



The Honourable John Horgan

Premier of British Columbia

and

The Honourable Bruce Ralston

Minister of Jobs, Trade, and Technology

Invite you to attend a Roundtable Media Event
And Meet & Greet with local Cabinet Ministers and MLAs

2:00 p.m.
Friday, March 2nd, 2018

Grand Taj Banquet Hall, Queen Hall
8388 128th Street Surrey, BC

Please enter via rear entrance

RSVP is required to secure a seat
Please RSVP to Shruti Joshi at:
Shruti.Joshi@gov.bc.ca

Sherlock, Stephanie GCPE:EX

Subject: Syncing Up on South Asian Media Round Table Today
Location: s.15 ✓ s.15,s.17 , Participant ID: s.15,s.17 # (JM to Moderate)

Start: Tue 2018-02-27 1:00 PM
End: Tue 2018-02-27 1:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: McColl, John-Michael JTT:EX
Required Attendees: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Van Meer-Mass, Kate PREM:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX; Joshi, Shruti GCPE:EX
Optional Attendees: Sherlock, Stephanie GCPE:EX; Currie, David GCPE:EX; Spilker, Robyn FIN:EX; Gillezeau, Rob FIN:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX

Hey everyone,

I'm hoping to hold a few minutes in your calendar today just to get synced up on the South Asian Media Round Table – get a good sense of who is doing what.

Could today at 1:00 PM work for you? Call-in details will appear in this invite as soon as I figure out how to do that.

To give you a quick overview of where the plan is currently at;

1. We've identified 2:00 PM on Friday, March 2 in Surrey (location TBC) as the time and place that works for the Premier
2. I have advised all Surrey MLAs (plus Ravi and Raj) to hold that time and date, most can make it.
3. We've booked a meeting of the South Fraser Caucus for tomorrow to discuss the event and key topics that should be addressed at the roundtable.

I should confess from the start that I don't know much how these type of events are typically organized, but Minister Ralston tells me he's been to more than a few round tables and suggests the following plan:

First off, he tells me the venue should be a restaurant. Shruti Joshi proposed the Grand Taj Banquet Hall. Minister thinks that would be ideal.

s.13

I'm hoping that at the meeting today I can get your feedback on the above plan, and that we can discuss who should do what to make it happen. Please don't hesitate to contact me: s.17

Cheers,

JM

Dial-in Phone Numbers:

s.15,s.17

s.15,s.17 Vancouver local

Participant Conference ID:

s.15,s.17

Moderator Conference ID:

s.15,s.17 (MO to Moderate)

FOI request

Following areas were searched:

Emails: Yes

Lan: yes

Work station for hardcopies: Yes

Issue prep: Yes

List of names and affiliations of all participants

1. Harjinder Thind – Red FM
2. Haroon Ghaffar – Red FM
3. Jasbir Romana – KRPI 1550 AM
4. Harjit Gill – KRPI 1550 AM
5. Dr. Raminder Kang – KRPI 1550 AM
6. Ravi Cheema – The Asian Star/ Punjabi Star
7. Sukhi – Channel Punjabi /Zee TV + Cameraperson
8. Lucky Sahota – Akal Guardian/Chardi Kalan
9. Nawal Tandon – Drishti Magazine
10. Khushpal Gill – Sach di Awaaz
11. Gurnam Sanghera- Sach di Awaaz
12. Rajinder Pandher – Sach di Awaaz
13. Gurlal Singh – Punjabi Tribune
14. Ashiana Khan – Media Waves 1600 AM
15. Kuljit Kaur – Media Waves 1600 AM
16. Petrina D’Souza – Darpan Magazine
17. Vinay Sharma – The Times of Canada
18. Luvpreet Kumar – The Times of Canada
19. Sukhwinder Chohla – Des Pardes, NRI Sarokar
20. Gurpreet Singh – Spice Radio
21. OMNI Punjabi News - Reporter + Cameraperson
22. Amritjit Sran – PTC Canada + Cameraperson
23. Amarpal Singh – Canadian Punjab Times
24. Miracle Newspaper
25. Jafar Bhamjee- Al-Ameen Post
26. Devinder Benipal - Prime TV Asia + Cameraperson
27. Mr. Sucha Caire – Indo-Canadian Times

Might Come

1. R. Paul Dhillon – The Link
2. Vinnie Combo – The Voice
3. Umendra Singh – The Asian Star

Copies of invitations to the participants

From: Joshi, Shruti GCPE:EX

Sent: Thursday, March 1, 2018 9:21 AM

Cc: Joshi, Shruti GCPE:EX

Subject:Media roundtable with Premier John Horgan

Attachments: Provincial Government Invitation - Mar 2 2018.pdf

Dear friends,

Please find attached an invitation to Premier John Horgan's media roundtable being held in Surrey tomorrow March 2, 2018 at Grand Taj Banquet Hall.

Premier will be joined by a number of Ministers and MLAs.

Please RSVP your attendance as soon as possible.

Hope to see you there.

Shruti Prakash-Joshi

Media Relations Officer

Government Communications & Public Engagement

Shruti.Joshi@gov.bc.ca TEL # 778-587-4521

Briefing notes about the participants – Not available

Items to be discussed

SA Roundtable, March 2, 2018

March 2 is celebrated as Holi (for Hindus) and Hola Mohalla (Sikhs). It will be nice if the Premier acknowledge these festivals. They might sound like similar festivals but are different and therefore important that both are acknowledged separately keeping in mind religious sensitivities.

- March 2 Holi/Hola Mohalla (Hinduism, Sikhism). A colourful and joyous festival that welcomes spring. Also referred to as festival of colours. For Sikhs a festival started by the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh as a time for military exercises. Widely celebrated.
- Spice Radio , 1200 AM is also marking the end of their 4th Annual Raise Your Hands against Racism campaign in an official ceremony on March 3. It would be nice to acknowledge this important campaign.

Other important days for March are:

- March 21: NowRuz, or Persian New year. A very important festival celebrated widely by people of Iranian descent.
- March 23 – National Day Pakistan

Opinion

the SA community is generally quite pleased with some of the measures the government has taken such as removal of tolls, announcement of a concept plan for a new Hospital* in Surrey, replacement of Patullo bridge etc, but the narrative very subtly is being changed to NDP being anti-jobs and a party of tax and spend. There is talk of broken promises, death of construction jobs, hardships on small businesses and constant references made to people of Surrey and what the government must do to fulfil their demands since they have played a key part in NDP's win.

*Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner has suggested that the province buy a site in Cloverdale, close to Kwantlen University for this hospital.

Issues

1. **Health Tax:** a lot of confusion about double dipping. The government is being perceived as tax and spend once again. The community is happy about some of the measures that the government has taken such as reducing the MSP, but with this new tax the perception is that it will definitely hurt small and medium sized businesses and schools.
2. **Housing affordability** – Although the community is happy about some of the measures that are being taken by the government, the construction industry feels that the government is not doing enough to increase supply. They feel under all the new taxes , the housing market will considerably slow down leading to reduced work for them. **Giving assurances to the construction industry is very important.**

3. **Child Care:** Seen as a broken promise. It is widely believed that the childcare announcement and funds were postponed because of the tensions between the Feds, Alberta and BC. They feel its over ambitious and NDP might not be able to fulfil it.
4. **Renters rebate:** Seen as a broken promise, only to capture votes.
5. **Minimum wage:** although generally perceived as a good thing, the businesses still need to be confident that this will not eat into their profit margins. Emphasizing all the measures we have taken is important.
6. **Pipeline issue—** There is a lot of misinformation about the pipeline issue in the community. The perception is that the NDP is blocking the pipeline only to please their green partners and the environment lobby. The perception is that thousands of jobs are at stake but because only because NDP needs the support of the Greens, they are doing this. The BC-Alberta wine war also caused a lot of mixed comments. People were generally happy that the government had done a wise thing by backing down.
7. **Relationship between Federal government and Provincial government (Surrey LRT) –** Some feel that with the pipeline issue BC government has damaged its relationship with the federal government and this could adversely funding for major infrastructure projects in BC and specifically Surrey (eg) the LRT* project in Surrey. Mentioning Patullo would be good.
*Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner was on Mr. Thind's show this morning clarifying that there is money in both the budgets for this project. She said feds have committed \$2.2 B and the province has committed \$1.77 B approx.
8. **Transit in Surrey:** SA community are extremely concerned about lack of public transit and growing traffic on the streets.
9. **Coquihalla Highway—** A number of people are very upset with the way the highway is being managed. A large number of members of the SA community are truck drivers and they are calling upon the government to fix issues relating to speed, overloading and maintenance of the highway.
10. **Trucking issue:** UTA whose membership has a large number of SA truckers are extremely concerned about issues with labour mobility, unlawful industry activities. They have complained that despite several meetings with local MLAs in regards to the commissioner of container trucks, aid no steps have been taken, instead 40 new tags have now been issued to big trucking companies.
11. **Proportional representation –** A lot of confusion and fear mongering in regards to this issue, clarity needed.
12. **Jaspal Atwal controversy :** The controversy surrounding PM Justin Trudeau's trip to India continues to be a topic of conversation. Some media outlets have said that people of all political parties have connections with Mr. Jaspal Atwal including NDP minister Jinny Sims who took Mr. Atwal's help during elections. The question that might be posed to the Premier could be that since MP Randeep Sarai has had to resign from his post as caucus chair for Western Canada, will the Premier also ask Minister Sims to do the same?
*This controversy today is more focused on the Conservative Motion that was to be introduced in the House of Commons and has since been deferred.

13. **BC-India relations** – There might be a question about BC's trip to India and what the Premier thinks about the recent controversy surrounding the PM's trip. We need to steer clear of the controversy but at the same time reiterating that BC shares strong ties with India and BC is much interested in furthering trade with India. If pressed about the Khalistani issue, I think we should simply say that British Columbians have a right to express their opinion in a peaceful manner and human rights is something that is valued greatly here. He could also talk about the full Human Rights Commission that we are re-instating in the province.

14. **ICBC:** A lot of confusion about soft tissue injury. There is fear that premiums will go up.

Other issues: Ride hailing, grant issue and gangs and shooting .

Copy of the transcript of the meeting- Not Available

Recording of the meeting

From: Behrens, Marlene GCPE:EX

Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 3:17 PM

To: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; Joshi, Shruti GCPE:EX

Cc: Badger, Joleen GCPE:EX

Subject:Media roundtable recording link

Hi all,

Here is the recording from Friday's Media Roundtable in Surrey.

<https://soundcloud.com/bcgov/premier-john-horgan-media-roundtable-in-surrey-march-2-2018>

Thanks,

Marlene Behrens | Event Coordinator

Government Communications and Public Engagement

778-584-1253 | Marlene.Behrens@gov.bc.ca

A list showing the costs of the meeting , including food and beverage, venue rental and transportation -
Not Available