pronounced ing-klah-kap-muh**) peoples, on whose traditional territory we meet today.

[Minister Dix to recognize others in attendance if he wishes]

ANNOUNCEMENT

- The Nicola Valley Hospital and Health Centre is vital for providing public health care to residents in the region, and the many who travel the Coquihalla.
- In 2015/16 there were 415 inpatient cases at the facility along with 11,707 unscheduled emergency department visits and 1,713 scheduled emergency department visits.
- The Coquihalla is used by close to four million vehicles per year. The average daily traffic volume on the Coquihalla Highway is roughly 11,000 vehicles per day. During the summer it can range from 7,000 to 14,000 vehicles per day with peak volumes of 2,000 vehicles per hour.

- And, and there have been some serious accidents in recent times - in fact, this health centre played a critical role in responding to two major accidents in past years.
- Of course everyone remembers the very serious bus accident south of Merritt in 2014.
- The bus flipped over, injuring many – and 11 of the passengers were transported here.
- And, in 2015 there was another accident involving a bus on the Coquihalla where numerous people were hurt – 15 were transported to this emergency department for treatment.
- It's situations like these where we see the local health professionals jump into action to save lives...
- And we need to support them in being able to do that work.
- This is why I felt it was important for me to be here today - for this ground-breaking to expand and renovate the Nicola Valley Hospital and Health Centre's emergency department.
- This expansion will increase the size of the emergency department – from the current approximate 100 square metres, to 500 square metres.

- It will house expanded trauma and treatment areas, with increased privacy and better infection control measures.
- The updated emergency department will also be home to a new covered ambulance bay and dedicated ambulance entrance.
- The new emergency department will also help make sure quality public health care is there for this community.
- This work will also help attract further investment to the region, as projects like this create jobs and stimulate economic activity, while helping deliver the services people need.

CONCLUSION

- I'm happy to be a part of today's announcement to show our government's commitment to the project.
- The community has been campaigning for this for many years and it's great to see the shovels hit the ground.
- Thank you.

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

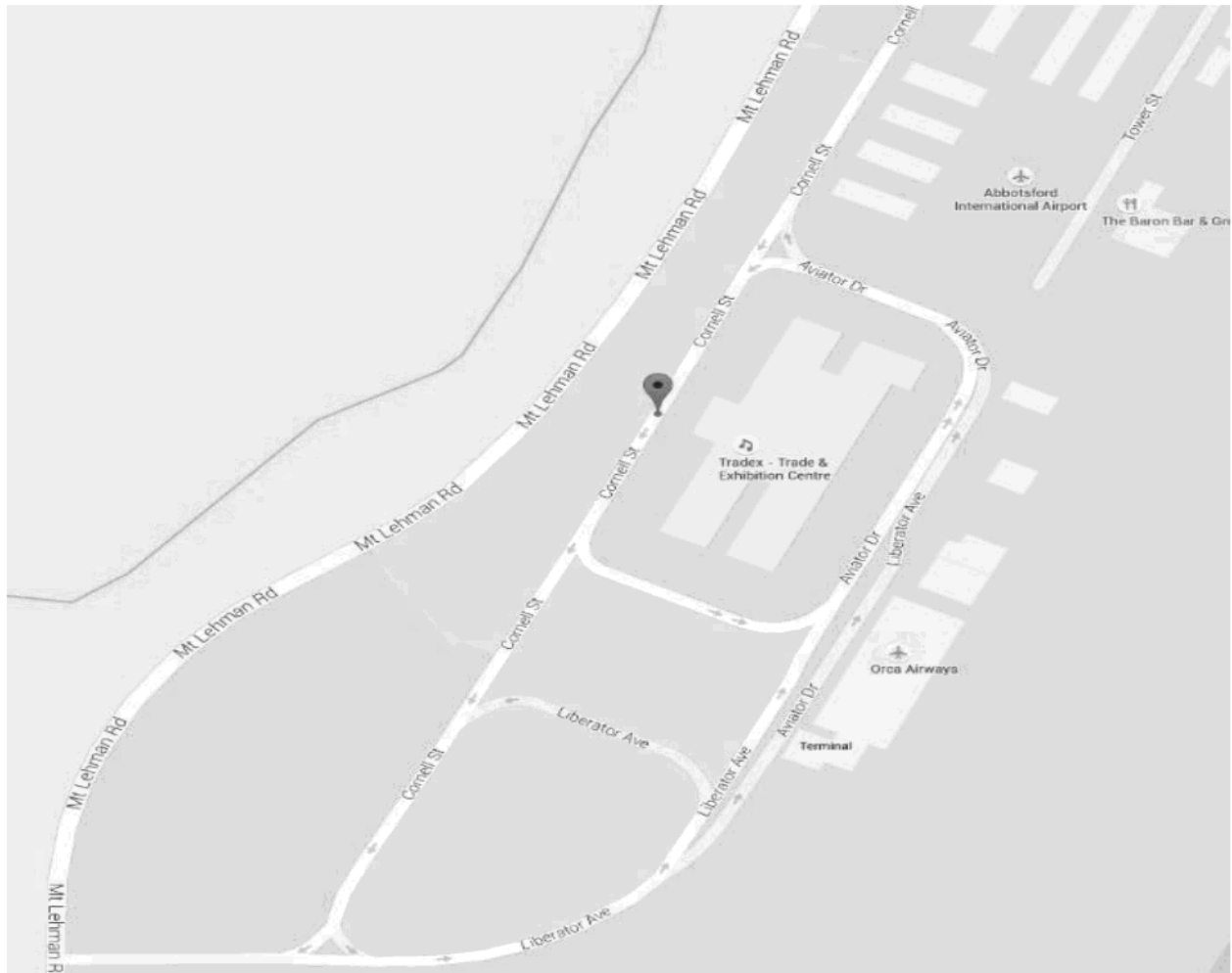
Aerospace, Defence and Security Expo (ADSE)
Fraser Valley Trade & Exhibition Centre (Tradex) at Abbotsford
International Airport
1130 Cornell St., Abbotsford
Main Plenary Room

Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Speaking time: Approximately 1:05 p.m.

Getting there and parking:



Audience:

There will be between 250 to 300 people during lunch. Attendees will consist of aerospace and defence executives and many federal and provincial officials. Event is open to the public, but by registration only.

Event description:

Minister Ralston will welcome delegates and note the importance of the aerospace and defense business to B.C.

Background:

The Aerospace, Defence & Security Expo (ADSE) is the premier aerospace, defence and security event in Western Canada, held each August in conjunction

with the Abbotsford International Airshow. This is the seventh year of the exposition. In previous years, it has attracted more than 172 companies and organizations as well as about 30 federal and provincial government representatives. This year's theme is *"Secure and Sustainable – Innovation in the Modern Aerospace and Defence Market."*

The first ADSE was held in 2012. The goal is to provide a venue for new defence procurement opportunities and Canada's key industrial capabilities, as well as gain valuable industry exposure for B.C. business and network with industry, government and complementary service providers.

The aerospace industry in our province is made up of almost 200 companies, most of them small and medium-sized enterprises.

The industry generates annual revenues of \$2.4 billion, and direct GDP of \$1.3 billion.

A study by the accounting firm KPMG suggests that every direct aerospace job creates another 1.5 indirect jobs.

All things considered, it's obvious that aerospace is a key component of the economy in our province, and makes our communities stronger and our economy more diversified.

Featured speakers include:

- Mr. Jim Quick, president and CEO, Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC)
- Mr. Rudy Toering, president and CEO, Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA)
- His Worship Henry Braun, mayor of Abbotsford

Abbotsford Airshow

- The first Abbotsford airshow was held in 1962.

- It was started by the Abbotsford Flying club. They thought it would be a good way to promote flying from the Abbotsford Airport, which was inactive at the time.
- The first show attracted 15,000 people.
- The Abbotsford International Airshow is now Canada's largest airshow.
- It attracts more than 125,000 spectators annually.

Attire:

Business

Introduction

- Good afternoon. It is an honour and pleasure to be here with you today as we recognize B.C.'s strength and leadership in the aerospace sector.
- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Sto:lo [staw-low] First Nation.
- And to extend greetings from our new Premier, John Horgan.
- I would like to thank the veterans and military personnel with us today.
- I would like to recognize Jim Quick, Rudy Toering [Tor-ring], His Worship Henry Braun.
- And also Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr, chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Defence; and Steven Stewart, Chair of the Abbotsford International Airshow Society.
- And to all of you for taking part and lending your expertise to this very important exposition.

- This is the first time I have attended this exposition as a B.C. government representative, but I am well aware of this event's size and influence – and the importance of the aerospace industry in our province.
- ADSE is the only aerospace exposition in Canada that is held at the same time as a major airshow – the world-famous Abbotsford International Airshow.
- Over its seven-year history, ADSE has grown into a vitally important showcase for our province's aerospace sector – and we are pleased to see it continue to grow and attract more companies each year.
- This year's event has the added significance of being held concurrently with the Canadian Business Aviation Association's 2017 convention and exhibition.
- And I welcome delegates from both ADSE and the CBAA, who are in attendance today.
- One further point that underscores B.C.'s importance in the aerospace industry,
- Is the fact that Vancouver just played host to the National Research Forum of CARIC [CARE-ik] – the Consortium for Aerospace Research and Innovation in Canada – which wrapped up yesterday.
- I am aware that CARIC has submitted a competitive bid to the federal government for a federally funded digital tech supercluster in B.C.
- The federal supercluster funding will be foundational to the growth of a digital technology supercluster here at home.

- British Columbia's technology sector is booming, and is the fastest-growing in Canada.
- The industry has a history of pioneering technological innovation, and global companies are increasingly attracted to B.C.
- We want to see this continue.

Government partnership with AIAC-Pacific

- I don't need to tell you how important the aerospace industry is to the British Columbia economy.
- The B.C. government has a long-standing partnership with the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada – better known as AIAC-Pacific – in a co-ordinated strategy to build upon the goals of government and the aerospace industry.
- We look forward to working in partnership with industry and the association to help this important sector continue to grow.

The impact of aerospace on B.C.'s economy

- Aerospace is a crucial economic driver for B.C.'s economy – employing approximately 10-thousand people, whether directly or indirectly, throughout the province.
- As most of you are aware, B.C.'s aerospace industry represents about 2 per cent of the provincial GDP and an estimated \$3.5 billion in economic activity annually.
- We are uniquely positioned to take advantage of market opportunities thanks to our proximity to Boeing and the world's largest aerospace cluster next door in Washington State.

B.C. government's goals for the aerospace sector

- Our government may be new but we have a clear vision and definitive goals for the aerospace industry.
- As Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, my ministry will work to unify and develop the capacity of the B.C. aerospace sector to attract more global aerospace business and investment to the province.
- We will align B.C. companies and provincial interests with national and international opportunities for the entire B.C. aerospace sector to consolidate and/or grow domestic and international market share.
- Our government will also identify and work to grow areas of competitive advantage and future opportunity, including data analytics.
- Data analytics are helping to develop solutions to the aviation industry's biggest challenges.
- Analytics increase the reliability and operational efficiency of aircraft and airlines by tracking when parts need replacing, making flight planning and routing more efficient, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and reducing costs.
- Other areas of competitive advantage include In-Service Support (ISS) and Engineering, Aviation Training, Advanced Manufacturing, Remote Sensing and Space.
- Our government feels very strongly that a focus on innovation and technology are keys to growing the B.C. economy.

- British Columbia's thriving technology sector boasts a broad array of companies and innovation.
- B.C. stands at the forefront of Canada's growing clean-tech industry.
- We know that B.C.'s clean-tech industry is stimulating economic growth, creating jobs and driving innovation across all sectors to accelerate our transition to a low-carbon economy.
- That is why we are committed to establishing an Innovation Commission to support innovation and business development in the technology sector.
- We will appoint an Innovation Commissioner who will have a mandate to be an advocate and ambassador on behalf of the B.C. technology sector in Ottawa and around the world.
- We are also committed to helping B.C. companies access international markets where innovative products and services are in high demand.
- We also maintain international trade offices, and lead aerospace trade missions annually to China, India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Poised for national and international growth

- We recognize that enormous growth in the industry is occurring outside our borders – in places such as the Asia-Pacific, South America and the Middle East.
- It is our ministry's mandate to help companies gain access to those opportunities ...

- ... And is one of the reasons B.C. has international trade offices in those regions.

Emerging trends in the industry

- We see several emerging trends in the aerospace industry, among them the growing demand in the Asia-Pacific region which we will work to exploit to further the interests of B.C. and its businesses and employees.
- And of course the critical importance of research and development. Twenty per cent of the aerospace industry's activity is in research and development.
- We recognize that to be successful, companies need to develop innovative products and services.
- They need to be technologically savvy to compete on a global scale.
- We want to facilitate company access to markets abroad.
- That's why we are expanding our U.S. Trade and Investment Offices into Seattle and Silicon Valley – to entice tech companies to expand into B.C. while connecting B.C. companies with new clients.
- We support continued growth in British Columbia's thriving technology sector.
- Because we want to create an environment for further growth and job creation.

Concerns of the industry

- While the future is positive and encouraging for B.C.'s interests, we must be cognizant that there will always be certain roadblocks.
- But based on your history of innovation and adaptability, I have every confidence that the domestic industry will withstand these pressures and continue to thrive.
- You have already shown innovation in a number of ways.
- B.C. companies are converting passenger aircraft to cargo aircraft and aerial water bombers.
- British Columbians in the aerospace industry are also on the leading edge of the use of simulation and modelling software and the use of composite materials in aircraft manufacturing.
- As well, Boeing Vancouver is an important part of Boeing's digital aviation structure that helps airlines become more efficient.

Conclusion

- Our government recognizes the value of our B.C.'s aerospace and defence sector to the provincial economy.
- We recognize the importance of an educated and skilled workforce to support sustained industry growth.
- We understand that the aerospace industry is a key driver of technology and innovation.
- And we see ourselves as your partner as you pursue opportunities here at home and around the world.
- A walk through the exhibit space here in Abbotsford is clear proof that these are exciting times in B.C.'s aerospace industry.
- And our government is proud to support you.
- Thank you very much.

-END-



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

BioDesign Partnership Launch
Blusson Spinal Cord Centre
818 W 10th Ave, Vancouver
Atrium

Friday, Aug. 25, 2017

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Speaking time: approximately 11:10 a.m. for 3-4 minutes

Location:**Parking:**

There is some street parking, as well as nearby parking lots in the area, however there is no parking available directly adjacent to the centre. Please allow sufficient time to park and walk to the centre.

Audience:

Approximately 50 people are expected to attend. The audience will comprise local university vice presidents and researchers; other university, health and technology industry representatives; British Columbians with spinal cord injuries; and representatives from other health-tech organizations such as Innovation Boulevard.

Media & news release:

Assent Communications will invite media and issue a news release on behalf of both organizations.

Itinerary:

11:00 a.m.	Guests arrive, mingle and network
11:05 a.m.	Bill Barrable welcomes guests and provides introductory remarks
11:09 a.m.	Bill Barrable introduces Minister
11:10 a.m.	Minister remarks
11:15 a.m.	Bill Barrable thanks Minister and introduces Dr. Nahmias
11:16 a.m.	Remarks by Dr. Yaakov Nahmias
11:25 a.m.	Bill Barrable introduces Dr. Bressler
11:26 a.m.	Remarks by Dr. Bernie Bressler
11:30 a.m.	Closing remarks by Bill Barrable

11:35 a.m.	Speaking ends; media photo op
11:35 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Mingling and media interviews
12 to 1 p.m.	Option to tour of Blusson Spinal Cord Centre

VIP list:

- Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade, and Technology
- Rick Glumac, Parliamentary Secretary for Technology
- Dr. Yaakov Nahmias, Director of the Alexander Grass Center for Bioengineering at Hebrew University
[Pron: Yak-ov Nach-me-us; “ov” as is oven and “nach” like “loch” in Lochness]
- Bill Barrable **[Pron: Bearable]**, CEO, Rick Hansen Institute
- Dr. Bernie Bressler, Former Board Chair, Rick Hansen Institute and Former Board Member, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Event description:

This event will launch the international BioDesign partnership between the Rick Hansen Institute and Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Alexander Grass Center for Bioengineering. The Partnership is a direct outcome of the Institute’s participation in the provincial Life Sciences Innovation Trade Mission to Israel in the fall of 2016.

Background:

- The goal of the BioDesign partnership is to:
 - Grow the next generation of medical research entrepreneurs
 - Produce original IP with a high potential for commercialization within one year
 - Bring innovation back to B.C. to enhance B.C.'s burgeoning 'start-up' environment, while improving the lives of individuals with spinal cord injury.
- The Institute's BioDesign partnership with Hebrew University is the only one of its kind in Canada, and is the only one in the world to focus on spinal cord injury and its many secondary complications.
- This emphasis on health science innovation, coupled with the Institute's ongoing collaborations - not just with UBC but with all of B.C.'s academic research institutions - differentiates this partnership from the Hebrew University's other Canadian partnership with the University of Toronto.
- Israel is a global technology leader, known as "Startup-Nation."
- About BioDesign:
 - "BioDesign" is a multi-disciplinary, team-based approach to medical innovation, pioneered by Stanford University.
 - Accelerated application, implementation, and commercialization are the cornerstones of research conducted using the BioDesign approach.
 - To be successful, BioDesign must unfold within a thriving innovation ecosystem where creative ideas, difficult problems and entrepreneurial mentorship can interact in a structured way.
 - With its proximity to capital markets, experienced CEOs, world-class academic and healthcare institutions and Silicon Valley, the 'original' BioDesign program at Stanford is still considered the 'gold standard'.
 - Israel, with a well-deserved reputation as the world's leading innovator, started a BioDesign program in 2013 with 20 students, producing four startup companies in the first year, and now runs a close second to Stanford in success stories.
- **N.B. The Rick Hansen Foundation and the Rick Hansen Institute are two separate entities. The Foundation has received significant provincial funding and focuses on accessibility in providing care. The Institute is focused on spinal cord injury research and innovation around the world.**

Featured speakers:

- Bill Barrable, CEO, Rick Hansen Institute (**emcee**)
- Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
- Dr. Yaakov Nahmias, Director of the Alexander Grass Center for Bioengineering at Hebrew University
[Pron: Yak-ov Nach-me-us; “ov” as is oven and “nach” like “loch” in Lochness]
- Dr. Bernie Bressler, Former Board Chair, Rick Hansen Institute and Former Board Member, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Attire:

No formal attire required

Introduction

- Good morning. It is an honour and pleasure to be here on behalf of our Premier John Horgan, to celebrate the launch of this BioDesign partnership.

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.

- And recognize my esteemed colleague, Parliamentary Secretary for Technology Rick Glumac.

- Many thanks to CEO Bill Barrable [**Pron: Bearable**] and the Rick Hansen Institute for inviting me to help celebrate this partnership with you all.
- I would also like to recognize your partner in this collaboration, and visitor to our province, Dr. Yaakov Nahmias from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel.

[Pron: Yak-ov Nach-me-us; “ov” as is oven and “nach” like “loch” in Lochness]

- Israel’s tech sector is one of the most revered in the world and it is booming;
- It is home to major players like Google, Facebook and Apple...
- And boasts more startups per capita than any other country.
- With that kind of sectoral expertise, I am confident this partnership will help strengthen our province’s existing ties with Israel...

- And that our two unique tech sectors will continue to collaborate and inspire new ideas in the future.

Provincial ICORD Funding (Rick Hansen Foundation)

- The Provincial government is a proud supporter of the **Rick Hansen Foundation** and the International Collaboration On Repair Discoveries (ICORD) here at the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre.
- The Province has provided over \$2-million to create the Rick Hansen Man-in-Motion Chair in Spinal Cord Research through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund.
- Government also provided more than \$14 million to the **Rick Hansen Foundation** for research equipment through the BC Knowledge Development Fund which furthers innovation and commercialization.
- Through the Ministry of Health, the Province awarded ICORD with a \$25 million grant to accelerate the search for a cure for spinal cord injury.
- In addition, spinal cord researchers have received over \$5 million in funding through the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research....

- Because government is committed to leadership in practical research for the everyday that changes people's lives and gives them a better quality of life.

BC TECH, Research & Health Innovation

- This means we will help find the answers now to reduce the burden of disease, that give people with chronic conditions better, more timely, and cost-effective solutions for living with their disease.
- To accomplish this, I will work with the Province to support further growth of technology in B.C. to develop more effective, evidence-based medicines to improve health care.
- Together we will restore and bolster our commitment to research that attracts top-tier talent back to B.C. and ensures health innovators have the resources they need to help our health system reduce costs while benefitting British Columbians.
- We will help inspire innovation by partnering with universities, colleges, and organizations to fund specialized research that will help B.C. strengthen our health services.

- We also recognize our federal partners are important in developing a comprehensive, evidence-based research approach.
- Not to mention the new ideas from bold thinkers involved with the new BioDesign partnership – which is the first of its kind in Canada.

Conclusion

- Congratulations to the **Rick Hansen Institute** and the Hebrew School of Jerusalem,
- For forming this ground-breaking partnership advance medical research, innovation and commercialization here at home and around the world.
- I hope that through this partnership and continued collaboration, B.C.'s technology can follow in Israel's footsteps as a world-renowned innovation and technology leader.
- Thank you very much.

-END-



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

DP World Prince Rupert
Fairview Container Terminal Phase 2 North
Official Opening Ceremony
3100 Scott Rd., Prince Rupert
Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017
11 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.
Speaking time: Approximately 11:25 a.m.

Audience:

Approximately 500 people made up of commercial stakeholders; DP World, Port of Prince Rupert, and CN staff; and ILWU workers and their families. Audience members will be standing.

Media:

Invited media will include print, radio, television, and online publications; all will be required to register upon arrival. Your availability for media interviews at the conference, as well as pre-conference and post-conference would be appreciated.

Event description:

Minister Ralston speaks on behalf of the B.C. government at the official opening ceremony of the Fairview Container Terminal Phase 2 North expansion.

Background:

In 2007, the Fairview Terminal opened as the first dedicated ship-to-rail container terminal in North America. As trade with Asia-Pacific quickly grew, so did Fairview Terminal's economic and employment opportunities, and its need for increased capacity. DP World Prince Rupert responded with a two-year construction project that will create increased employment and business opportunities, boost its container capacity by 60 per cent, and enhance Prince Rupert's worldwide reputation.

Featured speakers:

- MC: Matt Hoag, Regional Operations & Commercial Director, DP World
- Alex Campbell, Hereditary Chief, Lax Kw'alaams
- John Helin, Mayor, Lax Kw'alaams Band Council
- Harold Leighton, Elected Chief, Metlakatla Governing Council
- François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade, Government of Canada
- Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, Government of B.C.
- Glen Edwards, President, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)
- Luc Jobin, President and CEO, CN
- Don Krusel, President & CEO, Port of Prince Rupert
- Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO, DP World

Attire:

Business casual. As the terminal is on the water, it can be windy, so dress appropriately according to the weather. Forecast for Aug. 29 is mostly sunny with 60% chance of a shower and a high of 17.

Accreditation:

If you attend the reception at the North Pacific Cannery on the evening of August 28, you should have received your name badge. Please wear your name badge on the 29th as it will provide you access to the VIP tent. If you didn't attend the reception, never received your badge, or lost your badge, please check-in with the help desk within the VIP tent to receive your accreditation.

Transportation to event:

Commercial stakeholders will be picked up by shuttle bus from one of the four partner hotels and delivered to the terminal.

Speaker check-in:

When you arrive on-site, please check-in at the VIP tent located behind the fence line near the stage. There will be a short briefing here at 10:45 AM with your fellow speakers prior to going on-stage

Staging/tech arrangements:

Remarks will be given from a podium and microphone located on a raised stage with access from both sides via stairs. Following the pre-brief, you will be led out of the VIP tent and onto the stage. All speakers will be seated on the stage, behind and to one side of the podium. Speaking order is provided in the agenda overview.

On-site contacts:

Jordan Humphries – jhumphries@pacegroup.com C: s.22

Jessica Walker – jwalker@pacegroup.com C: s.22

Agenda Overview	
10:45 AM	Speakers gather in VIP tent for pre-event briefing; escorted onto the stage
11:00 AM	Official Ceremony begins
11:00 AM	Matt Hoag welcomes everyone; introduces FN blessing
11:02 AM	First Nations Traditional Welcome & Blessing
11:07 AM	Emcee thanks Hereditary Chief; Introduces John Helin
11:08 AM	John Helin speaks

11:13 AM	Emcee thanks John Helin; Introduces Harold Leighton
11:14 AM	Harold Leighton speaks
11:19 AM	Emcee thanks Harold Leighton; Introduces the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
11:20 AM	The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne speaks
11:25 AM	Emcee thanks the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne; Introduces the Honourable Bruce Ralston
11:26 AM	Honourable Bruce Ralston speaks
11:31 AM	Emcee thanks Honourable Bruce Ralston; Introduces Glen Edwards
11:32 AM	Glen Edwards speaks
11:37 AM	Emcee thanks Glen Edwards; introduces Luc Jobin
11:38AM	Luc Jobin speaks
11:43 AM	Emcee thanks Luc Jobin; Introduces Don Krusel
11:44 AM	Don Krusel speaks
11:49 AM	Emcee thanks Don Krusel, Introduces Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem
11:50 AM	Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem speaks
11:55 AM	Emcee thanks Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem
11:56 AM	Emcee transitions to ribbon cutting, invites all the ribbon cutters to join them across the stage
12:06 PM	Emcee asks Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem to start the Countdown
12:07 PM	[everyone cuts ribbon]
12:09 PM	Emcee concludes the official ceremony, thanks everyone for Coming
12:10 PM	Official Ceremony concludes
12:10 – 1 PM	Directly following the ceremony, a networking lunch will be served in the VIP tent

Introduction

- Thanks Matt. Good morning. It is an honour to be here on behalf of the B.C. government to celebrate this momentous occasion for Prince Rupert and all northern B.C. communities.
- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Metlakatla [Metla **ka** tla] and Lax Kw'alaams [Lax kwa **lahms**] First Nations of the Coast Tsimshian [Sim **she** an] people.
- And to extend greetings from our new Premier, John Horgan.
- The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne [sham-pain], it's fantastic to have you here.
- I would also like to recognize my colleague, Claire Trevena, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, who is in the audience today.

Pacific Gateway

- Ladies and gentlemen and honoured guests, today's event is the culmination of yet another success story for the Port of Prince Rupert.

- As recently as 15 years ago, the future for the Port of Prince Rupert was anything but rosy.
- Lumber shipments from the port had dwindled to almost nothing and the port authority entertained thoughts of winding down the whole operation.
- But CEO Don Krusel [Kru-**SELL**] and his team persevered – and accomplished what the so-called experts said couldn't be done....
- ... Transform a small port into a container terminal, where containers full of goods from Asia could be shipped efficiently from an uncongested port into the heart of North America.
- The concept worked.
- Fairview Terminal became the first dedicated ship-to-rail container terminal in North America.
- And today, DP World Canada's new Fairview Phase 2 North expansion is a testament to the vision laid out by the port authority...

- ...that firmly cements this port's growing worldwide reputation for speed and reliability.

DP World Canada/International Trade

- The faith shown by DP World in this port is tremendously encouraging for the future of our province in general, and northern B.C. in particular.
- DP World is a major global player, and this 200-million-dollar private investment will help ensure B.C. remains a very competitive player for international trade and the investments that flow from it.
- Promoting trade and investment with Asia is critical to growing B.C.'s economy and creating jobs for British Columbians.
- Our government is committed to building on our strong relationships with Asia, using our international trade and investment network to connect B.C. businesses with new markets and promote B.C. as a stable and attractive place to invest.

- As Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway, B.C. is already leading the way for Canadian trade and investment in Asia.
- For example, in 2016, almost 40 per cent of B.C.'s exports went to the Pacific Rim and Southeast Asia.
- Over the past 10 years, the value of B.C. exports has grown, especially in key markets such as China, with an increase of more than 300 per cent, and India, with an increase of more than 130 per cent.

Government/Job creation

- We made a campaign commitment that over the coming months and years, we will build a better B.C., where all regions of the province are benefiting from well-paying jobs and investment in our sustainable, shared economy.
- We will have further details this fall, but generally we have a plan to create 96,000 construction jobs by building schools, hospitals, roads and rapid transit over the next five years.
 - Increase employment in forestry and wood-product manufacturing;
 - Develop a multi-year strategy to increase manufacturing exports;
 - Work to expand food and agricultural exports;

- And create a framework to hire locally for government projects.

- We are going to do that by working to remove barriers to attracting skilled workers, and make sure strategic investments are being made in northern and rural communities.

- With 934-thousand job openings anticipated for B.C. by 2025, we need to invest in future skills development, and attract skilled labour from around the world.

- With B.C.'s skilled workforce, growing entrepreneurial culture, diverse population and beautiful environment, B.C. is positioned to be a global leader in job creation and the emerging economy.

ILWU/First Nations

- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the 500 local members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and their families who are here today.

- The ILWU is a key business partner here in Prince Rupert, and have established a reputation of being one of the most productive and flexible longshore teams in North America.
- In addition, the Metlakatla [Metla **ka** tla] and Lax Kw'alaams [Lax kwa **lahms**] First Nations are heavily involved with the terminal.
- In addition to their engagement through aspects of a Benefits Agreement, the two First Nations are actively involved in the port's intermodal business – including their involvement in a container-stuffing facility, and the operation of a major container truck business.
- Furthermore, Indigenous men and women make up about 40 per cent of the local ILWU workforce.

Conclusion

- Ladies and gentlemen, DP World Canada is launching another important era at the Port of Prince Rupert – and I want to thank His Excellency Sultan bin Sulayem [bin soo-**lay**-em] for this remarkable demonstration of faith in our province.

- The economic and employment benefits will continue to provide a boost for communities throughout northern B.C., both in jobs that move products, and the industries they're serving.
- Communities, First Nations, labour and the private sector are all benefiting from this B.C. success story.
- Thank you very much.

-END-

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

MUJI Metrotown Store Pre-Opening
Metropolis at Metrotown (*ground floor)
4700 Kingsway, Burnaby

Friday, Aug. 25, 2017

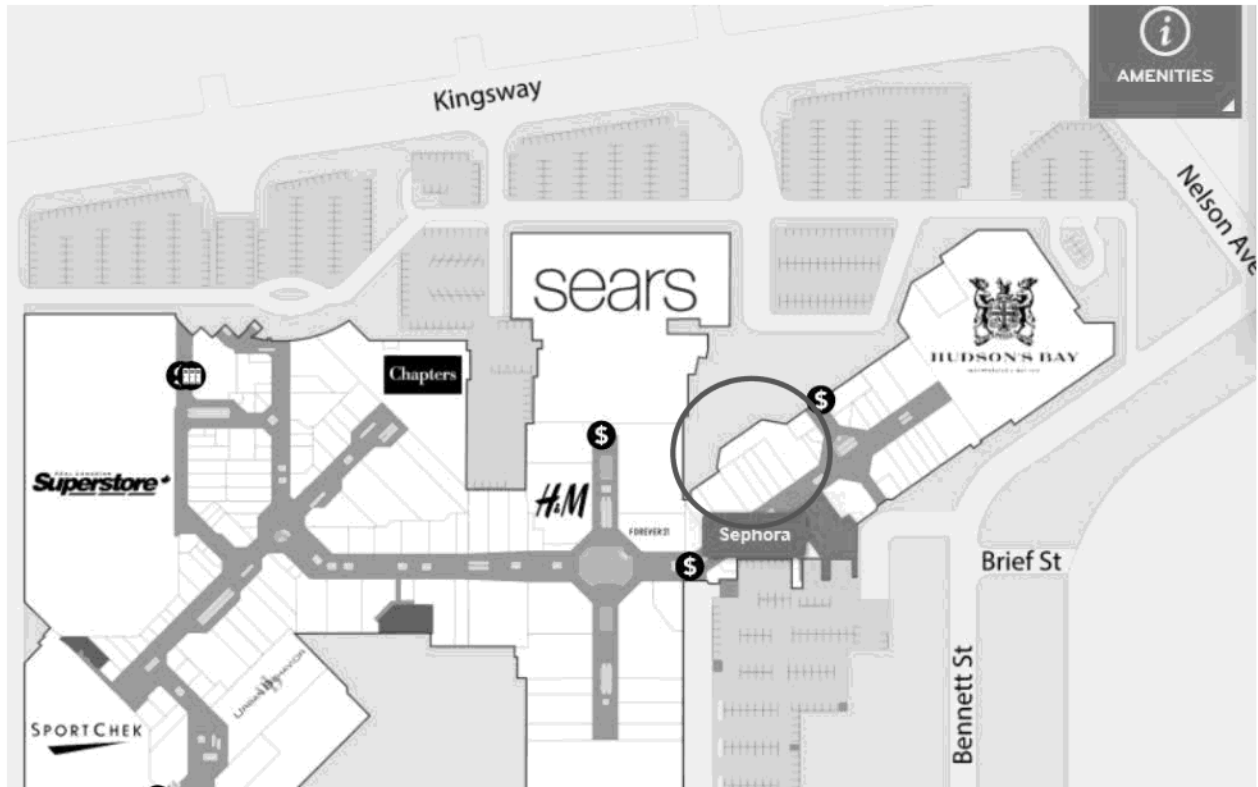
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Speaking time: Approximately 5:05 p.m.

Getting there and parking:



Note: the MUJI store is located on the ground floor of Metropolis at Metrotown, directly across from Sephora (circled in blue in map below).



Parking:

There are several options for parking:

(Above ground) The closest parking lot is located on the outside (north east) between the Bay and Sears with access on Kingsway Ave; there are additional parking spaces near the entrance of the Real Canadian Superstore.

(Underground) There are two underground parking lots at Metropolis at Metrotown. #1 parking lot's entrances are on Central Blvd.; #2 parking lot's entrances are on the Kingsway Ave.

Event day contact: Toru Levinson, Weber Shandwick Vancouver, (cell) ^{s.22}

s.22

Audience:

There will be approximately 50-100 attendees at the event. Attendees will consist of representatives from the Consul General of Japan, provincial and municipal governments, MUJI, and MUJI's associated partners.

Media and social media influencers will be in attendance as well.

Event description:

This is an invitation-only event, a pre-opening celebration with VIPs before the store's grand opening on Saturday, Aug. 26. There will be cultural performances in addition to speeches by representatives.

Minister Ralston will be the provincial representative to speak at the event.

Media will be invited to attend this grand opening event.

Background:

MUJI was founded in Japan in 1980, and has since grown to over 800 stores worldwide, carrying more than 7,000 items ranging from health and beauty products to apparel, stationery, travel, household goods, food, and fashion items.

MUJI expanded to Canada in 2014, with the opening of Toronto's Atrium location, followed by the Square One Shopping Centre location in Mississauga, the Yorkdale Shopping Centre location in North York, and most recently, the Markville location in Markham.

The Metrotown location will be MUJI's first store opening in British Columbia and will also be the biggest Canadian location yet, at 7,770-sq-ft.

Featured speakers include:

- Ms. Yurie Hoyoyon, Master of Ceremony
- Ms. Asako Okai, Consul General of Japan
- Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
- Mr. Derek Corrigan, Mayor of Burnaby
- Ms. Jenna Griesbach, Property Coordinator, Metrotown Properties
- Mr. Satoru Matsuzaki, President of Ryohin Keikaku (MUJI Parent company)
- Mr. Toru Akita, President of MUJI Canada

Confirmed media in attendance:

- Vancouver Sun- Francis Georgian
- Sing Tao- Peonne Lung
- The Georgia Straight- Craig Takeuchi
- CHMB Am 1320 Radio- Ada Chu
- Daily Hive Vancouver- Kenneth Chan
- Hello Vancity- James Chung
- Minkei News Online- Michelle Miyai
- Montecristo Magazine- Sara Harowitz
- UrbanYVR- Peter Meiszner
- Vancouver Shinpo- Chris Nomoto
- Vancouverscape- Arienne Colenbrander
- Westcoast Homes & Design- Claudia Kwan
- Westender-Kelsey Klassen
- Vancouver Magazine- Stacey McLachlan
- Where Vancouver- Sheri Radford
- Clotheslinefinds- Anthea T
- Vancouver Foodster- Richard Wolak

Attire:

Business

Itinerary

Time	Proceedings
4:00 PM	Doors open
4:00- 4:30 p.m.	Japanese saké service MUJI snacks and refreshments
4:30- 4:45 p.m.	Master of Ceremony Welcome by Ms. Yurie Hoyoyon
4:45- 5:00 p.m.	Japanese Calligraphy Performance
5:00- 5:30 p.m.	Opening Reception and speeches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Asako Okai, Consul General of Japan• Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of

	Jobs, Trade and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Derek Corrigan, Mayor of Burnaby • Jenna Griesbach, Property Coordinator, Metrotown Properties • Mr. Satoru Matsuzaki, President of Ryohin Keikaku (MUJI parent company) • Mr. Toru Akita, President of MUJI Canada
5:30- 5:40 p.m.	Traditional Japanese Saké Barrel Opening Ceremony
5:40- 6:00 p.m.	Japanese Tea Ceremony Demonstration
6:00 p.m.	Closing Reception

Introduction

- Thank you Ms. Yurie Hoyoyon. Good evening everyone.
- It is an honour and pleasure to be here with you today on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh (Tslay-wa-tooth) and Sto:lo First Nations of the Coast Salish peoples.
- I'd like to extend greetings from B.C. Premier John Horgan, as we celebrate the pre-opening of MUJI here at Metropolis at Metrotown with all of you....
- I would like to acknowledge :
 - The Consul General of Japan, Ms. Asako Okai
 - President of Ryohin Kekaku, Mr. Satoru Matsuzaki
 - President of MUJI Canada, Mr. Toru Akita
 - Mayor of Burnaby Derek Corrigan

- Thank you for inviting me to this special event.

Economic benefits

- I am excited that MUJI has chosen B.C. as the preferred location of its first store in Western Canada.
- MUJI is renowned internationally for providing affordable, quality products that are environmentally sustainable.
- I understand that part of its mandate for sustainability includes partnering with local businesses, and that MUJI is planning to work with local B.C. suppliers as well as service providers.
- This is great news for our local businesses
- This store in B.C. will not only create jobs for British Columbians...
- ...but it will also strengthen our retail economy and position our province as a great location for international retailers to expand their operations.

Japan & B.C. trade relations

- Japan is B.C.'s third-largest trading partner...

- Last year, B.C. exports to Japan reached \$3.7 billion, higher than any other Canadian province.
- My ministry and the B.C. Trade and Investment Representative Office in Japan have been working with Mr. Toru Akita,
- The President of MUJI Canada to help establish the brand's retail operations in B.C...
- and to connect local suppliers as well as service providers with MUJI.
- Our province is committed to growing our trade and investment relationship with Japan,
- As it is one of the most important export destinations for B.C., as well as a source of major investment for our province.
- This 77-hundred square-foot store is a great example of our commitment to foster the strong connections between B.C. and Japan.

Conclusion

- MUJI has a strong focus on corporate social responsibility,

- The “MUJI Way” aligns with the values of our government: to preserve and protect our environment.
- I very much admire MUJI’s principles, and the efforts it has made to achieve this goal.
- As I learn more about MUJI, it’s easy to see why it is gaining international popularity.
- I understand that MUJI had opened a temporary pop-up store at the Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel this past February...
- ... which was so well-received, that it required reservations to accommodate its visitors.
- Many B.C. consumers are looking forward to this store opening tomorrow, and I have no doubt that it will attract shoppers from across the border in addition to British Columbians.
- This is an excellent example of the growing economic relations between our province and Japan.

- And we will continue to work closely with MUJI Canada, as well as other companies in Japan, to increase the flow of goods and services, as well as cultural understanding between us.
- Congratulations on the opening of this beautiful store and I wish you a successful opening day tomorrow.
- Thank you.

-END-

Event Information / Opening Remarks

Event: Premier announces plan to eliminate tolls

Date: August 25, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Citadel Landing - 3000 Argue Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Driving Directions: TBC

Description of Event:

This will be a Premier John Horgan event/ news release to announce that the new B.C. government is acting on its commitment to eliminate tolls from the Port Mann Bridge (Provincial) and the Golden Ears Bridge (TransLink).

This is a major announcement for the incoming B.C. government, and it is popular amongst stakeholders, so we can expect significant media attention and the public eye on this announcement. Expecting Global TV and CTV to livestream it, and all major media and local media to be in attendance and cover it as top story of the day.

The plan: Have Premier Horgan, supported by validators, make the announcement- As of September 1, 2017 tolls will no longer be charged on Port Mann Bridge (Provincial) & the Golden Ears Bridge (TransLink). It will be important to have a dial-in option, with QA, for press gallery and other reporters who can't make the event.

Background:

During the election campaign and on a number of occasions over the last few weeks and months, Premier Horgan announced that tolls on the Port Mann Bridge and on TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge would be eliminated. The Premier was quoted as saying: "We're going to proceed with the elimination of tolls because they're unfair."

Recently, Premier Horgan has announced the tolls would be addressed before the end of the summer. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is working to deliver on this commitment.

Speakers:

- Premier John Horgan
- Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Claire Trevena (Emcee)
- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson
- Commuter who benefits from toll removal
- Commercial truck driver who benefits from toll removal
- Mayor of Surrey Linda Hepner

Quote: “We are committed to working with the Mayors’ Council and TransLink to reduce congestion in the lower mainland and find fair and equitable long term funding solutions for transit in the Metro Vancouver.”

Format:

- Podium with mic, introduction by transportation minister
- Outside, with Port Mann bridge in view.

Speakers:

- Premier John Horgan
- Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Claire Trevena (Emcee)
- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson
- Stakeholders who benefit from toll removal

Attire: Dress is business professional. Outdoor event (hot weather). Please dress accordingly.

Audience Size: approximately 50 attendees plus media

Event contact: Rick Devereux 250-812-1207

Program contact:

Jodi Dong (Executive Director) – (778) 698-3399

ADM contact:

Kevin Volk (ADM) – ^{s.17}

Removal of Tolls – Port Mann and Golden Ears

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INTRODUCTION/ THANK YOU

- Thank you, Minister Trevena, it's an honour to be here today with all of you.
- It's wonderful to see everyone here from local government who work so hard to make sure people in their communities have a voice in this province.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT/TRANSIT

- I know firsthand, in my past experience working in local government, the importance of championing the priorities of each community and having a partner in the provincial government to help address those priorities.

- As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister responsible for TransLink, I have the opportunity to work very closely with the people who are on the front lines in their communities.
- Our government is listening closely to your concerns and ideas.

And what we're hearing is that British Columbians want access to more affordable and efficient services

- And that is what today represents, making life more affordable, fair and equitable for the millions of people that cross these bridges every year.

- It's about reducing the costs for commercial drivers and small business owners who move goods and provide services across the region.
- We've committed to investing in the Mayors' Vision to make transit more accessible for the millions of transit riders that rely on the system.
- We will continue working in partnership with the Mayors' Council to help reduce congestion so people have more time to spend with their family and friends.
- We will hear in just a few moments, how this change will personally benefit commuters and commercial drivers who use these bridges everyday...

- And while today is an exciting day, as the Premier has said, it is only the beginning.

TRANSIT/HOUSING

- We will be working very closely here in the Lower Mainland with the Mayors' Council and TransLink to not only help reduce congestion, but increase the movement of people and goods in the region, while also working to make life more affordable.
- We will be partnering with local governments across the province to make life more affordable by increasing the availability of affordable housing

and improve access to important services in their communities.

CONCLUSION

- There is a lot of work to do in this province, and I am honoured by the opportunity to serve as Minister and partner with all of you to build a better B.C.
- Thank you.

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SPEAKING POINTS FOR

Judy Darcy

Mental Health & Addictions Minister

Community Mental Wellness Association of Canada's 22nd Anniversary Fundraising Gala

Michael J. Fox Theatre
7373 MacPherson Ave
Burnaby

Sunday, August 20, 2017

7 p.m.

6:30 p.m. (arrival time)

7:00 p.m. (speech)

Event Profile:

The Community Mental Wellness Association of Canada's 22nd Anniversary Fundraising Gala Night celebrates its commitment to public education and improving the lives of those affected by mental health.

Audience:

Donors and supporters of the association.

What does the audience want to hear?

The new government's commitment to improve mental health care in the province.

Will anyone from the ministry be in attendance?

No

Event Details:

There will be reserved parking for the Minister in the parking lot at the venue. The Minister should proceed to the VIP area inside, where she will be met by event organizers. The speech will be delivered on a stage, with a podium and microphone.

Event Contact:

Ahley Chin
Executive Director/Founder
Canadian Mental Wellness Association of Canada
cell: 604-721-3022
email: chinahlay3@gmail.com

William Tsai
s.22

William.tsai@mocf.ca

- Thank you – good evening
- Honoured to join you in celebrating the Community Mental Wellness Association of Canada and its work in the past 22 years.
- Looking forward to helping you present scholarships to four inspiring recipients.
- A lot of the work that goes into mental health awareness, and mental health care, happens at community level.
- Commend your group for making a difference in the lives of so many, for so long.
- As you may know, I have unique role in our new provincial government.
- When Premier asked me to lead newly-formed Mental Health and Addictions, I didn't hesitate.
- Incredibly passionate about issues that face so many British Columbians struggling with mental health issues across province.
- In short time, met incredible number of people like you...

- ...people dedicated to improving every aspect of mental health and addictions care in B.C.
- When it comes to mental health care in this province, we know this: the current system isn't working.
- We know that it's fragmented.
- It's uncoordinated.
- Doesn't respond quickly when needed most by family members, friends and fellow community members.
- Also know we can do better.
- Can have a seamless system of care in this province...
- ...Ask for help once, get help fast.
- That's why established new ministry.
- That goal is what motivates me every day.
- Truly believe it's something we can build together.
- Mental health issues touch all of us – directly or through people we know and love.

- Experienced it in my family, and through my constituents and the stories they've shared with me.
- *[Minister to provide story or personal experience]*
- Too often, people who seek help, instead come away feeling incredibly frustrated.
- Too often, people are afraid or unwilling to even ask for help, because of the stigma others attach to mental health.
- It's time to change that.
- We can – we must, eliminate stigma.
- For far too long stigma attached to people who need love and care...not judgment.
- Time to open the door on a better way of doing things for people who need treatment and support.
- Pathways to hope.
- With help of organizations such as yours, and the individual commitment of each of you – we will succeed.
- Thank you again for inviting me to join you.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

Judy Darcy

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

**Overdose Data and First Nations in B.C.
Preliminary Findings**

Totem Room
Bill Reid Gallery
639 Hornby St.
Vancouver, BC

Thursday, August 3, 2017
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m. (arrival time)
9:49 a.m. (speech)

Event Profile:

Event to release preliminary findings on overdose data and First Nations peoples in B.C. to media and general public.

Audience:

The audience will include approximately 50-70 guests including representatives from:

- Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- First Nations Health Authority
- Office of the Provincial Health Officer
- Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
- BC Coroners
- Regional Health Authority Partners
- Urban Indigenous Organizations
- Media

What does the audience want to hear?

Minister Darcy will offer a government perspective on the overdose crisis and government priorities for helping First Nations communities.

Will anyone from the ministry be in attendance?

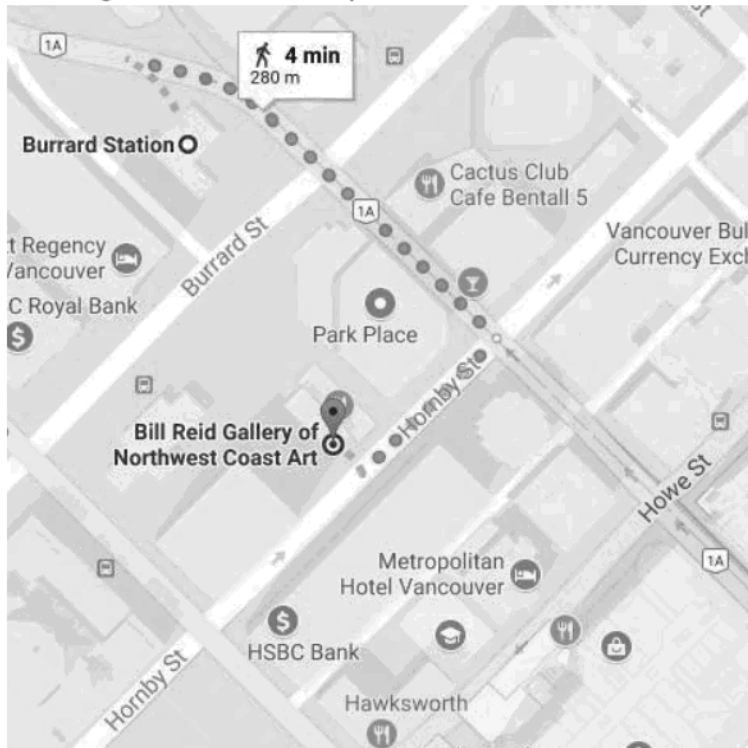
- Doug Hughes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Event Details:

- The event is located in the Bill Reid Gallery in Vancouver. GCPE Events coordinator Elena Banfield will be on site to greet Dr. Kendall and Minister Darcy on arrival and escort speakers to a briefing room upstairs in the gallery. The door will be marked.
- Speakers will be positioned in front of the totem pole in the Totem Room, and will have a podium with microphone. A screen will be placed to the left of the speakers for use for those using a power point. Speakers will be sitting to the right of the podium (space permitting) when not at the podium and will gather for a photo-op following the event.
- Minister Darcy will be taking the SkyTrain. Burrard Station is a four-minute walk up Dunsmuir St. Take a right on Hornby St. to get to the gallery (see map below).

Paid Parking:

- Paid parking is also available underground beneath the gallery (access is off Hornby St.) Parking rates are \$3.75 per half hour between 9-7 a.m., for a daily maximum of \$24.



Media Portion

GCPE director of media relations Stephanie Sherlock will be facilitating media questions following the event and monitoring the call-in line.

Media who cannot attend the event are able to call in at ^{s.15,s.17} , Passcode: ^{s.15,s.17}

Event Contact:

Elena Banfield

GCPE Events

cell: (250) 415-0185

email: Elena.Banfield@leg.bc.ca

Trevor Kehoe

Communications Lead, Media Relations and Publishing

First Nations Health Authority

cell: (604) 831-4898

email: Trevor.kehoe@fnha.ca

Key Messages:

- The overdose crisis has devastating impacts on people from all walks of life, everywhere in province, and close-knit First Nations communities have been profoundly affected.
- My first priority is to take urgent action to combat the fentanyl crisis and save lives – and better supporting First Nations will be a specific focus as we move forward.
- We will work together with First Nations across the health system to identify actions that will have the greatest impact so people in First Nations communities get the support they need to combat this devastating crisis.
- Our goal is to ensure that when someone asks for help once, they get help fast.

PARTICIPANTS

**Leah George Wilson –
MC**



Leah is a member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN), located in North Vancouver. Leah was the first woman elected Chief for the TWN and served for 3 terms. She holds a degree in Anthropology from Simon Fraser University and is currently attending Law School at University of British Columbia. She is on leave from her position as the Director of Treaty, Lands and Resources for the TWN, a position she has held since 2001.

Leah also is serving her fourth term as the elected co-Chair for the First Nations Summit, and is a board member for the TWN Olympic Legacy Trust as well as the Lands Advisory Board. s.22
s.22

**Grand Chief Doug Kelly
– First Nations Health
Council Chair**



Grand Chief Doug Kelly was appointed Chair of the First Nations Health Council in June 2010. The First Nations Health Council is responsible for overseeing the design of and transition to a new First Nations health governance structure as well as overseeing the delivery of health action items identified in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan.

Grand Chief Doug Kelly has more than twenty-five years of leadership experience including four terms as Chief of Soowahlie, eight years as Tribal Chief & officer for the Stó:lō Tribal Council, and key leadership positions with the First Nations Summit Political Executive.

**Dr. Perry Kendall –
Provincial Health
Officer**



Dr. Perry Kendall completed his undergraduate medical training at University College Hospital Medical School in 1968 and interned at the Seaman's Hospital in Greenwich, before spending a year as Senior House Officer at the University Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. In May 3, 1999 Dr. Kendall assumed the position of Provincial Health Officer for the province of British Columbia.

In June 2005 Dr. Kendall was awarded the Order of British Columbia for his contributions to Public Health practice and to harm reduction policy and practice in BC. s.22
s.22

Dr. Shannon McDonald –
Deputy Chief Medical
Officer, First Nations
Health Authority (FHNA)



Prior to joining the FNHA, Dr. McDonald served for five years as Executive Director of the Aboriginal Health Directorate, BC Ministry of Health.

Dr. McDonald completed her medical training at the University of Manitoba in 1998, and went on to do post-graduate training in psychiatry and in community health sciences.^{s.22}

**Lisa Lapointe – Chief
Coroner, B.C.**



Lisa was appointed Chief Coroner in February 2011. In that role, she oversees the independent investigations of close to 10,000 deaths reported to the Coroners Service annually, including deaths reviewed at inquest and by Coroners Service Death Review Panels.

A graduate of UBC Law School, Lisa began her public service career in 1995 as a Policy Analyst in the area of Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy. She then joined the Coroners Service where she served as Coroner, Deputy Regional Coroner and Regional Coroner on Vancouver Island before being appointed as BC's Assistant Deputy Chief Coroner in 2003.

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you, Dr. Kendall.
- Thank you Dr. McDonald for the information presented
- Acknowledge important guests
 - Grand Chief Doug Kelly
 - Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation,
Scott Fraser
 - Any other important guests you would like to identify
- Acknowledge traditional territory of Coast Salish people.

OVERDOSE CRISIS

- Most serious public health emergency faced in decades
- More than 1,600 families lost loved ones to overdose since January 2016
- Recognize devastating effects of opioid overdose crisis on people from all walks of life, everywhere in province
- Profound impact on families and communities – losses cause great devastation in closely knit First Nations communities across B.C.
- Deep condolences for loss

- For my first days on the job – priority to speak to people on the frontlines
- Visited Downtown Eastside and Surrey last week
- In coming weeks will visit other areas, including First Nations communities
- Start off listening and learning – people on front lines know best what's working and what more needs to be done
- Taking this listening and learning approach to address disproportionate number of First Nations people affected

RECOGNITION OF DATA AND IMPACTS

- Clear from what we heard today that First Nations require specific focus in our response
- Devastating to see how First Nations people are so disproportionately affected
- Must incorporate a First Nations perspective on health and wellness – begins with the individual, family and community.
- Four broad action areas we will focus on to support First Nations people in this response:

- 1.Prevent people who overdose from dying
 - 2.Keep people safe when using
 - 3.Create an accessible range of treatment options
 - 4.Support people on their healing journey
- I don't have all the answers – I don't walk in the shoes of First Nations people
 - All of us across health system must listen, approach this in partnership – with spirit of shared responsibility
 - Work together with First Nations Health Authority, Ministry of Health, regional health authorities

- Partnership with other sectors also critical – address many social determinants of health (poverty reduction, housing, education)
- Must recognize racism and intergenerational trauma create barriers to access healthcare, and work to eliminate those
- Acknowledge colonization disrupted First Nations health and well-being – through displacement from land, disconnection from culture, family, community, traditions
- Has had lasting loss and trauma

- Gabor Maté: “sources of addiction do not originate in the substances people use, but in the trauma they endured.”

Self-medication through drug use is “an understandable response to a set of unnatural circumstances” – the historical trauma inflicted on First Nations throughout Canadian history

- Government committed to reconciliation – vital part of the healing process
- Explicit part of mandate from the Premier, as it is for all Cabinet colleagues

MINISTRY OF MHA APPROACH

- Stand-alone Ministry gives the area of mental health and addictions the focus and attention it deserves
- What I am hearing is the system overall is fragmented
- Heard about difficulties getting clients into treatment services when ready
- People often wait too long for needed treatment
- Need action to significantly improve system

- Ministry's first priority – take urgent action to combat the fentanyl crisis and save lives
- Will also develop broader strategy to improve overall system of mental health and addictions services
- Partnership with other ministries, community stakeholders, levels of government to develop effective response
- Investments and improvements to mental health and addictions services needed so treatment is accessible and effective

CONCLUSION

- Together, armed with today's newly available information, can identify areas where actions will have greatest impact
- Ultimate goal – to prevent overdose deaths and help people when they are ready to seek help
- Moving forward on this work in spirit of shared responsibility – we all have a role to play
- We don't have all answers
- Committed to listening and learning

- To ensure people get the help they need, must work with partners and stakeholders, First Nations, people on front lines and those with personal experience, provincial ministries and all levels of government
- Together, develop more effective system – focus on prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery
- Goal: ask for help once, and get help fast
- Together, reduce harm and keep people safe