

Page 001 to/à Page 014

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- Thank you. Good morning everyone — and thank you for coming.
- I have the distinct honour of welcoming you here twice.
- First, I'm delighted to welcome you to New Westminster as the city's MLA.  
I'm proud to have the privilege of representing the Recovery Capital of Western Canada in the legislature. (Note New West facilities).
- And more to the point of why we're here, I'm proud to welcome you... as BC's first Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

- The work you'll be doing over the next two days, the conversations you'll be having — they've never been more important.
- I don't have to tell you that we're in the midst of a public health emergency — acute, widespread, epidemic.
- If today holds to this year's pace, four British Columbians will likely lose their lives to an opioid overdose before the day is done. (706 deaths from January to July 2017)
- We don't know who those four people are: whether they're young or old, whether they're living on the streets or earning a middle-class salary.

- We don't know when they'll die, or where — it could be anywhere in our province.
- We know a few things, though. We know they'll probably be alone.
- We know they'll probably be men, mainly aged 30-59.
- We know one in 10 will be indigenous. That means indigenous people are dying at 3 times the rate of the general population.
- And we know something else: that these deaths can be avoidable. Because there is nothing, *nothing* inevitable about an overdose death.
- Addressing those deaths is my immediate, most urgent priority.



- I'm leading the first ministry of its kind in Canada, possibly in North America.
- When BC's new government came into office, Premier Horgan created this ministry for one simple reason. He wanted someone who would wake up every morning focused on addressing mental health and addictions, and nothing else.
- That's exactly what I do. And like you, I go to sleep thinking about it and wake up at night thinking about it.
- I was honoured to take on this role, but I wish I could have started years ago. Because the opioid crisis didn't just dawn on BC one morning. It's been building for years.

- And for the past sixteen years, the province has neglected both mental health and addictions — not to mention the social factors that have such a huge impact.
- BC's first responders, health providers, recovery clinicians, researchers, activists, staff and volunteers — you and people like you have been there when your provincial government hasn't, in communities across BC.
- As tough as this crisis is today... things would be so much worse without your dedication and skill.
- I want to salute your work, on behalf of the government and the people of British Columbia. Thank you for everything you've done.

- This morning, I want to tell you about what BC's new government is doing, and how we want to work with you.
- My job is to hit the ground running. To make the most of the work you've done, the work others have done; to listen to your experience and insight. And to act.
- Acting to save lives now, and acting at the same time to build lasting, durable solutions for the long term.
- It's pretty much like building a jumbo jet in mid-flight.
- The urgency and scope of this emergency mean there's no time to waste on turf wars, or communication silos.

- We are taking an all-government approach. I'm chairing the Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health and Addictions.
- We're taking action in four crucial areas.
- One. Saving lives now.
- Two. Ending the stigma around addictions and mental illness.
- Three. Rebuilding our network of mental health and addiction treatment services.
- And four. Addressing the full range of supports and social factors that can keep people from falling prey to addiction in the first place.

- Let's take those one by one. But I want to stress the importance of moving ahead on all four fronts in tandem. Because none of them can succeed without the others.
- I'll start with saving lives, because that's the most urgent part of the job.
- Overdose deaths in BC are up year over year by 88 per cent. Every forecast I've seen suggests we'll lose at least 1,500 people by the end of the year.
- It's happening across BC, affecting families from all walks of life... and hitting First Nations communities hardest of all.

- Saving lives is crucial. And it means meeting people where they are now. There are many paths to hope, and what works for some won't work for others.
- And whether that path means abstinence or harm reduction, sobriety or maintenance, people need to be alive to follow it.
- So we need to dramatically expand access to naloxone — and the number of people who know how and when to administer it. So that when someone does overdose, there's another nearby who can bring them back from the brink.

- And we're going to do everything we can to deliver the message: don't use alone. All the naloxone in the world won't do any good if there's nobody there to see it's needed.
- We also should learn from our own successes. There has never been an overdose death in a BC safe injection site. Never.
- We need to broaden our approach to harm reduction. Adopt innovations that can save lives. And make those innovations available no matter where in BC you live.
- Hand in hand with saving lives, is the second area of action we're undertaking: ending stigma.

- If shame and ostracism could end addiction, this province would be clean and sober many times over. But we know that all they do is increase people's sense of isolation and hopelessness.
- Stigma is why people inject themselves in a room at home, or in locked bathroom stalls, where nobody sees them when they crash. It's why people don't ask for help until it's too late.
- Stigma is why the people closest to addicts often have no idea there's a problem... and why, if they do worry, they don't feel they can ask.
- And stigma keeps the broader community from understanding what's really happening with addiction, what's at stake, and what measures could really make a difference.



- We have to end the idea that addiction represents some defect of character. Both because it hides the fact that any of us could be at risk... and because it separates us from compassion.
- The truth we need to tell is that addiction is a response to profound pain or trauma, physical or emotional. Shame serves only to compound it.
- And for some communities, that pain runs deep indeed. The First Nations of British Columbia are grappling with an intergenerational trauma: the legacy of colonialism and residential schools.

(Stories I heard yesterday)

- It's time to transform the way British Columbians see addiction — from health professionals to media commentators to our friends and neighbours. It's time they stopped seeing it as a moral failing, and start seeing it as an illness or injury like any other.
- And that brings me to the third area of action: building a solid network of services for people dealing with mental illness or addiction.
- If I was to fall off this stage right now and break a leg — don't worry, that's not going to happen — if I was to break my leg, I'd get care immediately.
- An ambulance if I needed one.
- Triage by an ER nurse.
- Assessment by a doctor.
- Treatment by an orthopedic surgeon.
- Physiotherapy. Assistive devices.
- Not to mention sympathy – instead of stigma.

- But nothing remotely like that happens for someone who wants help dealing with an addiction. Chances are they don't even know where to start.
- Our new government is acknowledging a hard truth. The system BC has for dealing with mental illness and addiction is fundamentally broken.
- It's not for lack of good will, dedication, or professional skill. It's fragmented and it has huge gaps. There's a lack of early intervention, prevention, coordination, communication and follow-up.
- What we have, effectively, is two-tier care. Everything we warn about around the American health care system is on full display when it comes to how we deal with addiction.
- That has to change.

- This fall, I'll be working with my colleagues to develop a comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. Working with the Ministry of Health, Children and Family Development, Education, Housing, community service agencies, local governments, with the federal government and with First Nations.
- And of course we'll be relying heavily on the knowledge and experience of frontline workers, patients, researchers and people with lived experience. Identifying needs, setting priorities, structuring solutions.

- What British Columbians need — what British Columbians deserve — is a seamless network of services... where if you ask for help once, you get help fast. That's the goal. You get help right away. You get the follow-up you need. You get help not just with the physical issues of addiction, but with the pain underlying it. Where there's a full continuum of care.
- And where we have the tools and information we need to make the early interventions that can keep the risk of substance use from becoming a life-threatening addiction.
- I'm the first to admit that's an ambitious goal. But only once we have that network — only once those services are in place — can we truly say we have a comprehensive health care system in British Columbia.

- But we know too that addiction has a powerful social dimension as well as a medical and psychological one. And that raises the fourth area where we're taking action: ensuring our strategy includes the social and economic supports people dealing with addiction and mental illness need.
- Hence an all-government approach. Because it really does take the full spectrum of action to make a lasting difference.
- Starting with housing. Time and again, I hear from researchers, front-line workers, health providers, people with addictions themselves. They stress the critical importance of housing.
- And how whether that means supportive housing or just an affordable apartment somewhere... having a safe, secure, stable place to live is the foundation for everything else in rebuilding a life.

- Recognizing the connections between addressing addiction... and addressing poverty, and employment opportunities, and community services, and the justice system... recognizing the indispensable role of reconciliation with First Nations... these are all crucial to our approach.
  
- We've moved on many of these areas already:
  - Increasing the minimum wage.
  - Waiving post-secondary tuition for young people who have aged out of care.
  - Restoring adult basic education and English Language Learners.
  - Increasing income assistance and disability rates and more.
  - We're working on a homes and homelessness strategy.
  - You can expect to see that continue — and you'll see it integrated into our strategy.
  
- And all of these are about creating pathways to hope.

- And at every stage — preventing overdose deaths, reducing stigma, creating a seamless network of services, and addressing social factors — you can expect something else.
- And that's very aggressive listening on our part.
- We know we can't let the urgency and magnitude of the crisis stampede us. Getting this right is paramount. And it demands that our government adopt something we haven't had for a number of years: some humility. A willingness to listen and learn.
- And cultural humility – as we listen and learn from the experience of indigenous people.



- So I'm learning all I can from communities across BC, from jurisdictions throughout Canada and North America, and from countries around the world.
- I'm looking forward to hearing from Dr. Goulão in a few minutes the way 12-year-olds are looking forward to the next Star Wars movie.
- From the day I started, I've been listening to people with front-line expertise.
- I've been listening to those most affected. People who are living with addictions, and their families.

- I've talked about the need to save lives. I know it's important from a public policy standpoint, from a public health standpoint... but I also know it's important for the Victoria parents I spoke to last week about their daughter who was sexually assaulted when she was 13.
- She's been addicted to street drugs since she was 17 and they said to me 'We spend every day just trying to keep her alive'. They also told me there are no treatment beds for young women in Victoria.
- I've talked about the need for a seamless network of care. I know it's important for the province, but it's also important for Kyle (details).

- I've talked about the need to erase the stigma of addiction. I know it's important for the work we all do, but I also know the difference it would have made for me growing up... and for my mother, who struggled with mental illness and addiction all her life.
- She was in and out of institutions. And we, her children, had to lie about where she was and what she was being treated for. We had to lie about her pain and ours, again and again, terrified of what would happen if people found out. Knowing if word got out in our small Ontario town, we'd carry the stigma as much as she would.
- So this is very close to the surface to me. And very little time goes by in a day without my thinking about what's next — how we can do more — how we can do better. Just like you.

- And just like you, I'm haunted by the knowledge that time is not on our side — and what that means in human lives.
- Here's what I keep coming back to.
- When I say an "all-government approach," when I say "all hands on deck," I'm talking about the full attention of government. But I'm talking about something much bigger.
- This crisis is affecting our whole province, and it demands nothing less than our whole province to address it.
- Nobody, not one person, is off the hook. Everybody has something to contribute and that's why we are going to go out and actively bring partners into the solution.

- And you in particular.
- You have such rich knowledge and experience, and such passion and commitment. Please keep speaking out. Please keep sharing your insight and experience.
- And please, continue to do the work you do.
- I want you to know you have a ready and willing partner in this government.
- We are all in this together. Saving lives. Bringing people in from the shadows. Easing the pain and building pathways to hope.
- Thank you.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**Judy Darcy**

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

## **Official Opening of Foundry North Shore**

Foundry North Shore  
211 West 1st St.  
North Vancouver

Friday, September 22, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**9:40 a.m. (arrival time)**

**11:00 a.m. (event ends)**

**10:11 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (speech)**

### **Event Profile:**

- An event celebrating the official opening of Foundry North Shore, a new integrated youth service centre operated in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health.
- A tour of the facility for media will take place (10:48 a.m.) following speeches, ribbon cutting (to be done by Minister Darcy) and photo-op.
- An open house is scheduled at the centre on the same day from 3 - 6 p.m. for community members and stakeholders.
- This event will build community knowledge and excitement for the centre, as well as build engagement and support of potential donors.

### **Background**

Foundry North Shore is one of the five centres announced in June 2016, as part of a provincial network of easily accessible youth service centres for young people (ages 12 -24) hosted by local organizations.

The North Shore centre was first announced on Feb. 9, 2017 and Foundry Kelowna was announced on Dec. 12, 2016.

The Campbell River Foundry site opened in May 2017. Kelowna and Prince George have recently just opened. The Abbotsford centre is expected to open in 2018. The original site is located at Granville Youth Health Centre.

The North Shore centre will bring together 15 different programs and organizations to create an integrated hub offering primary health care, mental health, substance use and social services. The North Shore centre will also offer opioid agonist therapy, starting in mid to late fall. Granville is the only other Foundry site to provide this treatment at this time.

**Note:** Operations funding for another phase of Foundry centres was announced in Feb. 2017, but the locations are still being determined. This round includes the Victoria site, which will become a Foundry site in October - and is not ready to be announced.

### **Audience:**

Media, health-care professionals, families and youth, municipal officials, donors and supporters.

### **What does the audience want to hear?**

How Foundry North Shore will help youth and young adults manage their health, and mental health and substance use concerns.

### **Event Details/Setup:**

- Pre-brief is to take place in the boardroom.
- Event to take place at the Foundry North Shore centre, with a podium, table and microphones for speakers.
- Reserved parking will be marked for Minister Darcy.
- A photographer will be on site, but no videographer.

## **Participants**

- Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Judy Darcy
- Karin Olson, COO Vancouver Coastal Health – emcee
- Stewart Gonzales whose ancestral name is Sempulyan - (pronunciation: Simple-yawn ) of the Squamish Nation (blessing)
- Pamela Liversidge, Director Policy and Partnerships, Foundry Central Office
- Yvana Avram, Youth and Peer Support Worker, Foundry North Shore
- Tanis Evans, Foundry Manager, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Kerrie Watt, Prevention Educator, Vancouver Coastal Health

## **Event Contact:**

Carrie Stefanson  
Public Affairs Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
cell: 604-312-1148  
email: [Carrie.Stefanson@vch.ca](mailto:Carrie.Stefanson@vch.ca)



Time	Itinerary
9:40 a.m.	Pre-brief in board room led by Carrie Stefanson, Public Affairs Officer Vancouver Coastal Health. 604-312-1148. Joining the pre-brief are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Judy Darcy</li> <li>• Karin Olson, COO, Vancouver Coastal Health</li> <li>• Stewart Gonzales whose ancestral name is Sempulyan - (pronunciation :Simple-yawn ) of the Squamish Nation (blessing)</li> <li>• Pamela Liversidge, Director Policy and Partnerships, Foundry Central</li> <li>• Yvana Avram, Youth and Peer Support Worker, Foundry North Shore</li> <li>• Tanis Evans, Foundry Manager, Vancouver Coastal Health</li> <li>• Kerrie Watt, Prevention Educator, Vancouver Coastal Health</li> </ul>
10:00 a.m.	Event begins - Karin Olson welcomes guests, introduces speakers, and asks Indigenous blessers to give traditional greeting and acknowledgement
10:05 a.m.	Traditional greeting and acknowledgement
10:10 a.m.	MC thanks Sempulyan and asks Minister Darcy to speak
10:11 a.m.	Minister Darcy speaks
10:15 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Darcy and asks Pamela Liversidge to speak on behalf of Foundry
10:16 a.m.	Pamela Liversidge speaks on behalf of Foundry
10:20 a.m.	MC thanks Pamela Liversidge and introduces Tanis Evans to speak on behalf of Foundry North Shore
10:21 a.m.	Tanis Evans speaks
10:24 a.m.	MC thanks Tanis Evans and introduces Yvana, but before Yvana speaks, we hear a little bit of her story
10:25 a.m.	Video plays
10:28 a.m.	Yvana Avram speaks
10:32 a.m.	MC thanks Yvana and opens up for media questions before ribbon cutting
10:37 a.m.	MC thanks speakers and guests for coming and invites Minister and all partners to join for the ribbon cutting and photo op (Clive Camm photographer)
10:40 a.m.	All parties gather and Minister Darcy cuts the ribbon
10:50 a.m.	Minister Darcy and media tour Foundry. Tour led by Tanis Evans (refreshments for other guests in youth lounge)
11:00 a.m.	Media event ends
11:05 a.m.	Additional tours led by Foundry

## **Key Messages**

- **The opening of Foundry North Shore is a beacon of hope for our young people.**
- **If we can address mental health and addiction issues earlier on in life, we can save lives.**
- **As someone who has witnessed the ravages of mental illness and addiction in my own family, I know that bringing all these services under one roof will help young people get the help they need, when they need it – no matter what brings them through the door.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

- **[Acknowledge First Nations greeting and blessing given by Karin]**
- I too would also like to acknowledge that we are gathering today on the traditional territory of Coast Salish people including Tsleil-Waututh **[tslay-wah-tooth]**, Squamish, and Musqueam First Nations.

### **[Acknowledge other MLAs]**

- Bowinn Ma, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale
- Jane Thornwaite, MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour
- It's an honour to be here today, with all of you, for this exciting celebration.

## **FOUNDRY**

- There are many young people across our province who are struggling today.
- Foundry centres offer them a beacon of hope.
- The care and support that youth receive at the Foundry centres can be life-changing.
- The four centres that are open now are making a tremendous difference in the lives of many youth.
- We need more of them.
- They are a critical part of the work our new government has embarked on to build a more seamless, coordinated system of mental health and addictions care in B.C.
- The Foundry approach is like our government's approach – whole person, whole government.

## **OVERDOSE CRISIS**

- This work to fix what has been a broken system has a pressing sense of urgency.
- Four people are dying every day in the overdose crisis – we are living through the worst public health emergency in decades.
- That’s why our government has committed \$322 million in new funding over three years for harm reduction to save lives, for access to treatment, youth services and First Nations.
- This includes increased funding for the Foundry sites, like the one we are at today, so that they can serve more youth faster.
- Because we know it’s critical to support youth upstream – before they have reached the crisis point.
- We need to invest in prevention, and intervene early when a young person is struggling.
- And we need to tackle the conditions that have such a huge impact on health – like housing, poverty and education.
- That is why the Foundry sites are so important.
- They provide supports in all those areas, all in one place, to wrap around each youth in a “whole-person” way.

## **NEED FOR ACTION**

- In B.C. at any given time, as many as 84,000 children and youth are experiencing a mental health issue.
- We know that almost 70 per cent of serious mental health issues emerge before the age of 25...
- And that mental health and addiction often go hand in hand.
- We also know that stigma around mental illness and addiction gets in the way of young people reaching out for help.
- And that early intervention is critical.
- Yet families across the province are struggling, and cannot get access to the services needed to help their children.
- Parents have told me they don't know where to go, or that there *is* nowhere to go for the help they need...
- That we have a patchwork system with huge gaps in care and lack of coordination between different service providers...
- That we have to break down all these silos.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

- The Foundry model does just that.
- Today, I'm thrilled to announce, and celebrate, the official opening of Foundry North Shore.
- This new Foundry centre brings health care, mental health and addictions care and social services under one roof – making it *easy* to get help.
- Youth and families can access these services without an appointment – making it *fast* to get help.
- I acknowledge MLA Thornthwaite for her advocacy in establishing this Foundry centre in the North Shore – I know she has been instrumental in helping us get to today.
- I also want to thank Foundry for the life-changing work you are doing to support youth and their families.

## STORY

- In my new role as B.C.'s first Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, I have had the honour of talking with many people working on the front lines and families dealing with addiction and mental health issues.
- A couple of weeks ago I visited the Granville Youth Centre – which all the other Foundry centres are modeled after.
- I was really impressed with what I saw there.
- I met Matt there. He is a <sup>s.22</sup> who has his life back now because of the support from the amazing team at the Granville youth centre.
- Back in 2009, at the age of <sup>s.22</sup> he was living in aSRO, in the grips of addiction.
- Dr. Steve Mathias, who has been a driving force behind the Foundry centres, helped support him back to wellness.
- Matt got medication treatment for his addiction, and therapy, and a range of other supports that put him back on track.
- He has since gone back to school, and is now in college...
- And he is giving back through his work as a <sup>s.22</sup> <sup>s.22</sup> to help other youth who are struggling like he was.



## **PEER SUPPORT**

- Everywhere I have been in the last eight weeks, I have seen the value of people providing peer support.
- With youth, peer support is even more critical – and it is an important element of the Foundry model.
- Youth peers know first-hand the struggles facing those who look to Foundry for help – as they have lived them too.
- They show that it's possible to turn your life around.
- We're also going to have the opportunity to hear from Yvana this morning – a courageous young woman who sought help for her mental illness and is now giving back <sup>s.22</sup>

s.22

## **THANK YOU'S**

- I'd like to acknowledge and thank all the partners and donors here today who came together to bring this project to life:
  - Vancouver Coastal Health
  - Providence Health Care
  - Graham Boeckh [Beck] Foundation,
  - InnerChange Foundation,
  - Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research; and
  - Donors to St. Paul's Foundation

## **CONCLUSION**

- Young people struggling with mental illness or addiction are looking for a safe path – a barrier-free, judgement-free, and accepting place to find the help and guidance they need.
- As someone who has witnessed the ravages of mental illness and addiction in my own family, I know that bringing all the services offered at Foundry under one roof will help people get the help they need when they need it – no matter what brings them through the door.
- The new Foundry North Shore will help them get back on a path to wellness.
- I thank each and every one of you here today for the invaluable work you do to support youth who face challenges in their lives.
- Together, we will ensure our youth have the tools and resources they need thrive, and live happy, healthy lives.
- Thank you.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**Judy Darcy**

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

## **PROVINCIAL CABINET TOWN HALL: HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Room 8/15  
Vancouver Conference Centre  
1055 Canada Place, Vancouver

Wednesday, September 27, 2017  
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Event Profile:**

Four Cabinet Town Halls are held concurrently on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 3:00–4:15 pm. The format is:

- A UBCM Executive member will chair/introduce the group.
- The Chair will introduce each Minister, who will speak for two minutes with a very brief welcome message.
- Following the Chair's introductions of each Minister, there will be a question and answer / discussion session with delegates. The ministers' roles are listening, answering questions and stimulating dialogue.
- The Chair will facilitate, conclude the session at the appointed time and thank the Cabinet Ministers.

Participants in the Health and Safety town hall are:

- Honourable David Eby, Attorney General
- Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
- Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Honourable Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services

**Audience:**

Municipal and government officials.

**What does the audience want to hear?**

How the mental health and addictions system can better contribute to health and safety in communities.

**Will anyone from the ministry be in attendance?**

Sarah Plank, Communications Director, 250.208.9621.

**Event Details:**

TBC

**Event Contact:**

TBC

**Key Messages:**

- **We are acting to save lives now, and acting at the same time to build lasting, durable solutions for the long term.**
- **I look forward to working together with you across the province as we start building the foundation for a mental health and addictions system where people can ask for help once, and get help fast.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Thank you. It's a real honour to be here today.
- I have been appointed this province's first Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.
- As Premier Horgan has said, the reason for creating this ministry is so there is someone in government who wakes up every morning focused on addressing mental health and addictions and nothing else.

## **BIG PICTURE**

- I don't have to tell you that we're in the midst of the worst public health emergency in decades.
- Before this day is done it's likely that four British Columbians will die as a result of an overdose.
- Preventing these deaths is my immediate, most urgent priority.

- Our government has committed \$322 million over the next three years to do that, and to start to build a better system for mental health and addictions.
- We are acting to save lives now, and acting at the same time to build lasting, durable solutions for the long term.
- We're taking action in four crucial areas:
- One. Saving lives now.
- Two. Ending the stigma around addictions and mental illness.
- Three. Building a seamless, coordinated system of care for mental health and addictions.
- And four. Addressing the full range of supports and social factors that can keep people from developing addiction in the first place.
- To do this we are taking an all-of-government approach – where we work together with other Ministries on the **social** factors that play such a huge role in this crisis: Stigma. Housing. Poverty.



Intergenerational trauma in First Nations families resulting from a history of racism and colonization and residential schools.

- Any by an all government approach we also mean working in very close partnership with local governments who have a critical role to play in taking on this challenge.
- We are also taking a “Whole Province” approach to the overdose emergency.
- That means calling on everyone to step up to the plate. Whether that’s sports teams, business, labour, education institutions, faith groups, community leaders...we need all hands on deck.

## **CONCLUSION**

- I am looking forward to our discussion today, to hear your perspectives.
- It will take a whole community, a whole province, a whole nation to address this enormous task ahead of us.
- I look forward to working together with you across the province as we take the first steps toward building a system where people can ask for help once, and get help fast. Thank you very much.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**Judy Darcy**

Mental Health & Addictions Minister

**Concluding Remarks:**

**New Approaches to the Overdose Crisis**

Vancouver Convention Centre East  
999 Canada Pl  
Vancouver, BC  
Room – TBC at Centre

Tuesday, September 26  
3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

**Event Profile:**

Four representatives from Provincial Health Services Authority will present:

- Dr. Jane Buxton, epidemiologist, BC Centre for Disease Control – on the epidemiology of the public health emergency and the Take Home Naloxone Program
- Linda Lupini, executive vice-president, BC Emergency Health Services – on emergency paramedic response to the crisis
- Lynn Pelletier, vice-president, Mental Health and Substance Use – on treatment resources and approaches for addiction
- Dr. Mark Tyndall, executive medical director, BC Centre for Disease Control – overview of recommendation from the second Overdose Action Exchange, which took place in June 2017

This will be followed by a panel discussion with attendees, and concluding remarks from Minister Judy Darcy.

The schedule for the session is:

3:15-3:20	Introduction (Dr. Mark Tyndall)
3:20-3:35	Overall epidemiology and naloxone program (Jane Buxton)
3:35-3:45	EHS statistics and challenges (Linda Lupini)
3:45-3:55	Treatment system and challenges (Lynn Pelletier)
3:55-4:15	Report recommendations from the overdose exchange (Dr. Mark Tyndall)
4:15-4:40	Panel (everyone)
4:40-4:45	Wrap-up remarks (Minister Judy Darcy)

**Audience:**

Municipal and government officials.

**What does the audience want to hear?**

How the government is tackling the overdose crisis.

**Will anyone from the ministry be in attendance?**

Sarah Plank, Communications Director, 250.208.9621.

**Event Details:**

TBC

**Event Contact:**

TBC

## **Key Messages**

- **Cities across the province are grappling with the effects of this crisis, and I know local governments share our sense of urgency to end it.**
- **Tackling the overdose crisis will take a whole province, and municipalities are key partners in this.**

## **Introduction**

- Thank you Jane, Linda, Lynn and Mark for that overview of the public health emergency, and strategies being taken to save lives.
- I'm pleased to be here today, and to participate in the discussion.
- I was appointed two months ago as B.C.'s first Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, leading the first ministry of its kind in Canada – possibly North America.
- Addressing the overdose crisis is my most immediate, urgent priority.
- And I know each of you here today shares that sense of urgency.
- I have started off by listening – to people on the front lines, families struggling with addiction, researchers and addictions experts, community agencies, First Nations and city councils.
- I met Don,<sup>s.22</sup> who became addicted to painkillers after an injury on the job.
  - He ended up on the streets and was in and out of hospital for years.
  - He is now on medication for his addiction, and his life is back on track.

- I have visited many overdose prevention and supervised consumption sites – and witnessed first-hand how they save lives.
- I have talked to ordinary people who themselves have helped save lives after getting trained in naloxone and carrying a kit.
- I have heard countless stories of lives saved and lives regained because people were met with compassion and support.
- But I too have heard the stories from families whose child, or brother, or friend didn't get the support they needed, or were too ashamed to ask for help – who became one of 1,600 people to die of an overdose since the public health emergency was declared.
- These stories motivate me to find new ways to mobilize across the province to solve this crisis – with partners at every level of government and across sectors.

## **Reflection on presentations**

- What struck me most about what we have heard this afternoon is: the importance of...

[MINISTER TO SHARE KEY TAKE-AWAYS. Possible examples:

**Innovation** – the need try new approaches

**Being nimble** – introducing new services quickly when an opportunity or risk is identified, or changing our approach if the situation changes

**Harm reduction** – hundreds more lives would have been lost without huge expansion of naloxone and overdose prevention sites

**Role of stigma** – keeps people in the shadows, using alone, prevents them from reaching out for help

**Network of treatment services** – access to appropriate services when people are ready to begin a path to recovery

\* *End with* – the need for **partnerships & collaboration** – all of these actions have involved many partners working together.]

## **Municipal Acknowledgement**

- It will take all of us – a whole province, and all levels of government – to solve this.
- Cities and towns across B.C. are on the frontlines of this crisis, grappling with its overwhelming impacts.
- Local governments play an important role as partners in the response.
- I want to thank you for all you've done, and continue to do, at the local level....
  - For the dedication of your first responders...
  - For your role in getting more services in place.
- It's important to recognize that municipal government can have a critical influence on the efforts to combat this crisis.
- Zoning and bylaws can affect whether health authorities can establish harm reduction services and supportive housing.
- We have all seen how fears from residents and businesses can defeat these kinds of services.



- I am acutely aware of the strong political pressures some of you face from community concerns about them.
- This can be an enormous hurdle.
- At the same time, you are also well-positioned to inform and educate the people who live in your communities...
- To help build understanding of how critical harm reduction and recovery services are to helping people onto a path of wellness.
- The reality is, a person has to be alive to be able to move into recovery.
- And that is why harm reduction sites are so needed.
- After more than 300,000 visits, not one person has died at an overdose prevention site.
- They have reversed 1,600 overdoses since December alone.
- What I have heard from people on the front lines is that recovery starts with connection, that first connection – which is often at a harm reduction site.
- From connection, they build trust.

- And then those on the front lines have a chance build pathways to other services – so that people can get healthy and well.
- There is urgent work to be done to save lives immediately, but we can't lose sight of the longer-term supports also needed along that path to wellness.
- Services like supportive housing and treatment facilities are vitally important to addressing the crisis.
- And again, municipal partners play a big role in making those a reality, through zoning and other approvals.
- Tackling this crisis will truly take a whole-province approach.
- I urge each of you to reflect on what else you can do, immediately and as future opportunities arise.

**Government action**

- Despite the enormous amount of work and progress across the system, we are still losing four people every day.
- We need to escalate our response.
- Our government recognizes the urgency, and has committed \$322 million over the next three years to take focused action.
- The scope of the crisis demands a comprehensive approach.
- We will...
  - Keep increasing harm reduction measures like naloxone and overdose prevention sites, and addiction treatment medications like Suboxone and hydromorphone.
  - Find new ways to deliver the message “don't use alone” and to counter stigma.
  - Add supports for youth, and First Nations.
  - Take the first steps to building a solid network of services for people dealing with mental health and addictions....
  - Including funding for specialized substance use centres, and more residential treatment beds and outpatient services.

- We will also give people on the front lines emotional and psychological supports...
- And boost enforcement resources to stem the flow of dangerous drugs like fentanyl and carfentanil into our communities.
- We are finalizing the specifics of our action plan, and will share more details over the coming days and weeks.
- And along with this urgent work, we are also starting the work to establish a more effective mental health and addictions system...
- Putting the building blocks in place for a system where you can ask for help once, and get help fast.

## **Conclusion**

- I thank you for doing what you can do in each of your positions to tackle this.
- I also want to thank today's presenters, and acknowledge the outstanding work that they and their organizations are doing.
- They have helped to remind us that we are in this together.
- Saving lives.
- Bringing people in from the shadows.
- Easing the pain, and building pathways to hope.
- Thank you.

- Thank you. Good morning everyone — and thank you for coming.

Qayqayt First Nation - driving village on banks  
of Fraser

- I have the distinct honour of welcoming you here twice.

- First, I'm delighted to welcome you to New Westminster as the city's MLA.

I'm proud to have the privilege of representing the Recovery Capital of

Western Canada in the legislature. (~~Note New West facilities~~).

pay tribute - last door - Mayor + Council  
- Westminster House

- And ~~more to the point of why we're here~~ <sup>also very</sup>, I'm proud to welcome you... as

BC's first Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Thrilled 1st major speech as  
Min here at Recov. Conf in NW

Stan

- The work you'll be doing over the next two days, the conversations you'll be having — they've never been more important.

- I don't have to tell you that we're in the midst of a public health emergency — ~~But~~ acute, widespread, epidemic.

• ~~If the numbers~~ today holds to this year's pace,

- ~~If today holds to this year's pace~~, four British Columbians will likely lose

their lives to an opioid overdose before the day is done. ~~(706 deaths from~~

~~January to July 2017)~~

- We don't know who those four people are: whether they're young or old, whether they're living on the streets or earning a middle-class salary.

They could be occasional drug users  
or people with long ~~term~~ addictions.

Could be an injured worker who began  
with prescription pain killers,  
became addicted, was cut off &  
turned to street drugs.

- We don't know when they'll die, or where — it could be anywhere in our province.
- We know a few things, though. We know they'll probably ~~be~~ <sup>die</sup> alone.
- We know they'll probably be men, mainly aged 30-59.
- We know one in 10 will be indigenous. That means indigenous people are dying at 3 times the rate of the general population.
- And we know something else: that these deaths ~~can be~~ <sup>are</sup> avoidable. Because there is nothing, nothing inevitable about an overdose death.
- Addressing those deaths is my immediate, most urgent priority.



- I'm leading the first ministry of its kind in Canada, possibly in North America.
- When BC's new government came into office, Premier Horgan created this ministry for one simple reason. He wanted someone who would wake up every morning focused on addressing mental health and addictions, and nothing else.
- That's exactly what I do. And like ~~you~~ *so many of you, I also* go to sleep thinking about it and wake up at night thinking about it.
- I was honoured to take on this role, but I wish I could have started years ago. Because the opioid crisis didn't just dawn on BC one morning. It's been building for years.

- ~~to say it~~
- And for the past sixteen years, the province has neglected both mental health and addictions — not to mention the social factors that have such a huge impact.

- BC's first responders, health providers, ~~recovery~~ <sup>recovery workers,</sup> clinicians, researchers, ~~peer support workers~~ <sup>peer support workers</sup>, activists, staff and volunteers — you and people like you have been there when your provincial government hasn't, in communities across BC.

- ~~opioid~~
- As tough as this crisis is today... things would be so much worse without your dedication and skill.

- I ~~want to salute your work~~ <sup>I want to salute your heroic work.</sup> on behalf of the government and the people of British Columbia, ~~Thank you for everything you've done.~~

Thank you so much for everything  
you've done.

- This morning, I want to tell you about what BC's new government is doing, and how we want to work with you.
- My job is to hit the ground running. To make the most of the work you've done, the work others have done; to listen to your experience and insight. And to act.
- Acting to save lives now, and acting at the same time to build lasting, durable solutions for the long term.
- It's pretty much like building a jumbo jet in mid-flight.
- The urgency and scope of this emergency mean there's no time to waste on turf wars, or communication silos.

- We are taking an all-government approach. I'm chairing <sup>our</sup>~~the~~ Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health and Addictions.

- We're taking action in four crucial areas.

- One. Saving lives now.

- Two. Ending the stigma around addictions and mental illness.

- Three. <sup>Building</sup>~~Rebuilding~~ our network of mental health and addiction treatment services.

- And four. Addressing the full range of supports and social factors that can keep people from falling prey to addiction in the first place.

- ~~Not sure take those one at a time - but I do~~
- ~~Let's take those one by one. But~~ want to stress the importance of moving ahead on all four fronts in tandem. Because none of them can succeed without the others.
  - I'll start with saving lives, because that's the most urgent part of the job.
  - Overdose deaths in BC are up year over year by 88 per cent. Every forecast I've seen suggests we'll lose at least 1,500 people by the end of the year.
  - It's happening across BC, affecting families from all walks of life... and and indigenous people hitting First Nations communities hardest of all.

- Saving lives is crucial. And it means meeting people where they are now.

*pathways*  
There are many ~~paths~~ to hope, and what works for some won't work for others.

- And whether that path means abstinence or harm reduction, sobriety or maintenance, people need to be alive to follow it.

- So we need to dramatically expand access to naloxone — and the number of people who ~~know how and when~~ *are trained* to administer it. So that when someone does overdose, there's ~~another~~ *someone else* nearby who can bring them back from the brink.

- And we're going to do everything we can to deliver the message: don't use alone. All the naloxone in the world won't do any good if there's nobody there to see it's needed.

- We ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> should learn from our own successes. There has never been an overdose death in a BC safe injection site, ~~there~~ or an overdose prevention centre. Not one.
- Harm reduction does work. Whether that's ~~we need to broaden our approach to harm reduction. Adopt innovations~~ <sup>access to suboxone and methadone or the innovative</sup> that can save lives. And make those innovations available no matter where you live. <sup>work of the CrossStreet Clinic in Vancouver, harm</sup> in BC you live. Reduction saves lives - and opens the door to healing and hope. We must make harm reduction available in many more communities <sup>across</sup> across BC.
- Hand in hand with saving lives, is the second area of action we're undertaking: ending stigma.

- If shame and ostracism could end addiction, this province would be clean and sober many times over. But we know that all they do is increase people's sense of isolation and hopelessness.
- Stigma is why people inject themselves in a room at home, or in locked bathroom stalls, where nobody sees them when they crash. It's why people don't ask for help until it's too late.
- Stigma is why the people closest to addicts often have no idea there's a problem... and why, if they do worry, they don't feel they can ask.
- And stigma keeps the broader community from understanding what's really happening with addiction, what's at stake, and what measures could <sup>really</sup> really ~~really~~ make a difference.



- We have to end the idea that addiction represents some defect of character. Both because it hides the fact that any of us could be at risk...

and because it separates us from compassion.

• ADDICTION IS NOT a moral failure. *let me repeat that. Addiction IS NOT a moral failure.*

- The truth we need to tell is that addiction is <sup>most often</sup> a response to ~~profound~~ pain ~~to trauma, to profound emotional pain or acute trauma, physical or emotional. Shame serves only to compound it.~~ *Shame only serves to compound the pain.*

- And for some communities, that pain runs deep indeed. The First Nations of British Columbia are grappling with an intergenerational trauma: the legacy of colonialism and racism and residential schools.

(Stories I heard yesterday)

- FN / Cabinet Leadership Summit
- meeting w. FN leaders across BC
- about suicide epidemics amongst their youth
- homelessness + despair in their communities
- turning to drugs and alcohol to numb their pain.

IT IS TIME

- ~~It's time~~ to transform the way British Columbians see addiction — from health professionals to media commentators to our friends and neighbours. It's time they stopped seeing it as a moral failing, and start seeing it as ~~an illness or injury like any other~~ a chronic illness with a number of <sup>complex</sup> causes.

- And that brings me to the third area of action: building a solid network of services for people dealing with mental illness or addiction.
- If I was to fall off this stage right now and break a leg — don't worry, that's not going to happen — if I was to break my leg, I'd get care immediately.
- An ambulance if I needed one.
- Triage by an ER nurse.
- Assessment by a doctor.
- Treatment by an orthopedic surgeon.
- Physiotherapy. ~~Assistive devices. <sup>Get</sup> Crutches~~, Assistive devices.
- Not to mention sympathy — instead of stigma.

- But nothing remotely like that happens for someone who wants help dealing with an addiction. Chances are they don't even know where to start.

- Our new government is acknowledging a hard truth. The system BC has for dealing with mental illness and addiction is fundamentally broken.

*The system is broken.*

- It's not for lack of good will, dedication, or professional skill. It's fragmented, ~~and~~ it has huge gaps. There's a lack of early intervention, prevention, coordination, communication and follow-up.

*And what we also have*

- ~~What we have~~, effectively, is two-tier care. Everything we warn about

around the American health care system is on full display when it comes to how we deal with addiction.

- ~~That has to change.~~

- And that's wrong.
- That has to change.

~~The~~ Access to care often does depend on the size of your bank account - or whether you have a really good extended health plan.

In the coming months:

- ~~This fall~~, I'll be working with my colleagues to develop a comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. Working with the Ministry of Health, Children and Family Development, Education, Housing, community service agencies, local governments, with the federal government and with First Nations.
- And of course we'll be relying heavily on the knowledge and experience of frontline workers, patients, researchers and people with lived experience.  
Identifying needs, Setting priorities, Structuring solutions.

- What British Columbians need — what British Columbians deserve — is a seamless network of services... where if you ask for help once, you get help fast. That's the goal. You get help right away. You get the follow-up you need. You get help not just with the physical issues of addiction, but with the pain underlying it. Where there's a full continuum of care.
- And where we ~~have the tools and information we need to~~ make the early interventions that can keep the risk of substance use from becoming a life-threatening addiction. *Add that means starting early, with our kids, in our schools.*
- I'm the first to admit that's an ambitious goal. But only once we have that network — only once those services are in place — can we truly say we have a comprehensive health care system in British Columbia.

- But we know ~~too~~ <sup>also</sup> that addiction has a powerful social dimension as well as a medical and psychological one. And that raises the fourth area where we're taking action: ensuring our strategy includes the social and economic supports people dealing with addiction and mental illness need.

② ~~That's why we are taking~~

~~Hence~~ an all-government approach. Because it really does take the full spectrum of action to make a lasting difference.

- Starting with housing. Time and again, I hear from ~~researchers~~ <sup>researchers</sup>, front-line workers, health providers, people with addictions themselves. They stress the critical importance of housing.
- And ~~how~~ whether that means supportive housing or just an affordable apartment somewhere... having a safe, secure, stable place to live is the foundation for everything else in rebuilding a life.

~~Drawing~~

- ~~Recognizing~~ the connections between addressing addiction... and addressing poverty, and educational and employment opportunities, and community services, and the justice system... recognizing the indispensible role of reconciliation with First Nations... these are all crucial to our approach.

• And I am so incredibly proud that our new government has

• ~~We've~~ moved on many of these areas already:

- Increasing the minimum wage.
- Waiving post-secondary tuition for young people who have aged out of care.
- ~~Restoring~~ free tuition for adult basic education and English Language Learners ~~classes~~.
- Increasing income assistance and disability rates ~~and more~~.
- We're working on a homes and homelessness strategy.
- You can expect to see ~~that~~ actions like this continue ~~and you'll see it integrated into our strategy~~ ~~these actions~~.

They are an integral part of our strategy.

All of these actions

• ~~And all of these~~ are about creating pathways to hope.

- And at every stage — preventing overdose deaths, reducing stigma, creating a seamless network of services, and addressing social factors — you can expect something else *from our government*.
- And that's very aggressive listening on our part.
- We know we can't let the urgency and magnitude of the crisis stampede us. Getting this right is paramount. And it demands that our government adopt something we haven't had for a number of years: some humility. A willingness to listen and learn.
- And cultural humility – as we listen and learn from the experience of indigenous people.



- So I'm learning all I can from communities across BC, from jurisdictions throughout Canada and North America, and from countries around the world.

*And I can't tell you how much <sup>just</sup>*

- I'm looking forward to hearing from Dr. Goulão in a few minutes ~~the way~~

~~12-year-olds are looking forward to the next Star Wars movie.~~

*And I salute him for the boldness of his  
this guts vision. We have an awful lot to learn.*

- From the day I started, I've been listening to people with ~~front-line~~ *in this job 6 weeks ago* ~~expertise.~~ *front lines,*

• *listening to people delivering service.*

- ~~I've been~~ *I* listening to those most affected. People who are living with addictions, and their families.

~~I've talked about the need to save lives.~~

- ~~I've talked about the need to save lives. I know it's important from a public policy standpoint, from a public health standpoint... but I also know it's~~  
last week I spoke with a mom and a dad in Victoria;  
~~important for the Victoria parents I spoke to last week~~ about their daughter who was sexually assaulted when she was 13.

- She's been addicted to street drugs since she was 17 and they said to me 'We spend every day just trying to keep her alive'. They also told me there are no treatment beds for young women in Victoria.

- I've talked about the need for a seamless network of care. ~~I know it's important for the province, but it's also important for Kyle (details).~~

Their daughter needs a seamless network of care.

- I've talked about people needing different pathways to hope - and that healing is not about one size fits all.

• Kyle - Crosstown

- Nanaimo - FN grandmother - <sup>teenage</sup> grandson  
- had been a top student - got addicted to street drugs - spiralled downward  
- described how a blanket ceremony, traditional cultural healing with family & community

- I've talked about the need to erase the stigma of addiction. I know it's important for the work we all do, but I also know the difference it would have made for me growing up... and for my mother, who struggled with mental illness and addiction all her ~~life~~ <sup>adult</sup> life.

*"mental hospitals" - that was the polite term. More often "nut house"*

- She was in and out of institutions. And ~~was~~ <sup>and my father</sup> her children, had to lie about where she was and what she was being treated for. We had to lie about her pain and ours, again and again, terrified of what would happen if people found out. Knowing if word got out in our small Ontario town, we'd carry the stigma as much as she would.
- So this is very close to the surface to me. And very little time goes by in a day without ~~my~~ <sup>me</sup> thinking about what's next — how we can do more — how we can do better. Just like you.

- And just like you, I'm haunted by the knowledge that time is not on our side — and what that means in human lives.

- Here's what I keep coming back to.

- When I say an "all-government approach," when I say "all hands on deck," I'm talking about the full attention of government. But I'm talking about something much bigger.

- This crisis is affecting our whole province, and it demands nothing less than our whole province to address it. *We all share this.*

- Nobody, not one person, is off the hook. Everybody has something to contribute and that's why we are going to go out and actively bring partners into the solution.

*First Nations*

*Families. People with lived experience  
Local govt  
Federal govt  
First Nations*

*Schools &  
university  
community agencies, not-for-profits*

*Health care  
~~not-for-profit~~  
Worksafe  
BC*

*The business community  
The labour movement  
Faith communities, Sports & cult. orgs  
~~Families~~  
~~People with lived experience.~~*

• It takes a province.

• ~~And you in particular~~

• And it takes you in particular,

- You have such rich knowledge and experience, and such passion and commitment. Please keep speaking out. Please keep sharing your insight and experience.
- And please, continue to do the work you do.
- I want you to know you have a ready and willing partner in this government.
- We are all in this together. Saving lives. Bringing people in from the shadows. Easing the pain and building pathways to hope.
- Thank you.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**Judy Darcy**

Mental Health & Addictions Minister

## **Recovery Capital Conference of Canada**

Anvil Centre  
777 Columbia Street  
New Westminster, BC V3M 1B6  
Thursday, September 7, 2017  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**8:30 a.m. (arrival time)**  
**9 a.m. (speech)**  
**1 p.m. (media availability)**

**Event Profile:**

Promoting improvement in care for mental health and addiction, the Recovery Capital Conference of Canada will feature leading international researchers, clinicians and policy makers who will provide evidence based clinical knowledge gained through decades of care.

**Audience:**

Mental health and addictions clinicians, researchers and policy makers.

**What does the audience want to hear?**

The new government's commitment to improve mental health and addictions services in B.C.

**Will anyone from the ministry be in attendance?**

Doug Hughes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions  
Keva Glynn, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use

**Event Details:**

- 7:30 - 8 a.m. – Breakfast buffet; VIP seating for Minister Darcy with Dr. João Goulão, Portugal
- 8 a.m. – First Nations Opening Ceremony
- 8:15 a.m. – Welcome from the Conference Advisory Committee
- 8:45 – 9 a.m. - Welcome Address from Mayor Jonathan Cote
- 9 - 9:10 a.m. – Minister Darcy address
- 1 p.m. – Media availability with Minister Darcy and Dr. Goulao (in the Press Room)

**Event Contact:**

Giuseppe Ganci  
Committee Chair for Recovery Day BC and the Recovery Capital Conference of Canada

xxx-xxx-xxxx

[publicrelations@lastdoor.org](mailto:publicrelations@lastdoor.org)

<http://www.recoverycapitalconference.com/>

- Thank you – good morning everyone.
- Honoured to be here – welcome you to Recovery Capital Conference of Canada.
- Commend everyone here for their commitment to making positive changes at the system, community and individual level.
- As you may know, I have unique role in B.C.'s new provincial government.
- When asked to lead newly-created Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, I didn't hesitate.
- Incredibly passionate about issues that so many Canadians face while struggling with mental health and addictions issues.



- Established a Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, with dedicated Minister and staff, solely tasked with taking action to significantly improve our mental health and addictions services – giving this area the focus and attention it needs.
- Watched with heavy heart so many British Columbians taken too soon over the last year and more...
- But in my time as Minister, also met incredible number of people like you...
- ...people who rally to support others and work tirelessly to help, be it on the ground or with innovative research.
- The first responders, health providers, staff and volunteers working on the frontlines are giving their

heart and soul to save lives and help people get back to wellness – for that, I thank them.

- Despite frontline workers' passion and dedication, when it comes to mental health and addictions care in this province, we know this: ...
- ...the current system isn't working.
- We know that it's fragmented.
- It's uncoordinated.
- Break your leg, know where to go for help.
- Not as straightforward for people who need mental health and addictions help.
- Ministry's first priority and focus is to take urgent action to combat overdose crisis and save lives.

- Overdose crisis is most serious public health emergency province has faced in decades.
- More than 1,700 families lost a loved one since January 2016.
- All across B.C.
- Affecting families from all walks of life.
- Families struggling with poverty and homelessness; suburban families; people dealing with physical or emotion pain that led to ongoing addiction, and; people who use. illegal drugs occasionally.
- Also know overdose crisis disproportionately affecting First Nations people of B.C.
- We must do better.

- As new Minister, I don't pretend to have all the answers.
- Role is first to listen and learn – talking to people on the front lines about what's working, what isn't working, and what more we need to do.
- I believe we 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.
- And that will be our work going forward – which we must tackle alongside our response to the overdose crisis.

- Because first, we have to keep people alive in order to support them in moving toward treatment and recovery.
- As you all know, overcoming addictions is a lifelong journey.
- For some, can mean moving into programs that involve abstinence.
- For others, harm reduction and maintenance.
- No one size fits all for treatment and recovery of addiction.
- Over fall, developing comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.
- Based on evidence – what research and experience informs us is effective.

- Working closely with...Ministry of Health...Child and Family Development...community service agencies...local governments...First Nations...education, housing and justice sectors – to build coordinated seamless system so people can get effective treatment early.
- As new Minister, chair Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health and Addictions –ensure working in collaboration across provincial government on this important issue.
- As Minister, this is one of my key roles, to bring all of players to the table – to do best possible job for people suffering from mental health and addictions.
- Addressing gaps in system is a shared responsibility.

- We all have a role to play – as individuals, communities, service providers and government.
- Here in B.C., very pleased linkages now being made between medical and addictions experts, and recovery community.
- Dr. Evan Wood – director, BC Centre on Substance Use – and Marshall Smith – chair, B.C. Recovery Council – partnering to bridge between two sectors.

*[Minister may wish to acknowledge Marshall Smith, one of conference organizers, and Dr. Evan Wood, for collaborative approach to BC Centre on Substance Use work – involving families, people who use drugs, recovery community, as well as clinical experts & researchers]*

- Recovery services provide critical resource in helping people out of addiction.
- Want to make sure they are based on evidence and best practice – so serve clients in best way.
- Important to create opportunities for dialogue – like today – share experiences, best practices, problem-solving strategies.
- Addiction issues touch all of us – directly or through people we know and love.
- Sadly stigma remains rampant, even though see addiction affecting people from all walks of life – all ages, education levels, professions and incomes.
- Addiction can happen to anyone.



- In first weeks as Minister, met many clients of services helping people and heard their stories.
- Don – <sup>s.22</sup> – on-the-job injury – painkillers – turned to street drugs
  - Ended up on streets – in and out of hospital 100 times over four years
- 
- Kyle – addicted at a very young age – stole to buy drugs
  - In and out of jail – now has job, home – going back to school
- Dan – <sup>s.22</sup> – injured on job and head injury – lost job, wife, kids, home

- Now has supportive housing, working as peer support worker, starting to get life back
- Debbie – partner left – got evicted – ended up on street – overdosed many times
  - Now getting healthy and stable, and starting to move toward the path to recovery
- None of them would have chosen to live life of person addicted to drugs.
- Don, Kyle, Dan and Debbie are working to break the cycle of addiction – many more people out there haven't yet started.
- We must work together to eliminate the stigma of addiction.
- Keeps people from reaching out and seeking help.

- More people are dying from overdose at home and alone or in hotels and motels.
- They're not dying at overdose prevention sites and safe injection sites.
- The stigma of addiction is isolating them, because too often, people are afraid or ashamed to even ask for help.
- It's time to change that.
- People who have the courage to acknowledge their struggle need love and care – not judgment.
- It's time to open the door on a better system of care for people with addictions.
- One that is organized, well-coordinated and resourced – and focused on the full spectrum of

services: prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery.

- We can create a better system of care by listening and learning from each other, and by honouring those we have lost in this terrible overdose crisis.
- Thank you again for inviting me to join you, and best wishes on a successful conference.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**Judy Darcy**

Mental Health & Addictions Minister

## **Recovery Capital Conference of Canada**

Anvil Centre  
777 Columbia Street  
New Westminster, BC V3M 1B6  
Thursday, September 7, 2017  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**8:30 a.m. (arrival time)**  
**9 a.m. (speech)**  
**1 p.m. (media availability)**

**Event Profile:**

Promoting improvement in care for mental health and addiction, the Recovery Capital Conference of Canada will feature leading international researchers, clinicians and policy makers who will provide evidence based clinical knowledge gained through decades of care.

**Audience:**

Mental health and addictions clinicians, researchers and policy makers.

**What does the audience want to hear?**

The new government's commitment to improve mental health and addictions services in B.C.

**Will anyone from the ministry be in attendance?**

Doug Hughes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions  
Keva Glynn, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use

**Event Details:**

- 7:30 - 8 a.m. – Breakfast buffet; VIP seating for Minister Darcy with Dr. João Goulão, Portugal
- 8 a.m. – First Nations Opening Ceremony
- 8:15 a.m. – Welcome from the Conference Advisory Committee
- 8:45 – 9 a.m. - Welcome Address from Mayor Jonathan Cote
- 9 - 9:10 a.m. – Minister Darcy address
- 1 p.m. – Media availability with Minister Darcy and Dr. Goulao (in the Press Room)

**Event Contact:**

Giuseppe Ganci  
Committee Chair for Recovery Day BC and the Recovery Capital Conference of Canada

xxx-xxx-xxxx

[publicrelations@lastdoor.org](mailto:publicrelations@lastdoor.org)

<http://www.recoverycapitalconference.com/>

- Thank you – good morning everyone.
- Honoured to be here – welcome you to Recovery Capital Conference of Canada.
- Commend everyone here for their commitment to making positive changes at the system, community and individual level.
- As you may know, I have unique role in B.C.'s new provincial government.
- When asked to lead newly-created Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, I didn't hesitate.
- Incredibly passionate about issues that so many Canadians face while struggling with mental health and addictions issues.

- Established a Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, with dedicated Minister and staff, solely tasked with taking action to significantly improve our mental health and addictions services – giving this area the focus and attention it needs.
- Watched with heavy heart so many British Columbians taken too soon over the last year and more...
- But in my time as Minister, also met incredible number of people like you...
- ...people who rally to support others and work tirelessly to help, be it on the ground or with innovative research.
- The first responders, health providers, staff and volunteers working on the frontlines are giving their



heart and soul to save lives and help people get back to wellness – for that, I thank them.

- Despite frontline workers' passion and dedication, when it comes to mental health and addictions care in this province, we know this: ...
- ...the current system isn't working.
- We know that it's fragmented.
- It's uncoordinated.
- Break your leg, know where to go for help.
- Not as straightforward for people who need mental health and addictions help.
- Ministry's first priority and focus is to take urgent action to combat overdose crisis and save lives.

- Overdose crisis is most serious public health emergency province has faced in decades.
- More than 1,700 families lost a loved one since January 2016.
- All across B.C.
- Affecting families from all walks of life.
- Families struggling with poverty and homelessness; suburban families; people dealing with physical or emotion pain that led to ongoing addiction, and; people who use. illegal drugs occasionally.
- Also know overdose crisis disproportionately affecting First Nations people of B.C.
- We must do better.

- As new Minister, I don't pretend to have all the answers.
- Role is first to listen and learn – talking to people on the front lines about what's working, what isn't working, and what more we need to do.
- I believe we 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.
- And that will be our work going forward – which we must tackle alongside our response to the overdose crisis.

- Because first, we have to keep people alive in order to support them in moving toward treatment and ongoing recovery.
- As you all know, overcoming addictions can be a lifelong journey.
- For some, can mean moving into programs that involve abstinence.
- For others, harm reduction and maintenance.
- No one size fits all for treatment.
- What recovery means and how to get there, is different for different people.
- Over fall, developing comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

- Based on evidence – what research and experience informs us is effective.
- Working closely with...Ministry of Health...Children and Family Development...community service agencies...local governments...First Nations...education, housing and justice sectors – to build coordinated seamless system so people can get effective treatment early.
- As new Minister, chair Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health and Addictions – ensure working in collaboration across provincial government on this important issue.
- As Minister, this is one of my key roles, to bring all of players to the table – to do best possible job for people suffering from mental health and addictions.

- Addressing gaps in system is a shared responsibility.
- We all have a role to play – as individuals, communities, service providers and government.
- Here in B.C., very pleased linkages now being made between medical and addictions experts, and recovery community.
- Dr. Evan Wood – director, BC Centre on Substance Use – and Marshall Smith – chair, B.C. Recovery Council – partnering to bridge between two sectors.

*[Minister may wish to acknowledge Marshall Smith, one of conference organizers, and Dr. Evan Wood, for collaborative approach to BC Centre on Substance Use work – involving families, people who use drugs, recovery community, as well as clinical experts & researchers]*

- Recovery oriented services provide critical resource in helping people out of addiction.
- Want to make sure they are based on evidence and best practice – so serve clients in best way.
- Important to create opportunities for dialogue – like today – share experiences, best practices, problem-solving strategies.
- Addiction issues touch all of us – directly or through people we know and love.
- Sadly stigma remains rampant, even though see addiction affecting people from all walks of life – all ages, education levels, professions and incomes.
- Addiction can happen to anyone.

- In first weeks as Minister, met many clients of services helping people and heard their stories.
- Don – <sup>s.22</sup> – on-the-job injury – painkillers – turned to street drugs
  - Ended up on streets – in and out of hospital 100 times over four years
- Kyle – addicted at a very young age – stole to buy drugs
  - In and out of jail – now has job, home – going back to school
- Dan – <sup>s.22</sup> – injured on job and head injury – lost job, wife, kids, home



- Now has supportive housing, working as peer support worker, starting to get life back
- Debbie – partner left – got evicted – ended up on street – overdosed many times
  - Now getting healthy and stable, and starting to move toward the path to recovery
- None of them would have chosen to live life of person addicted to drugs.
- Don, Kyle, Dan and Debbie are working to break the cycle of addiction – many more people out there haven't yet started.
- We must work together to eliminate the stigma of addiction.
- Keeps people from reaching out and seeking help.

- More people are dying from overdose at home and alone or in hotels and motels.
- They're not dying at overdose prevention sites and safe injection sites.
- The stigma of addiction is isolating them, because too often, people are afraid or ashamed to even ask for help.
- It's time to change that.
- People who have the courage to acknowledge their struggle need love and care – not judgment.
- It's time to open the door on a better system of care for people with addictions.
- One that is organized, well-coordinated and resourced – and focused on the full spectrum of

services: prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery.

- We can create a better system of care by listening and learning from each other, and by honouring those we have lost in this terrible overdose crisis.
- Thank you again for inviting me to join you, and best wishes on a successful conference.

# SPEAKING NOTES

## **Doug Donaldson**

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and  
Rural Development

### **UBCM – Forest Sector Breakfast**

s.15

**Sept. 28, 2017**

**7:00 a.m.**

*(Check Against Delivery)*

## *DRAFT 2*

### **Background**

The Resources Breakfast Series was suggested by rural northern mayors five years ago to raise understanding in urban centres about the importance of the rural resource sector to B.C.'s economy. Each attracts local government representatives and a broad selection of resource sector business leaders. There are breakfasts for the mining and energy sectors earlier in the week.

About 150 community, First Nation, provincial government and industry representatives are registered to attend the breakfast, and there is a wait list.

Forest Sector Breakfast sponsors – Northwest Hardwoods, Paper Excellence Canada, Canfor, Conifex, FII, Interfor, TimberWest, West Fraser and Western Forest Products

### **Detailed Agenda**

The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. MC Dan Jepsen from C3 Alliance provides a general welcome at 7:00 a.m.

7:00 AM breakfast begins  
7:10 AM Dan Jepsen, opening remarks  
7:11 a.m. Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation, gives welcome, introduces head table and recognizes sponsors.

7:40 a.m. Susan Yurkovich, President and CEO, COFI, introduces panel.  
Each panelist to speak no longer than 5 minutes

Minister Donaldson  
Mayor Lynn Hall, Prince George,  
Karen Brandt, VP, Interfor  
Mayor Andy Adams, Campbell River  
and introduces head table

8:10 a.m. Q&A session (attendees are invited to fill out question cards that will be collected)

8:25 a.m. Event ends

\*\*Attendees are invited to fill our question cards that will be collected for the Q&A session after the panel discussion.

8:30 a.m. up to two-minute interview by videographer for Forestry Friendly Communities

**Format:** Comfy chairs, interview style. Each panelist will have a hand-held microphone only while speaking.

### **Head table:**

Chief Campbell, Minister Donaldson, Mayor Andy Adams from Campbell River, Mayor Lyn Hall from Prince George, Deputy Minister to the Premier Don Wright,

## ***DRAFT 2***

COFI President and CEO Susan Yurkovich, Interfor VP Karen Brandt, Northwest Hardwoods President and CEO T.J. Rosegarth, and CFPA President and CEO Rick Jeffery.

### **Other speakers' topics:**

- **Mayor Lyn Hall** of Prince George will base his comments on a recent presentation he made to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – one of three case studies in a session called *Innovative Solutions to Economic Challenges*. He joined Paul Lansbergen, VP of the Forest Products Association of Canada, to talk about wood and forest product innovations in Prince George – e.g. growth of bioenergy, Wood Innovation and Design Centre, the new wood innovation research lab, and Canfor's biocrude facility – and how the city is leveraging this industrial activity and connecting it to education, research and its location to increase local opportunities.
- **Karen Brandt**, Vice President of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Interfor, will talk about how forestry fits with the government's vision of a sustainable economy
- **Mayor Andy Adams** of Campbell River will discuss the importance of certainty and the Great Bear Rainforest agreements.

**Contact Person:** Claire Perusse, Office Manager, C3 Alliance Corp.  
Cell: 604-353-3136 / [cperusse@c3alliancecorp.ca](mailto:cperusse@c3alliancecorp.ca)

-

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Thank you, Susan, and my thanks also to UBCM and our sponsors for this opportunity. And, of course, thanks to all of you for being with us this morning.
- It's a pleasure to be here on the lands of the Coast Salish peoples.
- I know how important resources are to our province. I represent Stikine in northeast B.C. I served for four terms as a councillor in Hazelton, owned and operated businesses in the Rockies, and worked with northern B.C. First Nations organizations.
- The last couple of months certainly have been challenging. When I was sworn in on July 18, B.C. was more than a week into a state of emergency that ended just two weeks ago.
- There were 155 fires burning at that time – 15 of them considered a threat to communities.
- I want to give out a shout-out to all the firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers who helped keep people safe.
- Over the course of the wildfire season, over 65,000 people were displaced, and despite over 1.2 million hectares being burnt, not one life was lost.
- I also want to extend thanks to many of you in this room who showed leadership in your communities – either in ensuring orderly evacuations and re-entry – or in sheltering large numbers of evacuees.

## *DRAFT 2*

- As Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, I've been charged with leading government's wildfire recovery efforts.
- We're focusing recovery in four key areas:
  - People and communities
  - Economy
  - Environment
  - Infrastructure and reconstruction
- We're also working closely with the federal government's ad hoc cabinet committee on the B.C. wildfires.
- A lot has already been done:
  - Of the \$100 million provided to the Canadian Red Cross – a total of \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals. In addition to supporting individuals, emergency \$1,500 grants are being provided to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in areas under evacuation orders and impacted by highway closures.
  - \$200,000 provided to each of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary tourism associations.
- We provided \$20 million – in partnership with the Canadian government – to the agriculture sector, and \$6 million, so far, to replace damaged fencing for ranchers along highways and Crown rangelands.
- Timber that was cut down to make fireguards is being milled. Ministry staff are working closely with licensees to expedite cutting permits and issue salvage licences.
- They are prioritizing areas for reforestation – both to rebuild the timber supply and restore wildlife habitat.



## *DRAFT 2*

- My priority is to make sure all B.C. government agencies provide the programs and support needed to communities and First Nations.
- As Minister of Forests, my ministry has a huge role in land-based recovery.
- As Minister for Rural Development, my ministry has a huge role in strengthening and enhancing rural economic development.
- With the change in government, regional economic operations staff are now within my ministry and playing a crucial role in supporting wildfire-impacted communities.
- Coming from Hazelton, I know the importance of rural development, and working to ensure that rural economies are not left behind.
- This government is committed to building a strong sustainable economy and making better choices for B.C.'s continued economic growth.
- We want an economy that works for all British Columbians and for the environment.
- Forestry is one of B.C.'s founding industries and strong contributor to the province's economy. Those of you in this room know firsthand the importance of forestry to your community.
- Forestry supports over 60,000 direct jobs around the province, including about 1 in 4 manufacturing jobs and exports totaling \$12.9 billion in 2016.
- As committed to during the election campaign, within one month of taking office, Premier John Horgan travelled to Ottawa and to

## *DRAFT 2*

Washington, D.C. to talk to the Prime Minister and to key U.S. officials about trade in softwood lumber.

- Premier Horgan met with U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who is the key U.S. official in order for a new managed trade agreement to be reached on softwood lumber.
- More than half of Canada's softwood lumber exports come from B.C., and more than half of B.C. softwood lumber products are exported to the U.S.
- Together -- BC and Canada -- we have a strong and united voice on softwood
- We're fighting hard for a fair deal
- And not just any deal, but one that's good for:
  - for BC workers
  - for forest communities
  - and our economy
- We remain committed to diversifying markets for our world-class wood products and I will be leading a forestry-specific trade mission to China and Japan late fall to continue to expand our markets there.
- We will make B.C. a world leader in engineered wood products, and grow our value-added sector.
- I want to see more B.C. jobs created from every log harvested.
- The Brock Commons student residence at UBC is the world's tallest contemporary wood-frame building.
- It's an example of B.C. innovation and how engineered wood products can expand domestic markets for our wood products.

## *DRAFT 2*

- As a government, we've also made a commitment to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- This means ensuring First Nations are meaningful partners in decisions on the landbase.
- We want to build a true partnership, based on rights, respect and reconciliation.
- I'm looking forward to engaging with First Nations as we modernize our land use planning processes and work to ensure our ecosystems are sustainably managed.
- And of course, when we're in a position to move forward on a new vision for land use planning, our discussions will also include you.
- I look forward to working with you to do everything we can to ensure our forests remain an important part of our lives and are able to support our sustainable economy.
- I'm excited about what's ahead of us, and look forward to doing my part to help build a better B.C. across the province for all British Columbians.

**-END-**



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

Roundtable Dialogue on Canada-China Cooperation along the  
Belt and Road

s.15

Friday, Sept. 29 2017

9:30- 10:20 a.m.

Speaking time: 10 a.m., five minutes (consecutive translation)

**Location:**

s.15

**Parking:**

There is no parking at s.15 but paid parking is available nearby. The three closest paid parking lots are:

1. Easy Park on 777 Dunsmuir St. (this is the closest to the school, one block from the school)
2. Diamond parking lot on 443 Seymour Street
3. Impark parking garage on 750 West Pender St.

**Audience:**

Approximately 150 attendees are expected at this event. The audience includes a high-level Chinese delegation led by the China Development Research Foundation (CDRF). The Chinese delegation consists of 28 senior executives of state-owned enterprises in construction, engineering, mining and financial services sectors as well as Caterpillar (China).

Co-hosts of the roundtable include the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and Canada China Business Council. Sponsors include Caterpillar, Dentons LLP, Teck Resources Ltd. and Silvercorp Metals Inc.

Representatives from SFU and global law firm Dentons will be in attendance as well. Local English and Chinese media have been invited. As of Sept. 27, only CAIFU magazine has confirmed attendance.

### Itinerary:

Time	One Belt One Road Dialogue Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 9:30am - 10:20am
9:00- 9:30 a.m.	Registration Opens. Event will start at 9:30 a.m.
9:30- 9:40 a.m.	Welcome Remarks by Ali Dastmalchian [Das-mal chian], Dean, Beedie School of Business.  Dean Dastmalchian will also read Premier Horgan's greeting.
9:40- 9:45 a.m.	Aboriginal Ceremony by Elder Margaret
9:45- 10:00 a.m.	Speech by Andrew Petter, President, Simon Fraser University
10:00- 10:10 a.m.	Speech by the Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology at approx. 10 a.m.
10:10- 10:20 a.m.	Speech by Xiao Qingwen [Xi-ao Chin-wen], Deputy Secretary General, China Development Research Foundation
	Speech by: Fang Qiuchen [Fung Chu-chen], Chairman, China International Contractors Association  <b>Minister departs</b>
10:20- 12:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion  Moderator: Jing Li, Associate Director, Jack Austin Centre  Panelists are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewart Beck, President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith Sashaw, President and CEO, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – British Columbia</li> <li>• Xie Biao, VP, SINOMACH Group Ltd.</li> <li>• Qiu Liangxin, Chairman, China Wu Yi Co., Ltd.</li> <li>• Luo Yan, Chairman, China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd.</li> </ul>
12:00- 1:30 p.m.	<p>Luncheon sponsored by Dentons</p> <p>Speech by Senator Yuen Pau Woo.</p>
1:30- 1:45 p.m.	<p>Thank You speeches by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xiao Qingwen, Deputy Secretary General, CDRF</li> <li>• Fang Qiuchen, Chairman, China International Contractors Association</li> <li>• Sudheer Gupta, Director, Jack Austin for Asia Pacific Business Studies</li> </ul>
1:45- 2:00 p.m.	<p>Event concludes</p>

#### **VIP list:**

##### Chinese delegation:

- Fang Qiuchen, President, China International Contractors Association
- Xiao Qingwen, Deputy Secretary-General, China Development Research Foundation
- Xie Biao, VP, SINOMACH Group Ltd.
- Qiu Liangxin, Chairman, China Wu Yi Co., Ltd.
- Luo Yan, Chairman, China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd.

##### B.C. representatives:

- Andrew Petter, President, Simon Fraser University
- Ali Dastmalchian, Dean, Beedie School of Business
- Stewart Beck, President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Keith Sashaw, President and CEO, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – BC
- Senator Yuen Pao Woo
- David Fung, CEO, ACDEG Group

**Event description:**

Minister Ralston gives opening remarks on behalf of the B.C. government, focusing on B.C. and China's trade relationship. The event is hosted by the Beedie School of Business of SFU, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and Canada China Business Council.

\*There will be translators at the event to translate speeches into Mandarin for Chinese delegates. Please speak at a moderate pace and in shorter sentences so the translators can translate the speech accurately.

**Background:**

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a one trillion dollar initiative aiming to link the greater Eurasian continent with a strategic network of overland railways, highways, pipelines, seaports, airports, and telecommunications infrastructure with a goal of boosting commerce and connectivity between China and 65 countries in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

The visiting delegation is comprised of senior representatives of China's state-owned construction, engineering, mining and financial companies who will be connecting with Canadian businesses interested in learning more about the BRI. Vancouver is the only Canadian stop on their North American tour.

The event includes a panel discussion, presentation from BRI representatives, and a luncheon with the delegation.

Canada attended the 1st edition of the Belt & Road Forum held in Beijing in May 2017 with Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade, Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, as the head of delegation.

An MOU was signed in May 2016 between the Government of British Columbia and the Guangdong Government on Enhancing Maritime and Economic Connectivity building on the One Belt One Road Initiative.

**Featured speakers:**



- Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
- Ali Dastmalchian, Dean, Beedie School of Business.
- Elder Margaret (Aboriginal welcome ceremony)
- Andrew Petter, President, Simon Fraser University
- Xiao Qingwen [Xi-ao Chin-wen], Deputy Secretary General, China Development Research Foundation
- Speech by: Fang Qiuchen [Fung Chu-chen], Chairman, China International Contractors Association

**Attire:** Business

- Good morning everyone. It is an honour and pleasure to be with you on behalf of our Premier John Horgan.
- 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.

**[PAUSE FOR TRANSLATION]**

- And I would like to like to thank the Beedie School of Business, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and the Canada China Business Council for the opportunity to speak with you today.

**[PAUSE]**

- The strong relationship between British Columbia and China is built on our many historical and cultural connections.
- Our bonds are strengthened by our close proximity across the Pacific Ocean and our strong economic connections that continue to thrive.

**[PAUSE]**

- Vancouver has become the most connected city with China in North America or Europe, with over 50 weekly flights from our airport to 11 mainland Chinese cities.
- Because of our location, the relationship between our province and China has created rich cultural exchanges that benefit our families and communities.

**[PAUSE]**

- B.C. also deeply values its trade relationship with China, which continues to evolve and create opportunities for both B.C. and Chinese companies.
- China is our province's second largest trade partner, with nearly \$6 billion in exports last year alone.
- At the core of BC's economic ties with China has been our sister province relationship with Guangdong Province in southern China. In 2015, BC and Guangdong signed two MOUs to advance collaboration on low carbon development and on economic connectivity in support of the Belt Road Initiative.

**[PAUSE]**

- And we're seeing more trade taking place in quickly growing sectors such as agrifoods, seafood, technology and clean energy.

- As North America's gateway to the Asia Pacific, B.C. is an ideal place for Chinese companies to set up their North American headquarters.

**[PAUSE]**

- China launched the Belt and Road Initiative to boost commerce and connectivity between China and other countries in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.
- With extensive transportation and telecommunication infrastructure networks.
- With B.C.'s close economic connection with China, there will be opportunities where our resources, products and knowledge may be used in this initiative in the future.

**[PAUSE]**

- As many of you know, China has been going through an economic transformation...
- ...with a greater focus on sustainable domestic consumption by its growing middle class.

**[PAUSE]**

- While B.C.'s trade relationship with China was first built on the exchange of natural resources...
- ... the shifting priorities in China towards a low carbon economy means that we now have new, exciting ways to work together that we are just beginning to explore.

**[PAUSE]**

- For example, we have also seen growing interest from China for more green technology exports from B.C...
- ...such as water, air and soil treatment, new energy vehicles and green building materials.
- And there are greater exchanges between our aerospace sector and China.
- As more air routes are opened and infrastructure are modernized, B.C. can offer China opportunities in pilot training as well as float planes and helicopter sell and maintenance contracts.

**[PAUSE]**

- As you can see, our strong business and cultural connections plays a key role in our shared prosperity.

- Our government is committed to building on our strong relationships with China.
- We have a robust economy, rich resources and stable business environment offer excellent opportunities for Chinese investors.
- BC's strong trade relationship with China brings economic growth and jobs to our province....It benefits communities and families, fosters intercultural understanding.... and strengthens our government-to-government relations.

**[PAUSE]**

- I look forward to hearing more about this initiative and how B.C. and China can take our trade relationship to the next level.
- Thank you very much.

**-END-**



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

2017 BCIC-New Ventures BC Competition Awards Ceremony

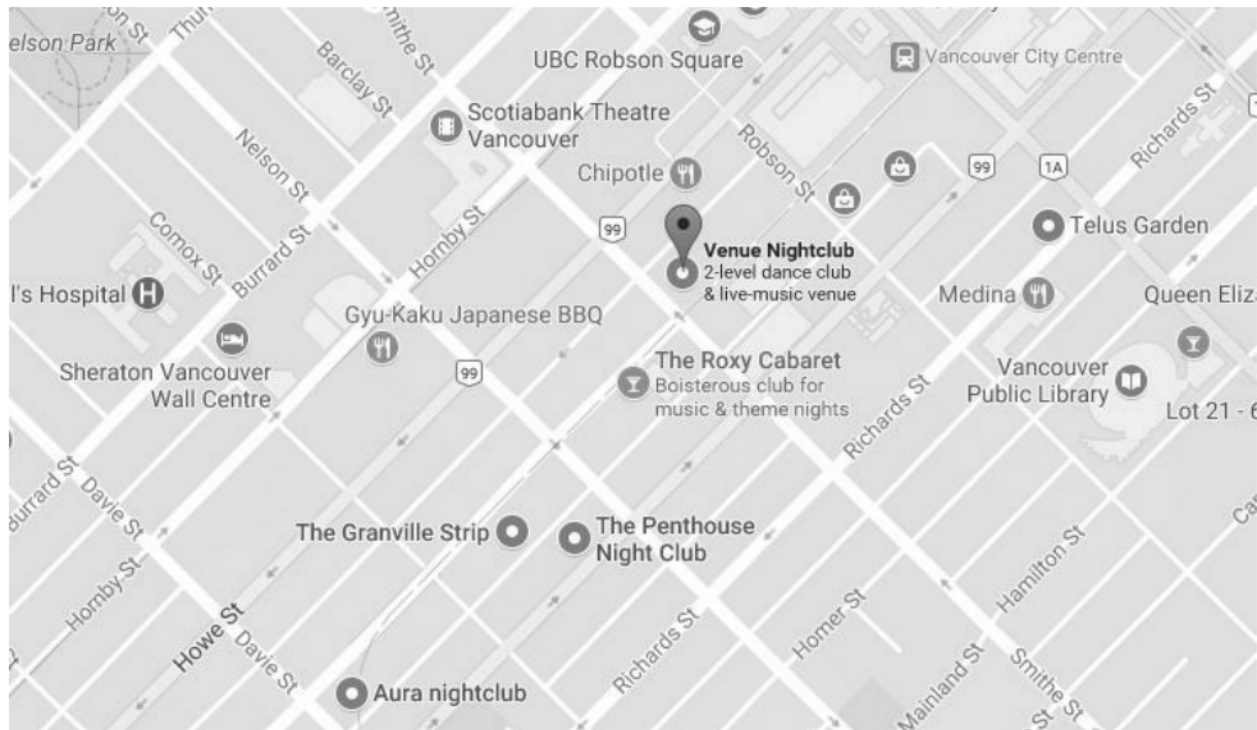
Venue Nightclub

881 Granville St. Vancouver, B.C.

Monday Sept. 25, 2017

5:00 p.m.

Speaking time: Approximately 6:10 p.m., 3-5 mins

**Location:****Parking and arrival:**

The nearest parking lot is located at 900 Howe St., otherwise street parking is available nearby.

The first hour of the event is networking; Minister not required to arrive until 6:00 p.m.

Tomica Divic (BCIC will) greet the Minister at the registration desk upon arrival. Her cell number is s.22

**Important departure note:**

Minister, there is a Vancouver Cabinet meeting at 7pm.



**Audience:**

The BCIC-New Ventures BC Awards Ceremony is a well-attended event celebrating innovation in all of B.C.'s technology subsectors. The expected audience is 350-400 people; attendees will include tech entrepreneurs, investors, university representatives, accelerators, and the general business community.

The NVBC Awards ceremony is also the kick-off event for Vancouver Startup Week, which features five days of programming for tech startups.

**Itinerary:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>BCIC-New Ventures Competition Awards Ceremony Sept. 25, 2017 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Event begins, guests mingle and network</b>
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Opening Remarks by Vivian Chan and Katty Wong, Vancouver Startup Week Co-Chairs</b>
<b>6:05 p.m.</b>	<b>Remarks by Michael Volker, New Ventures Chair (emcee)</b>
<b>6:09 p.m.</b>	<b>Michael Volker (emcee) introduces Minister</b>
<b>6:10 p.m.</b>	<b>Minister Ralston's remarks</b>
<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Remarks by Tomica Divic, BCIC Managing Director of Operations</b>

<b>6:20 p.m.</b>	<b>City Innovation Prize – presented by Bryan Buggy, Vancouver Economic Commission Director</b>
<b>6:25 p.m.</b>	<b>New Ventures BC Society remarks and thanks</b>
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Video of top 10 finalists</b>
<b>6:40 p.m. – 6:52 p.m.</b>	<b>Prize presentations</b>
<b>6:40 p.m.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Minister departs for 7:00 p.m. Vancouver Cabinet meeting</b></li> </ul>

**VIP list:**

- Greg Kylo, MLA for Shuswap
- Michael Volker, New Ventures BC Society Chair
- David Shore, Mojio Inc. Director, President and CFO [Received first BC Tech Fund investment]
- Tomica Divic, BC Innovation Council Managing Director of Operations
- Vivian Chan, Vancouver Startup Week Co-Chair
- Katty Wong, Vancouver Startup Week Co-Chair
- James Hursthouse, DigiBC Executive Director
- Bryan Buggy, Vancouver Economic Commission Director of Strategic Initiatives and Sector Development
- Nikki Araski, Wavefront Manager of Accelerator Programs
- Stacey Wallin, BC Tech Association, Director of Growth
- Jon Jafari, Centre for Drug Research and Development Senior Director of Business Development
- Ian Hand, Venture Labs Founding Executive Director

- William Li, Beijing HanHai Canada and China Canada Commercialization Acceleration Network (C2CAN) President
- Elicia Maine, SFU Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Grant Campany, Microdermics CEO and 2016 1st prize winner

### **Event description:**

Minister Ralston will deliver a brief speech on behalf of the B.C. government, during the BCIC-New Ventures BC Competition Awards Ceremony.

### **Background:**

- Created in 2001, the New Ventures BC (NVBC) competition is one of North America's largest technology business idea competitions.
- The competition provides B.C. entrepreneurs with the skills to launch and manage a startup through a 10-week business seminar and networking series while competing to win one of several prize packages.
- BCIC is the lead partner of the competition, providing \$300,000 annually.
- Past winners include: Microdermics, Edvisor, and DarkVision Technologies.
- The award ceremony will be followed by networking as Startup Week Social to kick off Vancouver Startup Week

### **Finalists:**

- Aeriosense Technologies (drone automation software for power line inspections)
- axSense Technologies (ultra-sensitive acceleration and vibration sensors)
- Certn (machine learning and AI for credit assessments)
- Copypants Creator Technologies (creative assets protection)
- CryLogistics Refrigeration Technologies (transport refrigeration)
- Cyberdodontics (advanced dental drilling)
- Ecoaction Innovative Solutions (early crop stress detection system)
- InputHealth (cloud-based collaborative health record system)

- Microbiome Insights (microbiome testing and analysis)
- Slickspaces Technologies (software system for guest entry)

### **Featured speakers:**

- Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
- Michael Volker, New Ventures BC Society Chair (**emcee**)
- Tomica Divic, BC Innovation Council Managing Director of Operations
- David Shore, Mojio Inc. Director, President and CFO [Received first BC Tech Fund investment]
- Vivian Chan, Vancouver Startup Week Co-Chair
- Katty Wong, Vancouver Startup Week Co-Chair
- Bryan Buggy, Vancouver Economic Commission Director of Strategic Initiatives and Sector Development

### **Attire:**

Business casual

## Introduction

- Good evening. It is an honour and pleasure to be with you on behalf of our Premier John Horgan.
- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people, including the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (Sail-wa-tooth) First Nations.
- I would like to like to thank Michael Volker, the board chair of New Ventures BC for inviting the provincial government join you in celebrating tonight's award winners.
- New Ventures BC plays an important role in ensuring the benefits of B.C.'s technology and innovation sector are felt throughout the province and across more traditional sectors.
- I would also like to recognize Tomica Divic [**Pron: Tah-meets-ah Div-ick**], Managing Director of Operations of the competition's lead partner and our Crown agency – the BC Innovation Council.

## BC Innovation Council

- I would like to begin by acknowledging the work of the BC Innovation Council.

- Without their support, this competition wouldn't be possible.
- As our Crown Agency, the Province relies on BCIC to deliver tech development and commercialization programming on our behalf.
- The Innovation Council's programs play a vital role in helping B.C. technology entrepreneurs and startups succeed; helping create jobs, growing revenues and increasing economic development.
- The Venture Acceleration Program helps technology entrepreneurs throughout B.C. bring new ideas to market more quickly, providing them with coaching and mentorship.
- BCIC just kicked off the second annual BC Growth Opportunities tour in Prince George this past Friday.
- The tour provides regional B.C. innovators with the chance to collaborate with industry leaders to find new, creative solutions to help them expand their markets.
- BC GO takes place in Surrey on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. I would encourage you all to attend as it's a fantastic networking opportunity.

## Supporting B.C. Tech

- Like this competition, these programs align with my goals as Minister, to:
  - Make B.C. a true tech hub,
  - Grow local technology companies, and
  - Ensure that the benefits of tech and innovation are felt provincewide.
- Growing B.C.'s already strong technology and innovation sector will help create more life-sustaining jobs and further strengthen our diverse economy.
- In addition to BCIC's efforts, my government will continue to pursue the commitments made in the BC Tech Strategy.
- And we will be looking to build upon these previous commitments after proper consultation with industry to better understand your needs.

- Parliamentary Secretary for Tech Rick Glumac and I will work together to support this sector by:
  - Establishing B.C. as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies,
  - Increasing the growth of local tech companies,
  - Removing barriers to attracting skilled workers provincewide,
  - And, establishing an Innovation Commission to advocate for the sector – further details to come this fall.
- The Province will continue to work to create a climate that supports B.C.'s world-renowned technologies to drive innovation and growth across all of B.C.'s economic sectors....
- ...So that companies like tonight's finalists will be able to continue to flourish in the B.C. tech sector.



## **New Ventures BC and Competitors**

- Which brings me to the most important part of tonight's event – the finalists.
- I would like to recognize all of you for your outstanding achievements.
- You represent the best and brightest in B.C., not only from right here in the Lower Mainland, but also from the Island and the Interior.
- Congratulations to you all for making it this far.
- For the past several months, you had to craft, hone and pitch your ideas – facing elimination each step of the way.
- But in exchange for your perseverance, you've been given an opportunity to learn from mentors, network with advisors and investors, and test those ideas.
- Not to mention what you're all vying for tonight: top recognition and prizes.

- But more importantly, regardless of where you place in the competition...
- You represent the future of our tech sector.
- And like so many success stories before you, this is only the beginning.
- Because who knows where tonight's experience will take you?
- Whether you're on the cutting edge of drone automation and improving the safety and efficiency of power line inspection [Aeriosense Technologies]...
- ...If you're passionate about changing microbiome testing and analysis [Microbiome Insights]...
- ...Or if you want to disrupt the refrigeration industry to make food transportation more sustainable [Cryologistics]...
- ...You are all poised to make an impact in B.C. tech and beyond.

## Conclusion

- We're here to celebrate all of you and witness where your innovative ideas will take you next.
- Congratulations and best of luck to all of the finalists.
- 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:**

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

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

**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-**



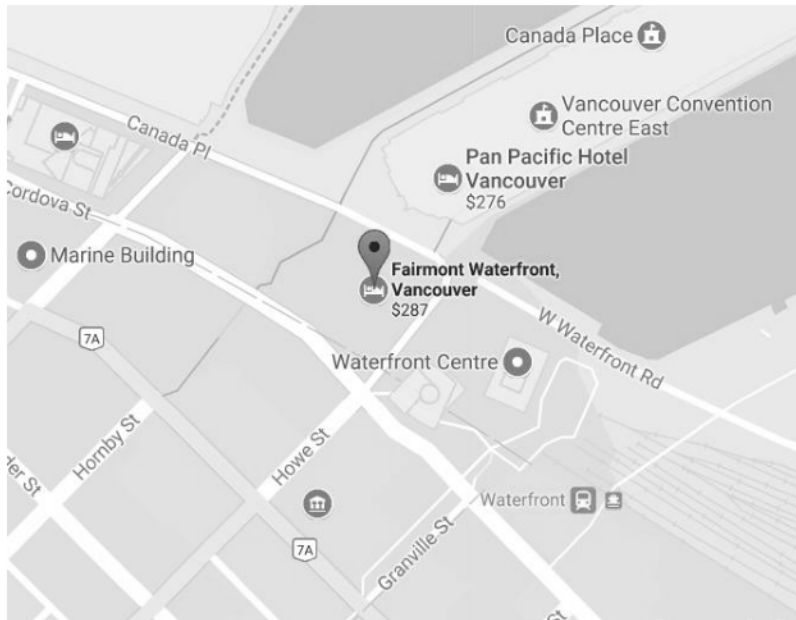
**Speaking notes for  
Minister Bruce Ralston  
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology**

Grand Diwali Gala  
Ballroom, Fairmont Waterfront Hotel  
900 Canada Place,  
Vancouver

Friday, Sept. 22, 2017

6:30- 10:30 p.m.

Speaking time: Approximately 3-5 mins.

**Location:****Parking:**

Valet parking will be available for Minister Ralston and other VIPs, as advised by the organizer, they will arrange it with the hotel concierge; upon arrival, please go let the hotel valet know.

Self-parking is also available at the hotel for \$49/night, please register license plate at the Front Desk.

**Skytrain:**

The Canada Line Skytrain offers transportation from Vancouver International Airport to Waterfront Station. To walk to the hotel, exit Waterfront Station, turn right at Cordova Street and right again on Howe Street onto Canada Place Way. The Fairmont Waterfront is on your left hand side. Estimated walking time is 5 minutes.

**Event day contact:** BCIBN chairman emeritus Vivek Al Savkur, (cell): 604-728-0971

**Audience:**



Approximately 300 people from B.C.'s South Asian business community and representatives will attend the event. Local media outlets including the Province and Zee TV have been invited to attend.

**Itinerary:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Grand Diwali Gala Sept. 22, 2017 6:30- 10:30 p.m.</b>
<b>6:30- 7:15 p.m.</b>	Arrival and networking. Guests arrive at the hotel.  BCIBN chairman Vivek Savkur will greet Minister Ralston and other VIPs, and introduce them to other guests.
<b>7:15- 7:20 p.m.</b>	Official ceremony starts.  BCIBN president Catherine A. Sas will call event to Order and introduce Sharad Khare, Master of Ceremony.
<b>7:20- 7:25 p.m.</b>	National anthems
<b>7:25- 7:30 p.m.</b>	Performance 1: Diwali Diya Inaugural Dance by Aashritha Royyuru
<b>7:30- 7:35 p.m.</b>	Welcoming address by BCIBN president Catherine Sas.
<b>7:35- 7:40 p.m.</b>	Air Canada video (event sponsor)
<b>7:40- 7:45 p.m.</b>	Introductions by BCIBN chairman emeritus Vivek Savkur.

<b>7:45- 7:55 p.m.</b>	Speech by the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, the Hon. Carla Qualtrough.
<b>7:55- 8:00 p.m.</b>	Unveiling of Diwali Commemorative Postal Stamp.
<b>8:00- 8:40 p.m.</b>	Dinner
<b>8:40- 8:45 p.m.</b>	Performance 2: Kathak Lavani Dance by Devanshi Vyas.  Raffle ticket sales in the background.
<b>8:45- 8:50 p.m.</b>	Speech by Minister Bruce Ralston.
<b>8:50- 8:55 p.m.</b>	Speech by Minister Harry Bains.
<b>8:55- 9:00 p.m.</b>	Speech by the Consul General of India, the Hon. Abhilasha Joshi.
<b>9:00- 9:25 p.m.</b>	Buffet desert and networking.
<b>9:25- 9:30 p.m.</b>	Performance 3: Garba-Dandiya dance by the Sonali Munshi Group.
<b>9:30- 9:35 p.m.</b>	Air Canada Raffle: Draws by C.G. Abhilasha Joshi and Shauna Dutt.

<b>9:35- 9:40 p.m.</b>	Times of Canada-Honda Civic Car Draw.
<b>9:40- 10:00 p.m.</b>	Networking
<b>10:00- 10:05 p.m.</b>	<p>Closing Remarks by BCIBN vice-president Douglas Nazareth.</p> <p>Handout of certificates of appreciation to volunteers and dancers.</p> <p>Event concludes.</p>

#### **VIPs:**

- BC India Business Network (BCIBN) president Catherine Sas [Sa-s]
- BCIBN vice-president Douglas Nazareth
- BCIBN chairman emeritus Vivek Sakur (will introduce VIPs to guests at networking time before official ceremony)
- Federal Minister of Public Services and Procurement Carla Qualtrough–speaking
- Consul General of India Abhilasha Joshi [Abi-lasha Jo-shi]
- Minister Bruce Ralston
- Minister Harry Bains
- Sharad Khare, Master of Ceremony
- Langara College president Dr. Lane Trotter
- BCIT president Kathy Kinloch

#### **Event description:**

Minister Ralston gives keynote address on behalf of the B.C. government at the 2017 Grand Diwali Gala hosted by the BC-India Business Network (BCIBN).

Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology (International Market Development Div.) will attend the event as well.

Ministry staff attending include: Henry Han, Executive Director, and Karan Suri, Manager for India, and Ms. Rooma Bussi, Managing Director for B.C.'s trade and investment representation in India.

JTT has secured a table at the event and invited some key BC clients that have interests in the Indian market.

### **Background:**

- BCIBN has held the Grand Diwali Gala every year since 2015. The 2017 gala is sponsored by Air Canada and the Vancouver International Airport.
- BCIBN is a non-profit organization that promotes international trade between BC and India, and a key stakeholder to the Ministry.
- India is British Columbia's fifth largest export market; the total 2016 exports were valued at \$811 million, which is an increase of 250% from 2012 when the export value was \$327 million.
- Top 5 BC exports to India are: Bituminous Coal (\$448m); Copper Ores and Concentrates (\$258m); Semi-Chemical Wood Pulp (\$40m); Newsprint (\$10m); Semi-chemical wood pulp (\$7.8m).
- In October 2016 Air Canada launched a seasonal direct flight between Vancouver and Delhi, making it the shortest direct flight from Canada to India.
- Canada and India are presently negotiating a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) and a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). While FIPA negotiations are progressing well, CEPA negotiations remain stalled.
- Global Affairs Canada has just announced a Canada Trade Mission to India from November 13-17, 2017. The mission will centre around a Canada-India Technology Summit in Delhi with planned visits to other cities in India.

BC companies are being recruited for the mission through GAC as well as our BC Trade and Investment Office in India.

**Featured speakers:**

- Sharad Khare, Master of Ceremony
- BC India Business Network (BCIBN) president Catherine Sas
- Federal Minister of Public Services and Procurement Carla Qualtrough
- Consul General of India Abhilasha Joshi
- Minister Harry Bains
- Minister Bruce Ralston
- BCIBN vice-president Douglas Nazareth
- Langara College president Dr. Lane Trotter (speaking after dinner)
- BCIT president Kathy Kinloch (speaking after dinner)

**Attire:**

Business

## **Introduction**

- Good evening. It is an honour and pleasure to be with you tonight on behalf of our Premier John Horgan.
- 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 like to thank Ms. Catherine Sas [Sa-s], for inviting me to celebrate the 2017 Grand Diwali Gala...
- Along with my friend and colleague, Labour Minister, Harry Bains.

## **B.C. and India relations**

- The Province of British Columbia values the cultural and trade relations we have with India.
- We are proud of our growing South Asian community in B.C.: between 2,000 and 2015...
- Over 90-thousand Indians immigrated to our province, making India our second largest source country for immigration.

- The distance between our countries is closer than ever, thanks to Air Canada's seasonal direct flight between Vancouver and Delhi, which makes it the shortest direct flight from Canada and India.

## **B.C. Jobs and Economy**

- Our government is committed to making life more affordable, improving the services people count on, and creating good jobs for people throughout B.C.
- With 934,000 job openings anticipated for B.C. by the year 2025, we need to invest in future skills development and attract skilled labour from around the world- including India.
- And our Indian immigrant population plays a big role in building B.C.'s economy- which all of us here tonight know already.
- While BC's job market is strong, our government is taking steps to create good jobs for people in every sector and every corner of the Province.
- These jobs will help us build the sustainable economy, schools, hospitals and rapid transit that B.C. needs.
- For example, the Province is creating an Innovation Commission which will be both advocate and ambassador for B.C.'s tech sector...

- ...and an Emerging Economy Task Force will be charged with developing “made-in-B.C. solutions”.
- It will look at how government can encourage innovative and sustainable industries to drive economic growth in B.C. in the 21st century.

## **B.C. and India Trade Relations**

- Now I’d like to focus on another sector that drives B.C.’s economy- international trade.
- In the world of trade, India is B.C.’s fifth largest export market.
- In 2016, our exports to India were valued at \$811 million, an increase of 148% from \$327 million in 2012- which was due to rising GDP in India...
- ....And the establishment of B.C. Trade and Investment Representative office India, which helped to facilitate trade and investment between our province and India.
- One of my mandates as the Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology is to develop B.C.’s national and international trade relations, which includes our partnership with India.
- As many of you know, India is an economic powerhouse with a young demographic profile and a growing middle class...



- It is one of the world's fastest-growing economies based on GDP projections, and is expected to become the world's third largest economy in 2030, behind the United States and China.
- I understand that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government are responding to this economic growth through several initiatives to:
  - establish India as a manufacturing hub,
  - secure energy resources,
  - modernize cities and technology infrastructure, and
  - address India's climate and environmental challenges.
- These projects pose significant opportunities for our province to partner with India in their economic growth, particularly in the areas of forestry, energy, international education and clean technology.
- Our government is committed to expand trade between B.C. and India...
- ...And we hope to build relationships at senior levels of business and government, so that we can identify areas of shared interests and pursue a long term plan for our mutual economic benefits.

### **Trade and Investment Representatives in India**

- One of the ways we're fostering trade relations between B.C. and India is through our network of trade and investment representatives in India.

- B.C. currently has Trade and Investment Representatives in New Delhi, Mumbai and Chandigarh [Chuhn-di-guhr] to support B.C. companies wanting to do business in India, and support Indian companies interested in investing in BC.
- I'd like to acknowledge that our managing director for our India operations based in Delhi, is present today, Ms. Rooma Bussi [Roo-ma Boo-See].
- If you would like to speak about your interest in doing business with India, please connect with Rooma to discuss how we can best support you.

#### **Future plans to boost trade with India**

- As many of you will agree, to boost our trade relations, we must first develop a greater understanding of India here in B.C.,
- An understanding of its states, cities, organizations and companies, so that we can identify the opportunities that are in India and match them with our province's capabilities.
- That is one of the things that my ministry staff and our Trade and Investment Representatives in India, have focused on...
- ...As they continue to promote India as a place with great potential to B.C. companies, and work with those companies to overcome challenges that hinder exports to India.

- We would also like to promote B.C. as a place for India to do business, and we have seen significant interest in Indian companies here in B.C. across many industries, including energy and technology sectors.
- Most recently, Essel Group has chosen to establish their new ZEE Studio International in Vancouver, which will create TV and digital media content for audiences around the world.
- I understand that ZEE Studio International, whose representatives are here with us tonight, will be hiring local, skilled employees to create that content...
- Which is great news for our workers in the creative industry and the City of Vancouver, as ZEE Studio expands in B.C. in the future.
- On top of this trade and investment interest in B.C., we are also seeing a steady increase in tourism from India, with an increase of over 53% of international visitor arrivals from India to B.C. over the past 5 years.
- Our province continues to encourage Canada and India to move forward on trade negotiations, specifically the Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Canada-India Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA).

- We are excited to hear of the news of the Canada Trade Mission to India this November.
- Alongside our federal government, we offer the support of our team here in BC and in India to any B.C. participants that decide to join the mission.

## **Conclusion**

- India is one of our province's valued trade partners, and our government is committed to build on the relationship between our jurisdictions.
- We will continue to work with businesses and organizations including the B.C. Indian Business Network, to increase awareness of India as a place for exports, and help them pursue business opportunities in India, as well as promote we have to offer India here in B.C.
- My staff and I welcome opportunities to meet with business stakeholders and government representatives from India so we can explore trade and investment opportunities in the future.
- And we hope that Premier John Horgan, and other B.C. government representatives, will have the opportunity to visit India in the near future.
- I'd like to thank the BC-India Business Network for hosting this evening's gala.

- It is a great opportunity to meet our key stakeholders from the southeast asian community...
- ...And we look forward to hearing your ideas on how we can build on the trade relations between B.C. and India tonight.
- Thank you very much.

**-END-**

**2017 UBCM Convention – Provincial Cabinet Town Hall**  
**Jobs, Resources & Green Communities**  
Sept. 27, 2017

**Location:** Room 1, Vancouver Convention Centre

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Topic:** Jobs, Resources & Green Communities

**Panel participants:**

- George Chow, Minister of State for Trade
- Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
- Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture
- Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

**Background – list of Crown corporations JTT is responsible for:**

- Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.
- BC Immigrant Investment Fund
- BC Renaissance Capital Fund
- BC Trade and Invest Ltd.
- BC Innovation Council
- Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society
- In addition, the Ministry also supports:
  - Aboriginal Business Investment Council
  - North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust
  - Northern Development Initiative Trust
  - Premier's Women's Economic Council
  - Premier's Technology Council
  - Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust

## Key Messages:

- Good afternoon, I'm Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology.
- As Minister responsible for Jobs, Trade and Technology, I am responsible for:
  - Attracting trade and investment opportunities and newcomers to grow our economy and create well-paying jobs,
  - Supporting economic development and diversification, as well as small businesses, and
  - Protecting and advancing B.C.'s interests in international trade issues.
- My goals include:
  - Establishing B.C. as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies,
  - Increasing the growth of local tech companies,
  - Removing barriers to attracting skilled workers provincewide, and
  - Ensuring the benefits of tech and innovation are felt throughout B.C.
- While B.C.'s job market is strong, we are taking steps to create good jobs for people in every sector and every corner of the province.
- To help accomplish these goals, my ministry is creating an **Emerging Economy Task Force** to enable B.C. to stay at the leading edge of global economic development and maintain our strong economic position through home-grown initiatives.

- We are establishing an **Innovation Commission** to advocate for our technology and innovation sector in Ottawa and abroad.
- And we will also establish a **Small Business Task Force** to help strengthen the small business sector – which makes up 98% of businesses in every corner of the province.
- As you can see, ensuring the growth of the B.C. economy is one of my key priorities, and I look forward to our discussion today.

**-END-**





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

Vancouver Regional Prosperity Forum

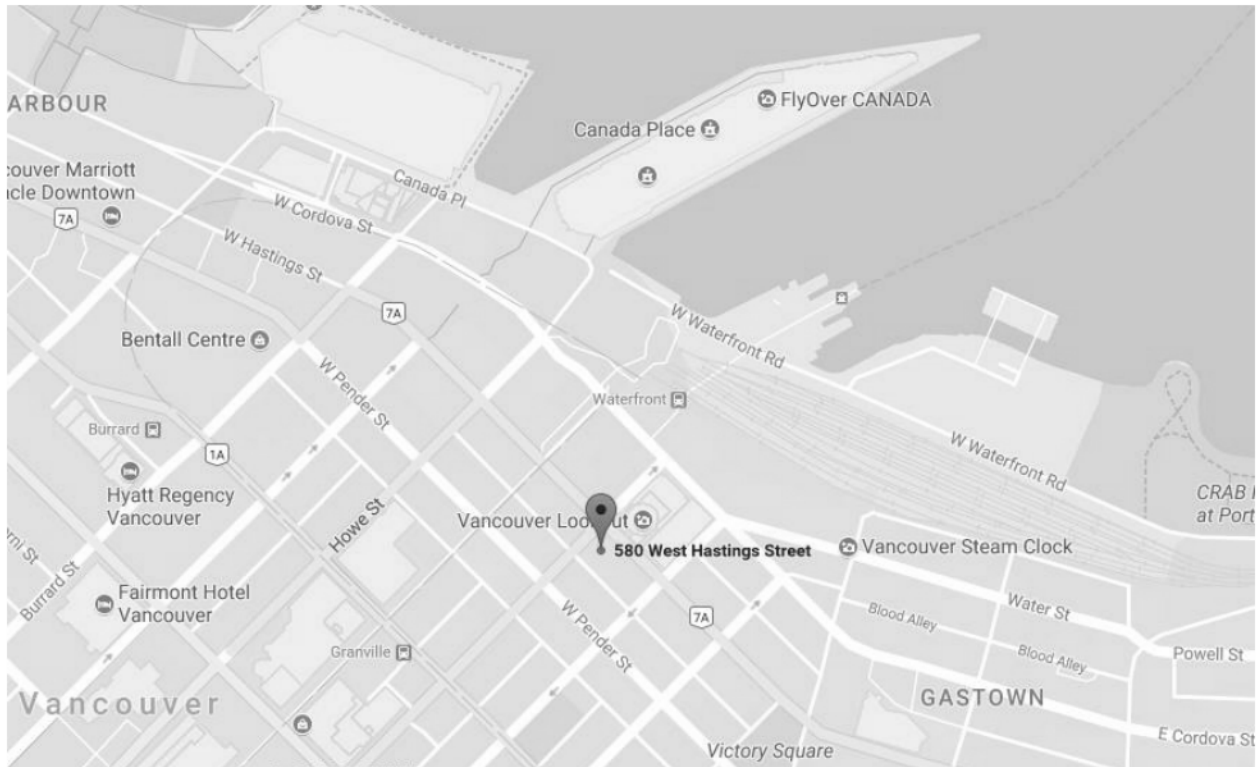
Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

580 W Hastings St, Vancouver

Friday, Sept. 15, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Speaking time: Approximately 8:40 a.m., for 8 minutes

**Location:****Parking:**

The Morris J. Wosk Centre is at the corner of Seymour and Hastings. It is one block south of the Waterfront Skytrain Station if the Minster is taking transit or there is parking at the Delta Suites (which is connected to the Centre).

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/yvrdv-delta-hotels-vancouver-downtown-suites/#property-parking>

**Audience:**

Event expects between 125 and 150 people from across the Metro Vancouver region. It is a by-invitation event and the invitations have gone out to Mayors and Councils, Chiefs of First Nations, Presidents and CEOs of businesses, boards of trade, chambers of commerce, business associations, community organizations and public agencies as well as Presidents and Chancellors of post-secondary

institutions, and senior representatives of labour unions.

**Event staff contact:**

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**Itinerary**

Time	Vancouver Regional Prosperity Forum September 15, 2017 8:00am – 2:00 pm
8:00 a.m.	Registration, continental breakfast, networking
8:30 a.m.	Welcome by Greg Moore, Chair, Regional Prosperity Initiative Steering Committee and Metro Vancouver Board
8:40 a.m.	Opening remarks from The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, British Columbia
9:00 a.m.	Keynote: Branding & direct investment – experience of Toronto Global from Toby Lennox, CEO, Toronto Global
9:40 a.m.	Why Change Our Approach to Regional Prosperity (panel discussion): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tony Geheran, Executive VP, TELUS</li><li>• Anne Giardini, Chancellor, Simon Fraser University</li><li>• Val Litwin, President &amp; CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce</li><li>• Darrell Mussatto, Mayor, City of North Vancouver</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Yuen Pau Woo</li> </ul>
10:30 a.m.	Special Dialogue: Recalling a Metro Vancouver Visionary Icon with Michael Heeney from Bing Thom Architects and Andy Yan, Director, City Program at Simon Fraser University
10:45 a.m.	<p>What Are the Opportunities for Creating a New, Shared Prosperity? (presentation followed by plenary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian McKay, CEO, Vancouver Economic Commission</li> <li>• Ryan Peterson, CEO, Finger Food Studios</li> <li>• Robin Silvester, President &amp; CEO, Port of Vancouver</li> <li>• Bill Tam, President &amp; CEO, BC Tech Association</li> <li>• Bryce Williams, Chief, Tsawwassen First Nation</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Kathryn Gretsinger, Journalist</p>
11:45 a.m.	<p>Charting a New Path to the Future: Regional Collaboration on Prosperity (presentation followed by plenary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greg Moore, Chair, Metro Vancouver</li> <li>• Linda Hepner, Mayor, City of Surrey</li> <li>• Hussein Hallak, General Manager, Launch Academy</li> <li>• Peter Leitch, Chair, Motion Picture Production Industry Association</li> <li>• Evi Mustel, Principal, Mustel Group</li> </ul>
11:45 a.m.	Event concludes. Networking lunch until 2 p.m.

**VIP list:**

- Bill Tam, President & CEO BC Tech Association
- Mayor Richard Stewart, City of Coquitlam

- Mayor Derek Corrigan, City of Burnaby
- Mayor Ted Schaffer, City of Langley
- Mayor Jonathon Cote, City of New Westminister
- Mayor Darrell Mussatto, City of North Vancouver
- Mayor Mike Clay, City of Port Moody
- Mayor Malcom Brodie, City of Richmond
- Karl Buhr , Mayor of Village of Lions Bay
- Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Senate of Canada
- Prem Gill, CEO Creative BC
- Ryan Peterson, CEO of Finder Food Studios
- Lizz Kelly, CEO of New Westminister Chamber of Commerce
- George Hunter, CEO of Small Business BC
- Anita Huberman, CEO of Surrey Board of Trade
- Ian McKay, CEO of Vancouver Economic Commision
- Tony Gerheran, Executive Vice-President (networks) of Telus
- Matt Pitcairn, President and CEO of Richmond Chamber of Commerce
- Robin Silvester, President and CEO of Port of Vancouver
- Kevin McCourt, President and CEO of Vancouver Foundation
- Bryce Williams, Chief of Tsawwassen First Nation
- Sioban Smith, Executive Director of HQ Vancouver
- Val Litwin, President & Chief Executive Officer of BC Chamber of Commerce
- Bob deWit, CEO of Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association
- Alan Davis, President and Vice Chancellor of Kwantlen Polytechnic University

- Anne Giardini, Chancellor of Simon Fraser University
- Colin Hansen, President of AdvantageBC
- David Fung, CEO of ACDEG Group
- Michael Hind, CEO of Tri Cities Chamber of Commerce

Known media in attendance:

- Journalist Kathryn Gretsinger

**Event description:**

Minister Ralston will provide opening remarks on behalf of B.C.

**Background:**

- The Regional Prosperity Forum was created by Metro Vancouver, as part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, as a way to unite various voices in the lower mainland.
- The Regional Prosperity Initiative has been hard at work at creating an action plan for the region, as well as starting to draft policy for what a mobile business licence might look like in the region.
- JTT's Small Business Branch has been consulted by Metro Vancouver on best strategies for implementing a mobile business licence, and will continue to work with them throughout this process.

**Attire:**

Business



## **Introduction**

- Good morning. It is an honour and a pleasure to be with you today as we look towards what the future of lower mainland could be.
- 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 to extend greetings from our new Premier, John Horgan.

## **Government priorities for the economy**

- Our government is committed to building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy for everyone– with goals to tackle poverty and inequality and create good-paying jobs for people across the province.
- As the Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, my staff and I are working to expand the capacity of B.C.'s economy to attract more global business and investment to the province.
- We are looking for national and international opportunities that align with B.C. companies' and provincial interests, so we can consolidate and grow B.C.'s domestic and international market share.



- One area that has tremendous potential for B.C.'s economy is the tech and innovation sector and our government is focused on growing this very important sector.
- To assist me with this, is my parliamentary secretary Rick Glumac.
- The first step that government is taking to is to create an Emerging Economy Task Force (EETF). We know that our economic well-being is tied to the global economy.
- Emerging technological advancements are changing the competitive landscape at an accelerating rate; and
- Our forestry, mining and other industries are strongly influenced by global drivers that are outside of our control and influence.
- The EETF will bring together key individuals who understand the global environment and the rapidly evolving technological landscape in which we operate.
- These experts will provide advice on how B.C. can stay at the leading edge of new developments and maintain its strong economic position in the world.
- In addition to the Emerging Economy Task Force, we are also establishing an Innovation Commission, with further details to come this fall.

- What I can tell you is that it will support innovation and business development in the technology sector.

## **Tech sector**

- An Innovation Commissioner will be an advocate and ambassador on behalf of B.C.'s innovation and technology sector in Ottawa and abroad.
- The Commissioner will serve to level the playing field with other provinces and coordinate alignment with federal funding programs in support of B.C.'s tech and innovation sector.
- As you may know, in Spring 2017, the federal government announced its Innovation and Skills Plan, including the establishment of Innovation Canada, to consolidate, coordinate and simplify support for Canada's innovation players.
- The federal budget also announced numerous program and funding initiatives for innovation and technology-related sectors.
- We want to make sure that B.C.'s tech sector gets a piece of that.
- The Commissioner will establish strong relationships with senior leaders in B.C.'s innovation and technology network including industry, academia and accelerator partners.
- We have many tech companies changing the world from right here in B.C., including:

- Educational start-ups like Fresh Grade in Kelowna that are creating new ways of learning or ways for teachers to interact with students...
- ... or Bench accounting, a Fintech company that allows businesses to have an accountant on call 24/7 right in their pocket, through their smart phone.
- There are also tech companies in B.C., such as MetaLab from Victoria, who are dominating on the world stage for their excellent design and user experience work,
- While the future is positive and encouraging for B.C.'s tech companies, as these companies continue to thrive, there is also an increasing demand for more skilled workers to support these companies.
- I understand the need to deepen B.C.'s tech talent pool so that these companies can have the skilled workforce they need to continue to grow.
- Our government is committed to support the tech sector and work with our tech stakeholders to deepen our talent pool.
- We are working with the federal government to fast-track the process to bring in more highly-skilled workers from abroad through the Provincial Nominee Program.

- Our tech companies need talented workers with a wide range of talents, so we have created a 'tech pilot' within the BC Provincial Nominee Program to help companies identify highly trained international workers they can bring to B.C.
- This pilot is offering tech employers dedicated concierge services, processing tech applications through a dedicated team and conducting targeted outreach and engagement to the sector.
- We are also committed to helping B.C. companies access international markets where innovative products and services are in high demand.
- Because it is my job to help ensure that the right business conditions exist for a healthy economy.
- We know that British Columbia is an exporting province. One in five jobs and 20 per cent of our GDP depends on exports.
- BC is known for its high quality products – whether it's lumber or seafood or cherries – there are opportunities for our businesses to sell their products in international markets.

- Government's mandate is to help create the conditions necessary for companies to succeed. Part of that is making businesses aware of export opportunities so they can expand their reach and their success.
- One of Government's successful pilot projects is the Export Navigator which helps businesses learn to export their products or services to the world outside our borders.
- Not only does this help those specific businesses, but it helps everyone in BC because growing these businesses creates more good jobs here at home.
- Export Navigator is being piloted throughout the province in six cities:
  - Vernon,
  - Prince George,
  - Comox Valley,
  - Port Alberni,
  - Nelson and Prince Rupert.

## **Collaboration**

- In addition to fostering B.C.'s tech sector, one of the ways to create a prosperous future and a healthy, sustainable economy in B.C., is through a collaborative approach.

- The Regional Prosperity Initiative is an excellent example of how groups of people can come together to create growth, strategies and insights for the betterment of the economy and the lives of all British Columbians.
- Having a supportive economy and good paying jobs for people throughout the province means everyone benefits.
- It raises up small, medium and large communities everywhere.
- This strong economy also gives us the ability to help families and provide better services for people,
- Whether it's free adult basic education, free English language courses, better health care and bridge free tolls put more money in the pockets of families that need it most.

### **Small Business Support**

- I'm sure many of you can attest that one of B.C.'s strengths is our incredible small business sector.
- Small businesses are the bread and butter of our economy.

- 98% of businesses in B.C. are small businesses – in fact, we have the most in Canada!
- With the support of all levels of government small businesses are better positioned to grow and succeed, creating jobs that help strengthen communities.
- We're asking people at the very top to pay a little more.
- Top income earners received a tax break under the BC Liberal government.
- We're reversing that decision, and those earners will pay an additional 2.1 per cent on income over \$150-thousand.
- We're increasing corporate taxes by a modest 1 per cent, keeping us competitive with Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- We're also cutting MSP premiums in half, saving families up to \$900 per year.
- And we're lowering the small business tax rate by 20%, from 2.5 to 2 per cent.

- We have thousands of businesses that keep B.C.'s economy humming, adding millions to our GDP, employing thousands of workers and providing services to millions of people.
- That is why I've been asked by the Premier to create a Small Business Task Force.
- This collaborative entity will advise government on how best to move forward on supports and policies for the small business sector so that it can reach new heights.

### **Toll Removal and ferries**

- To make life more affordable for residents in Metro Vancouver we eliminated the bridge tolls for the Port Mann Bridge and the Golden Ears Bridge on Sept. 1.
- The elimination of bridge tolls is saving time and money for commuters and truck drivers who cross the bridge every day, which in turn, benefits businesses and Lower Mainland communities too.
- For B.C. residents, businesses and communities that rely on B.C. ferry services - I'm happy to share the good news that the government is reducing fares on BC Ferries' smaller routes by 15%...



- ...and we are working toward freezing fares on major routes.

## **On Housing**

- Not only have ferry fares increased, but housing costs throughout B.C. have skyrocketed.
- People can't afford a home in the community where they work. Renters can't find a place to live. Families can't get into the housing market as they grow, and parents worry about their kids' future.
- This hurts people and the economy.
- Businesses can't attract and retain the talent they need to contribute to our growing industries. Families build up debt and are stuck living paycheck to paycheck.
- Putting people first is our government's priority, and we're working on a comprehensive strategy to improve housing affordability,
- Close speculation loopholes, and reduce tax fraud and money laundering in B.C. real estate.
- Our government will be investing \$208 million over four years to support the construction of more than 1,700 new units of affordable rental housing in communities across the province.

- These units will help British Columbians who are finding that rent is taking up a disproportionate amount of their monthly income.

## **Conclusion**

- We all have an important role to play in B.C.'s economy, for the mutual benefit of our people, our communities, our businesses and our province.
- We are blessed to live in such a prosperous province and our government will continue to work collaboratively with municipal governments,
- The federal government,
- Aboriginal communities, and you, our business stakeholders, to strengthen our province's economy.
- Our government is eager to work with you, as representatives of the business community to build a better B.C.
- I want to thank the Vancouver Regional Prosperity Forum for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today.

- And to share some of government's plans to strengthen B.C.'s economy, and make life more affordable for British Columbians.
- Thank you.

**-END-**