

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER JINNY SIMS
MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

Robson Square Ice Rink – Season Opening

Robson Square Ice Rink, Lower Plaza,
800 Robson Square

Friday December 1, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

SPEAKING TIME: 1:15 P.M. FOR 3-4 MINUTES
(572 WORDS = 4.5 MINUTES)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Contact at the event:

Jordan Humphries, Pace Group: s.22

Elena Banfield, GCPE Event Coordinator: 604 842-0984 (cell)

Getting there and parking:

Proceed on Howe Street in the right lane, exiting into the Robson Square parking lot (before Nelson). Park on the bottom UBC level and take the elevator up to "Plaza Level". There, you will be greeted and led to the briefing room.

Copyright

Audience:

The audience will comprise approximately 60 people made up of the following:

- Members of Vancouver City Council
- Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association members
- Children /Staff from a Pro-D Day Camp at the Roundhouse Community Centre
- Children /Staff who are members of Skate Canada Grandview Club will participate, skate on rink
- Media
- General public passing by

Notable attendees:

- Minister of Citizens' Services Jinny Sims (SPEAKER)
- Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training Melanie Mark (EMCEE)

- Dani Pretto, Chairperson, Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) (SPEAKER)
- Loredana Grama, General Manager, Nordstrom (SPEAKER)
- Kevin Reynolds, Olympic Figure Skater 2014 (PHOTO)

Event description:

The opening of the season of ice skating at the Robson Square Ice Rink is a tradition in its ninth year.

Room setup:

There will be a podium and wireless microphone beside the rink gates.

Attire:

Recommended attire includes a sweater and warm jacket, scarf, gloves and boots.

Itinerary/agenda:

Time	Event Itinerary
10:30 a.m.	Elena Banfield and FMAV on-site for technical set-up.
Event Summary	This is an outdoor podium event next to ice rink in the lower plaza of Robson Square in Vancouver. Backdrop: Robson Square ice rink. Kids from Roundhouse Community Centre Pro-D Day Camp and Skate Canada Grandview Club in skating gear will be gathered around the podium. Podium art: BC ID, no text.
	Media Relations: Shruti Joshi Videographer/Photographer: Herman Thind
12:30 p.m.	Roundhouse Community Centre Pro-D Day Club arrives. <i>Kids and 2 adult staff will be provided with skates and helmets by Jordan Humphries and rink staff. Photograph permission forms collected for each child by Elena Banfield.</i> Skate Canada BC/Yukon Grandview Club members (school aged) arrives. <i>Photograph permission forms collected for each child by Elena Banfield.</i>
12:45 p.m.	Pre-brief with speaking guests, led by Elena Banfield, Event Coordinator Location: North Room, Showcase Space (located at northeast corner) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services • Melanie Mark, MLA Vancouver-Mount Pleasant, Emcee • Dani Pretto, Chairperson, Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA). • Loredana Grama (pronounced Laura-donna Gramma), General Manager, Nordstrom • Kevin Reynolds, Olympic Figure Skater
12:57 p.m.	Stage guests positioned at podium area, led by Elena Banfield.
1:00 p.m.	Minister Melanie Mark welcomes everyone, introduces herself, the speaking guests and invites Minister Sims to say a few words.
1:02 p.m.	Minister Jinny Sims gives remarks.
1:07 p.m.	Minister Mark thanks Minister Sims and invites Dani Pretto to say a few words.
1:08 p.m.	Dani Pretto , DVBIA Chairperson to briefly speak about the importance of the RSQ Ice Rink in the Downtown Vancouver area for local businesses, especially during the holiday season.
1:10 p.m.	Minister Mark thanks Dani Pretto and invites GM Nordstrom Vancouver Loredana Grama to say a few words.
1:11 p.m.	Loredana Grama gives remarks.
1:13 p.m.	Minister Mark thanks GM Nordstrom and invites Minister Sims and Kevin Reynolds, with help from the kids, to officially open the ice rink. PHOTO-OP: Minister Sims, Kevin Reynolds and kids officially open ice rink. Kevin Reynolds performs a short 2 minute program on the ice. Kids, Minister Sims and speakers watching the performance on the sidelines
1:16 p.m.	Informal media availability (if needed): Minister Sims lacing up her skates.
1:18 p.m.	PHOTO-OP: Kevin Reynolds to give Minister Sims and kids a short skating lesson.
2:00 p.m.	Event concludes. Rink opens to public.

The Minister's presence and speech will reinforce for the citizens and visitors of metro Vancouver that the Province of BC works collaboratively with our partners to provide affordable services to the people of British Columbia.

- **Thank-you Minister Mark.**
- **On behalf of Premier John Horgan and your government, I want to thank all of you for joining us today. Right here in Downtown Vancouver...**

... a location that is the envy of urban centres around the world...
- **Over the past eight years, the Robson Square Ice Rink has become a wintertime oasis for local residents and visitors alike.**
- **Many of you may not know this, but Robson Square is owned by the Provincial Government, which means this ice rink really belongs to all British Columbians.**

- **Here, we have a chance to be social and get some exercise...**

...while embracing a great Canadian pastime – ice skating.

- **My heart is truly warm looking out at this crowd of young faces...**

... so many who have come here to have fun on the ice today and to watch a truly talented and accomplished young man, Kevin Reynolds.

- **Kevin is an Olympic Figure Skater – the first to have landed two quadruple jumps in a short program – and he helped Team Canada win an Olympic silver medal in 2014!**
- **Being here brings back memories of seeing my own children, and those that I've taught, learn how to skate.**
- **The skating rink is a space to learn, have fun and form important bonds.**

- **Just look around you and I'm sure you'll agree that this space offers a beautiful environment...**

...a free activity for families and friends...

....and a great way for visitors to Vancouver to enjoy an important Canadian hobby.

- **It is also a great way to connect with people.**
- **In my experience as an educator...**
- **a Member of Parliament...**
- **and now as Minister of Citizens' Services...**
- **I have found that connecting with people -- where they live and work -- is the best way to find out what matters to them and how we can help to make their lives better...**

...and making life better for all British Columbians is what drives and motivates me in my work as Minister.

- **I want to ensure that my children and grandchildren are able to live in a British Columbia that is the best it can be...**

...for every person that lives here.

- **As your government, we are proud to provide this rink here in Vancouver for all to enjoy.**
- **We are pleased to have partners such as Nordstrom who have been providing their sponsorship and support for three years now.**

- **As well, I am pleased to have Dani Pretto, the Chairperson of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association here today...**

...her organization understands that having free and fun activities downtown helps our local businesses thrive by bringing more people to the downtown core.

- **But it's also great for the many young families that live here in Yaletown, Coal Harbour, and the West End.**
- **I'd like to end by saying that I think we often forget the value of taking some time to connect with people.**
- **In the middle of the bustle of this city...**

...the busy-ness of the holiday season...

...the often relentless pace of life...

...this rink is intended to be a break from the stress and a chance to spend some quality time with friends and family.

- **For that reason – and for the chance to get on the ice with some smiling young people - I am thrilled to be here with you today as we celebrate the opening of this much loved winter oasis...**

...and I look forward to skating with you!

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER JINNY SIMS
MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

'Gigafy Bamfield'

Sullivan Heights Secondary School
6248 144 St., Surrey

Dec. 7, 2017

8:30 a.m.

Speaking Time and Length of speech:

3-5 minutes, 580 words with room for anecdotes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Contact at the event:

Elena Banfield, event coordinator

604-842-0984

Getting there and parking:

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Audience:

Grade 11 biology class s.22

Grade 9 science class s.22

Media

Notable attendees:

Raj Puri, Principal, Sullivan Heights Secondary School

Megan and Eric Geall, owners Community Wireless Networks s.22

Phil Lavoie, chair, Bamfield Chamber of Commerce and Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre field trip coordinator

Grade 11 biology class and teacher s.22

Grade 9 science class and teacher s.22

Event description:

Minister of Citizens' Services Jinny Sims announces that through the Connecting British Columbia program, the province contributed \$100,000 to Community Wireless Networks, a Bamfield internet service provider, to upgrade the community to fibre optic internet.

Minister Sims will join students at a Surrey-based secondary school as they virtually join a Marine Sciences Centre diver on a plunge into the Pacific Ocean via a live video uplink broadcast to one of the university's classrooms. Students will be able to ask the researcher questions using an audio link as the demonstration proceeds.

This exercise is designed to demonstrate the value of internet connectivity in smaller communities like Bamfield.

Background:

At this time, the Marine Sciences Centre is not directly benefitting from the upgraded internet connectivity. The research lab upgraded its connection upon receiving grant funding from the federal government in January, 2017. This has enabled them to conduct this live exercise with students in Surrey.

Community Wireless Networks is expected to have its fibre optic network installed and operating in the Spring of 2018.

Key issues

- In December 2016, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) identified a new internet standard requiring download speeds of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps).
- In November 2017, the CRTC indicated that B.C. has 92% broadband service availability to households at 50mbps or higher. However, comparing urban to rural availability shows there is still a lot of work to be done.
- B.C. continues to lead all provinces in providing access to the CRTC target download and upload speeds. Work continues to address the underserved areas of the province.

Time	Event Itinerary
7:30 a.m.	Elena Banfield, Phil Lavoie and FMAV on-site for technical set-up.
Event Summary	This is an indoor podium event in the Sullivan Heights Secondary School science lab. Backdrop: A 70" LED screen will be set up beside the podium and a large projection screen at one end of the room will display a live stream to the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (BMSC) dock. Students from a grade 9 and grade 11 biology class will be seated amongst lab stations. Following the speakers' remarks and media Q&A, students will interact with BMSC staff on a live-streamed dive. Podium art: BC ID, no text.
8:00 a.m.	Videographer/Photographer: TBC Guests begin to arrive and are escorted by student greeters to library for refreshments.
8:15 a.m.	Pre-brief with speaking guests, led by Elena Banfield, Event Coordinator Location: Library (main floor, just past entrance and to the left). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services • Raj Puri, Principal, • Phil Lavoie, President of Bamfield Chamber of Commerce and BMSC Field Program Lead
8:27 a.m.	Speakers escorted upstairs to science lab by Elena Banfield.
8:30 a.m.	Event begins – Raj Puri delivers opening remarks and introduces Minister Sims to the class
8:32 a.m.	Minister Sims delivers welcome and introductory remarks. At conclusion, Minister Sims introduces Phil Lavoie.
8:37 a.m.	Phil Lavoie delivers remarks on behalf of Bamfield Chamber of Commerce.
8:40 a.m.	Minister Sims returns to podium and invites questions from media.
8:40 a.m.	Media Q&A
8:50 a.m.	Live Dive with BMSC begins – students take in the demonstration by the diver and are invited to ask questions related to their studies.
9:15 a.m.	Event Concludes.

[Event begins (8:30am) – Raj Puri delivers opening remarks and introduces Minister Sims to the class.]

Acknowledgements:

- **Thank you, Principal Puri (Pure-E) for the warm introduction.**
- **Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples.**
- **I would also like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Huu-ay-aht (who-way-at) First Nation and Maa-Nulth (mAh-nul-th) treaty lands.**
- **The traditional territory where the Bamfield Marine Science Centre is located.**

Also with us today are Surrey School District trustee Laurie Larsen and Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre field trip coordinator Phil Lavoie (LAV-WAH).

- **I'd also like to say 'hello' to Megan and Eric Geall (GEEL), owners of the Bamfield ISP 'Community Wireless Networks.'**^{s.22}

s.22

Speech:

- **Thank you for having me here today.**
- **And for the chance to return to one of my favourite places – a classroom.**
- **It has been a long time since I've had a chance to stand in front of a class, so I am thrilled to be here today and be part of this exciting announcement.**

- **As some of you may know, before becoming the Minister of Citizens' Services and before I was a Member of Parliament, I was a teacher here in British Columbia for many years.**
- **I was also fortunate enough to be elected president of the B.C. Teachers Federation and during that time I had the privilege of visiting schools in every corner of the province.**
- **My experience as an educator has taught me the value of having the right tools for the job.**
- **And today, one tool that no educator can be without is access to reliable, high speed internet.**

This is why I am excited to announce that Community Wireless Networks, a family-run internet service provider, will be receiving \$100,000 in provincial funding to build a fibre optic network in the community of Bamfield.

- As you'll see today, the internet creates new opportunities for learning. It can even bring the ocean to the classroom.**
- Here in Surrey, our classrooms, homes and businesses have some of the best high-speed internet connectivity in the province.**
- But in smaller B.C. communities, like Bamfield, which has a population just under 200, that is not always the case.**
- This is important to acknowledge, because for communities to succeed in the economy of tomorrow, we must make investments in technology today.**

- **In this province, we have an incredible opportunity to be at the forefront of the new economy. In many ways, we already are.**
- **Our technology sector is strong and growing in areas like the Lower Mainland and the south of Vancouver Island. But we want to make sure that all British Columbians share in this success.**
- **Smaller communities like Bamfield gain significant benefits when given the tools to do business in the new economy.**
- **Taking advantage of new technology is not just about creating new products and industries...**
- **...It's also about finding new ways to do the business that British Columbians do best.**

- **Increased bandwidth gives local businesses an important tool to reach out to new customers around the world.**
- **Guests staying at local hotels or B&Bs can use the Wi-Fi to relax and make plans for the days ahead or connect with their family members back home.**
- **By increasing access to high-speed internet, we make our entire province more accessible to the world...**
- **...And we bring the world to the doorstep of our communities, our classrooms, no matter where they are.**
- **This isn't easy...**
- **And we can't do it alone.**

- **We need partners like Community Wireless Networks to help us increase connectivity to smaller communities like Bamfield.**
- **Because not only will the local residents benefit...**
- **...but so will all British Columbians because we will be more connected to our neighbours.**
- **So with that, I know we're all eager to get to the presentation.**
- **The Marine Sciences Centre's live dives typically run 45 minutes long or so.**
- **But, given this is a demonstration and we're a bit pressed for time, I'll hand the mic over to Phil Lavoie for a quick overview.**

- **To all of you, thank you all for welcoming me to your school today.**

[(approx. 8:37 a.m.) Phil Lavoie delivers remarks on behalf of Bamfield Chamber of Commerce.]

[(approx. 8:40 a.m.) Minister Sims then returns to the podium and invites questions from the media.]

[(approx. 8:50 a.m.) Live dive with Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre begins.]

What We Heard Report and Policy Decisions on Cannabis – Media Availability

Event: Release of the What We Heard Report on public and stakeholder engagement and the announcement of the first policy decisions regarding non-medical cannabis in B.C.

When: Tuesday, Dec. 05, 2017 at 1:00 pm

Where: Media call-in via Minister's office

Contact: **Caroline McAndrews , GCPE-PSSG^{s.17}**
Rick Devereux

Length: 5 minutes

Key Participants:

- Minister Farnworth

Speakers: Hon. Farnworth will give opening remarks, and answer questions from media on the call-in line.

Attendees: Media that has called in.

Speaking Notes

Hon. Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Media Call-In Re: What We Heard report and first
cannabis policy decisions

Minister's Office
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

Tuesday, Dec. 05, 2017
1:00 p.m.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Introduction

- Thank you all for calling in.
- I'm here to speak to you about cannabis regulation in B.C.
- The upcoming legalization of non-medical cannabis will be a historic change, and will impact all of us and our communities.
- As you know, the Federal government has decided to legalize cannabis by July 2018, which is a challenge for BC just as it is for other jurisdictions.
- Many of the aspects of the regulatory framework fall to the provinces and territories.
- This allows us to set our own regulations for things like public consumption and possession limits and establish our own , distribution and retail models—and make other key policy decisions.
- But we had no intention to develop these regulations unilaterally – nor illusions that we could.

- As I've said before, collaboration is the key to getting this right in B.C....
- ...Which is why we undertook a broad public and stakeholder engagement process, so British Columbians could share their views on the legalization and regulation of non-medical cannabis.
- Our government is committed to responsibly managing this significant change in public policy,
- And with our public and stakeholder engagement we can ensure a made-in-B.C. approach.

What We Heard Report

- Today, we're happy to release the results of that engagement.
- We had 48,951 British Columbians provide their input and opinions on a range of issues relating to the legalization and regulation of non-medical cannabis in B.C.
- An unprecedented number of people...
- ...who gave us their opinions on everything from minimum age, personal possession limits, personal cultivation, wholesale distribution and retail

models, public consumption and drug-impaired driving.

- We also received over 141 written submissions from local and Indigenous governments and a range of other interested stakeholders.
- We've compiled all of these opinions into our "Cannabis Regulation in B.C.: What We Heard Report,"
- Which can now be accessed online by the public at: engage.gov.bc.ca/BCcannabisregulation
- I must say, that in going through all of the responses we received, it's clear that British Columbians support the same priorities of this government:
 - Protecting our young people,
 - Making the health and safety of British Columbians a priority,
 - Keeping cannabis out of the hands of criminals, and;
 - Keeping our roads safe through education and enforcement.

- Priorities that will continue to guide us as we develop the provincial regulatory framework for non-medical cannabis.

Policy Decisions

- We used the information collected through our engagement process, in addition to other research and analysis, to make a number of key decisions.
- The first being, the minimum age to possess, purchase and consume cannabis.
- **B.C. will set the minimum age to 19.**
- This is in-line with the current minimum age for purchasing and consuming both alcohol and tobacco in B.C., as well as the age of majority,
- And reflects the overwhelming majority of public and stakeholder engagement respondents who relayed their support for the minimum age to be set at 19 as well.
- **Like other provinces, B.C. will also have a government-run wholesale distribution model.**
- The B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) will operate as the wholesale distributor of non-medical cannabis in British Columbia.

- Furthermore, the policy decisions announced today reflect the feedback received from the local government members of the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR) and endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities Executive.
- The formal submission provided to government can now be viewed on the UBCM website: www.ubcm.ca
- Finally, I know there is much interest in hearing how non-medical cannabis will be sold in B.C.
- **Well, I can tell you that the Province anticipates establishing a retail model that includes both public and private options.**
- But we have more work to do on the details of what that will look like, and will share those details in early 2018.
- We can't release a full model today because there are policy decisions to consider, based on what we announced here, and as we learn more from the federal government about what they plan to do.
- I've said many times that one size doesn't fit all and the feedback we received clearly showed

support for a mixed public and private retail model.

Conclusion

- In closing, we still have a number of key decisions to make as we prepare for the federal legalization of cannabis.
- We'll continue to engage and consult with local and indigenous government and other key stakeholders,
- And work will continue with the joint working group with UBCM—and I would like to thank them for their work to date.
- Ensuring a made in B.C. approach that will keep our roads and communities safe, protect young people and promote public health and safety.
- We thank everyone for being part of this important effort,
- And look forward to bringing you more details in the New Year.
- Thank You, I'll now take your questions.

-END-

Illegal Firearms Task Force Report – Media Availability

Event: Release of the Illegal Firearms Task Force Report

When: Monday, Nov.27, 2017 at 12:30 pm

Where: Press Theatre, Parliament Buildings

Contact: **Caroline McAndrews , GCPE-PSSG, s.17**
Stephanie Sherlock, Rick Devereux

Length: 3 minutes

Key Participants:

- Minister Farnworth
- Jim Gresham, Criminal Operations Officer - ISOC, BC RCMP
- Wayne Rideout (Lead IFTF)
- Clayton Pecknold (ADM)
- South Fraser MLA's (no speaking role)

Speakers: Hon. Farnworth will give opening remarks, introduce Jim Gresham to say a few words, followed by QA, support by Wayne Rideout and Clayton Pecknold.

Attendees: Press gallery, local media and those who have called-in.

SPEAKING NOTES

Hon. Mike Farnworth

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

ILLEGAL FIREARMS TASK FORCE REPORT RELEASE

Press Theatre
Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC
Monday, November 27, 2017

12:30 p.m.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Introduction:

- Hi, thank you all for coming.
- I'm here today with Jim Gresham, Criminal Operations Officer - ISOC, BC RCMP, Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, and Wayne Rideout, Executive Director - Serious & Organized Crime Initiatives, and the author of this report.
- And we're here to speak to you about the Illegal Firearms Task Force Report.
- I've said many times that all British Columbians deserve to live in safe communities, free of violent crime and gang activities.
- Unfortunately, B.C. continues to experience highly dangerous incidents of firearms violence that have resulted in numerous deaths and injuries and place innocent members of the public at risk.
- And in some of our communities, citizens feel unsafe.

- But I want to put this in context, this is a widespread problem not isolated just to British Columbia; it is being seen across Canada.
- In 2015, there were over 2,000 incidents involving the criminal use of firearms in B.C.,
- These incidents included such offences as homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, assault, uttering threats, break and enters and careless use.
- During the investigation of these incidents, over 3,000 illegal firearms were seized by law enforcement personnel.
- The Illegal Firearms Task Force, consisting of provincial experts with a wide range of experience in managing illegal firearms and organized crime, reviewed and analyzed the existing published research, interviewed numerous individuals and

organizations, and conducted community consultations around B.C.

- They worked to identify the risks associated with illegal firearms and to develop solutions that build on existing programs and strategies.
- Here are some of the highlights of the findings:

Where illegal firearms come from Over the past three years in B.C. approximately 60 per cent of illegal firearms were sourced in Canada.

- Domestically sourced illegal firearms are now a significant factor.
- Individuals with no criminal record with a firearms licence could legally acquire firearms and divert them to the criminal market.
- They can also be stolen in residential and commercial break-ins.

- In 2015, 942 stolen firearms were reported to RCMP and independent police agencies in the province.
- Smuggled firearms, primarily from the United States, remains a significant problem.

Use of Vehicles:

- We've also seen an increase in firearms violence involving vehicles.
- Approximately one in every three victims in a gang-related homicide or attempted homicide is targeted when inside, or near a motor vehicle.
- The car used by gangs, is a moving hazard, a mobile crime scene, and plays a central role in gang mobility.

- It's important to find ways to mitigate the risk created by organized crime and gangs who recklessly use their vehicles on our roadways to commit violent firearms crimes.

Tracing firearms:

- Another critical task is tracing firearms.
- The tracing of a firearm used in a crime or recovered by police is complex...
- ... and involves tracking the firearm from point of manufacture, through importation and delivery, to the distributor and retailer.
- The goal of police is to determine who last legally owned the firearm.

- In Canada, there is no national legislation to require record keeping for sales of non-restricted firearms - purchasers can re-sell, trade or give away a firearm without keeping records.
- Without sales records, crime investigators often cannot trace the ownership of crime guns—impeding evidence gathering for prosecution that assists in identifying traffickers.
- These records also create a deterrent for illegal firearms traffickers who hide behind the absence of those records.

Imitation/home-built firearms:

- Imitation firearms are also an emerging public safety problem in B.C. and across Canada.
- Users can acquire them easily without proof of age, licence or competency,

- And manufacturers of gun parts, most often outside of Canada, often market kits with all the tools required to make home-made fully functional guns.

Suppliers also sell components to make firearms fire in a fully automatic mode (as a machine gun) and sell sound suppressors or silencers.

Opioids & Firearms

- It's also no secret that gun and gang violence is most often tied to drugs - so today I want to mention that we have begun dispersing some of the \$31.3 million - over 3 years – that the Premier announced in late September for public safety initiatives.

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- This includes providing \$14 million for the creation of a dedicated Anti-Trafficking Task Force at CFSEU-BC that will target mid-level drug traffickers.
- The Task Force will address the challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking and other organized crime, including the related risks associated to illegal firearms—and will also work with the Canada Border Services Agency.
- We are also providing \$5 million to Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority projects to increase enforcement against high-level organized crime, fentanyl importers and illegal drug traffickers, including the trafficking of illegal firearms.

- We're also pleased the federal government recognizes the devastating impact of gun and gang violence, and is stepping up to assist us and other provinces in dealing with it.
- We welcome the \$327.6 million over five years in new funding announced by Minister Goodale last Friday, and their commitment to help reduce gun crime and gangs across the country...
- ... we've been advocating for additional resources, and continue to work with the federal government toward action on guns and gangs and drug trafficking.
- We'll be talking with the federal government immediately about how that funding will be shared among us and how quickly it will be dispersed—to get more of a sense on the details.

- My hope is that it is going to be targeted to those areas of the country where there is a real problem - so the Lower Mainland of B.C. would clearly be a priority.
- And we look forward to the recently announced federal Criminal Guns and Gangs Summit this March—our provinces' gang unit (CFSEU-BC) has held similar summits that have been quite successful.

Closing:

- In closing, the release of the Illegal Firearms Task Force report today is just one part of a multi-pronged approach our government is engaging in to tackle gun and gang violence in our province.
- we will continue to keep you updated as initiatives come online and into activation.

- Again people deserve to feel safe and be safe in their communities and together we can combat the gun violence in our streets, through both education and enforcement.
- Thank you, I'll now turn it over to Jim Gresham who'll say a few words, and then we'll be happy to take your questions.

Event Information / Emcee Speaking Notes

Event: Announcement: Violence Against Women Funding (\$5M)

When: Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 – 10:45 a.m.

Where: Surrey Women's Centre
10075 Whalley Blvd.
Surrey

Contact: Jarrett Hagglund, GCPE Event Services, 604 817-1458

Length: 3 minutes (intermittent)

Key Participants:

- Speaking:
 - Premier John Horgan
 - Minister Farnworth (emcee)
 - Alison Brewin, interim executive director, Surrey Women's Centre
 - Tracy Porteous, executive director, Ending Violence Association of BC
 - Joanne Baker, executive director, BC Society of Transition Houses
 - Carolyn Sinclair, executive director, Police Victim Services of B.C.
- Other notable attendees:
 - Local MLAs (TBC)

Other Attendees: Other service providers (attendance TBC) and invited media (plus media from outside the Lower Mainland who have dialled in)

Event Details: see itinerary below

Ending Violence against Women Event Event Itinerary

Surrey Women's Centre
10075 Whalley Blvd, Surrey BC
V3T 4G1

Date: Friday Dec 1st, 2017
10:45 am

Time:

Event Summary	Inside event. Speakers at podium Stakeholders and Possibly staff standing with Premier and speakers. Backdrop Surrey Women's Centre (TBC where)
Time	Event Itinerary
8:00 am	SW AV arrive onsite for set-up
10:15 am	Minister Farnworth and speakers arrive on site and Brief with Jarrett Hagglund
10:25 am	Premier arrives
10:26 am	Premier does walk around of centre with Alison
10:29 am	Premier has roundtable conversation with workers in crisis room – Facilitated by Mira Oreck
10:40 am	Media has opportunity for roundtable photo-op
10:45 am	Premier goes to room with podium set-up.
10:45 am	Formal announcement begins
10:45 am	Minister Farnworth MC, welcomes everyone makes opening remarks and introduces Alison from Surrey Women's Centre (2 mins)
10:47 am	Alison Speaks (2 mins)
10:49 am	Minister Farnworth thanks Alison and introduces Premier (1 min)
10:50 am	Premier Speaks (5 mins)
10:55 am	Minister Farnworth thanks Premier and introduces Tracy Porteous (1min)
10:56 am	Tracy Porteous speaks (2 mins)
10:58 am	Minister Farnworth thanks Tracy Porteous and introduces Dr. Joanne Baker (1 min)
10:59 am	Dr. Joanne Baker Speaks (2 mins)
11:01 am	Minister Farnworth thanks Dr. Baker and introduces Carolyn Sinclair
11:02 am	Carolyn Sinclair Speaks (2 mins)
11:04 am	Minister Farnworth thanks Carolyn and introduces Premier for Q and A (1min)
11:05 am	Media Q and A (10 mins) Moderated by Sheena McConnell
11:15 am	Event Ends – Premier Departs

Av Contact: SW – name TBC
Call-in Line with Q and A:

Dial In Numbers: s.15,s.17

Participant Pass Code: s.15,s.17

Speakers Pass Code:

Speaking Notes
for
Hon. Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Violence Against Women Funding

Surrey Women's Centre
10075 Whalley Blvd.
Surrey, B.C.

Friday, Dec. 1, 2017
10:45 a.m.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Introduction

- Welcome and thank you all for joining us today as we come together on the territory of the Coast Salish peoples.
- I'm Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General for the province.
- Joining me on stage are:
 - Premier John Horgan;
 - Alison Brewin, interim executive director here at the Surrey Women's Centre;
 - Tracy Porteous (*pronounced PORT-ee-us*), executive director of the Ending Violence Association of BC;
 - Dr. Joanne Baker, executive director of the BC Society of Transition Houses;

- And Carolyn Sinclair, executive director of Police Victim Services of B.C.

Commitment to Services People Count On

- Given the nature of why we're here today, I think it's appropriate to highlight that we are in the midst of 16 days of activism on gender-based violence, which continue through December 10th.
- Our government is committed to delivering services that people count on...
- ...And that absolutely includes the many skilled, compassionate agencies throughout British Columbia that are helping women and children affected by violence to move toward safety and recovery.
- Locally, Surrey Women's Centre is one of the agencies doing this critical front-line work...

- ...And to tell us a bit more about it, I'll ask Alison to say a few words.

(Alison Brewin speaks)

- Thank you, Alison.
- Many victim service agencies and violence-against-women organizations have been stretching themselves thin to serve a growing number of clients in recent years.
- Well, help is on the way.
- For more about today's announcement, it gives me great pleasure to turn the mic over to Premier Horgan.

(Premier Horgan speaks)

- Thank you, Premier.
- As you've just heard, the funding we're announcing today essentially has two

overarching public safety goals.

- The first is immediate.
- It's about helping a host of agencies to help address high demand for programs and reduce waitlists, so women and children get timely help to escape violent situations.
- The second goal is longer-term.
- If we want to change attitudes and behaviours, and eradicate gender-based violence, there's a great opportunity to be seized with our youth.
- The Ending Violence Association of BC is a partner in some great work that's already reached over 100,000 young people.
- For more on that and what today's announcement means for them, I'll ask Tracy to say a few words now.

(Tracy Porteous speaks)

- Thank you, Tracy.
- Another valued partner in helping to make women and children safer every day in British Columbia is the B.C. Society of Transition Houses.
- I'll now ask Dr. Baker to share her perspective on today's announcement.

(Dr. Joanne Baker speaks)

- Thank you, Dr. Baker.
- Throughout B.C., my ministry funds 161 victim service programs.
- They provide emotional support, information, referrals and practical assistance to thousands of people in their time of need.
- For more on this vital work, I'll now ask Carolyn Sinclair to say a few words.

(Carolyn Sinclair speaks)

- Thank you, Carolyn.

Conclusion

- This concludes the formal portion of today's event.
- For members of the media, I'll now turn over the proceedings to our moderator for a question-and-answer session.
- Thank you.

(Sheena McConnell approaches mic and leads moderated Q&A session)

-END-

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER HARRY BAINS
MINISTRY OF LABOUR**

Seaspan Ship Launch

**Vancouver Shipyards
50 Pemberton Ave., North Vancouver**

Friday, December 8, 2017

**12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
(Minister will speak at about 1:37 p.m.)**

Speaking length – 2 minutes

Event: **Celebration of the launch of a new ship built at Seaspan**

When: Friday, Dec. 8, 2017

- Minister will speak at 1:37 p.m. for about 2 minutes.
- Minister requested to arrive at 11:55 a.m.
- Minister to speak after MLA Bowinn Ma; before Brian Carter, President & CEO of Seaspan Shipyards.

Where: Seaspan Vancouver Shipyards

50 Pemberton Ave., North Vancouver

Reserved parking available on site for event speakers. Security may ask to confirm identify via government-issued photo ID

Contact: Krissy Van Loon, Seaspan Shipyards

s.22

Key Participants:

- **Tim Page** (emcee) – Seaspan Vice President, Government Relations
- **Hon. Carla Qualtrough** - federal Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada
- **Jeff Hutchinson** – Coast Guard Commissioner
- **Bowinn Ma** – MLA, North Vancouver – Lonsdale on behalf of Minister Ralston
- **Hon. Harry Bains** – Minister of Labour
- **Brian Carter** – Seaspan President & CEO

Event Details:

- Audience Composite: There will be approximately 1,500 attendees at the event. Majority of this will be internal staff, federal and provincial dignitaries, and main suppliers for the project.
- Media Attending: Yes
- Q&A to Follow: No
- Event Context: Seaspan Shipyards has completed the initial phase of construction on the first ship to be built under the National Shipbuilding Strategy and is launching the Sir John Franklin (Hull #190 of the Offshore Fisheries Science Vessels) today. The ship will be towed to the Victoria shipyards to be completed before entering service as an Offshore Fisheries Science Vessel.

In 2011, with provincial support, Seaspan was one of two Canadian shipyards chosen to build large federal vessels for the Coast Guard and the Navy. Seaspan is building up to 17 non-combat vessels (value at approx. \$8billion). Irving Shipbuilders in Halifax will build combat vessels.

- Event Billing/Theme: Celebration of the launch of the new vessel.
- Speech Theme: Good jobs that pay well.
- Logistics notes: Outdoor event, rows of chairs set up facing the ship, with a raised podium to one side with seating for speakers.
- Clothing: Business casual; be prepared for cold weather.

Itinerary:

Time	Proceedings
11:55 a.m.	Pre-reception at Ops Centre 4A-4B
12:45 p.m.	Podium Party Briefing at Ops Centre Meeting Room 5
1:05 p.m.	Podium Party escorted to event (approx. 250m)
1:15p.m. – 1:50 p.m. Min. Bains speaking approx. 1:37 p.m.	Opening Reception and speeches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Page, Master of Ceremonies • Elder Gloria Nahanee • Minister Carla Qualtrough • Commissioner Jeff Hutchinson • MLA Bowinn Ma • Minister Harry Bains • Brian Carter
1:52 p.m.	Breaking of bottle
2:05 p.m.	Closing remarks from MC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers presented with gifts • Photo op
2:15 p.m. – 2:30p.m.	Media availability
2:30 p.m.	Possible tour of shipyard for speakers

Key Issues:

- Recent media reports suggest that Seaspan has been criticized by the federal government for budget, timelines and completion dates.
- There has also been recent coverage of concerns that Seaspan, Irving (in Halifax) and Davie (in Quebec) shipyards could be forced to lay off skilled workers due to downtime between shipbuilding projects. The unions have called on the federal government to expedite decisions and/or provide more work to those companies.
- For Seaspan, their North Vancouver operations could see significant layoffs in a year or year and a half, if other work is not found during the downtime.

Framework:

- Thank you and good afternoon. And thanks to Elder Nahanee for her welcome.

Good jobs that pay well

- This is a great milestone for Seaspan, and a significant investment for the company and our province.
- Providing jobs for thousands of British Columbians, both at Seaspan and through your manufacturing partners.
- And these are good jobs, that pay well, that support families and contribute to our local, provincial and national economies.
- Pleased with Seaspan's apprenticeship program, which includes about 70 apprentices in various trades.
- It can be very challenging for apprentices to find placements that give them the hours and training they need for their tickets.
- I applaud Seaspan and the unions for working together to provide opportunities for the workers of today and tomorrow.

Focus on safety

- Also want to commend them for a strong focus on safety in the workplace.
- As Minister of Labour, I am firmly committed to making workplaces in B.C. the safest and healthiest in Canada.
- We can, and must, invest in prevention, training and enforcement.
- I know that Seaspan and its unions share my commitment to safety and will continue to make that a priority in the years – and ships – to come
- Again, congratulations on building this fine ship. From keel to bridge and bow to stern – job well done!
- Thank you.

- Thank you, Bowinn, and good afternoon everyone.
- Let me also add my thanks to Elder Nahanee for welcoming us to the traditional territories of the Squamish First Nation.
- It's a real pleasure to be here to offer congratulations to the Seaspan family for the launch of the Sir John Franklin.
- Very impressive, isn't it? You don't realize just how big these things are until you're right up close to them!
- The construction of this vessel - and the ones that are underway - is a great milestone for Seaspan, and one that represents a significant investment for the company, but also for our province.
- It's one of the reasons that Vancouver is leading the country in economic growth.
- The ships that you are building under the National Shipbuilding Strategy provide jobs for thousands of British Columbians, both here at Seaspan but also through the supply chain of your manufacturing partners across the country.
- And these are *good* jobs, that pay well, that support families and contribute to our local, provincial and national economies.
- I am particularly pleased with Seaspan's apprenticeship program which, I gather, includes about 70 apprentices in various trades.
- In this day and age, it can be very challenging for apprentices to find placements that give them the hours, training and supervision they need to complete their tickets.
- I applaud Seaspan and the unions here for working together to provide opportunities for the workers of today and tomorrow.
- I also want to commend Seaspan and the unions for a strong focus on safety in the workplace.

- **As Minister of Labour, I am firmly committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest and healthiest in Canada.**
- **We can, and must, invest in prevention, training, and enforcement.**
- **And I know that Seaspan and its unions share my commitment to workplace safety, and will continue to make that a priority in the years – and the ships! – to come.**
- **So again, congratulations to everyone who contributed to the building of this fine ship. From keel to bridge, and bow to stern – job well done!**
- **Thank you.**

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER HARRY BAINS
MINISTRY OF LABOUR**

**Simon Fraser University
Launch of new Labour Studies Major program**

**World Art Centre – Rm. 2555
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, SFU Vancouver
149 West Hastings, Vancouver**

Friday, December 8, 2017

**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
(Minister will speak at about 6:15 p.m.)**

Speaking length – 10 minutes

Event: SFU – launch of new Major program in Labour Studies

When: Friday, December 8, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

- Minister will speak for 10 minutes.
- Minister requested to arrive by 5:45p.m.
- Minister to speak at about 6:15, after Jim Sinclair and before Andrew Petter

Where: World Art Centre – Rm. 2555
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, SFU Vancouver
149 West Hastings, Vancouver
EasyPark lot located at 65 West Cordova St. or the parkade under the
International Village Mall at 88 W. Pender

Contact: Jim Sinclair

Key Participants:

- **Andrew Petter** - SFU President
- **Jane Pulkingham** – Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Harry Bains**, Minister of Labour
- Co-hosts: **Kendra Strauss** – director of SFU’s Labour Studies Program; and **Jim Sinclair** – former president of the BC Federation of Labour and Chair of SFU’s Labour Studies Advisory Committee
- **Kate Braid** – Writer, poet, former construction worker

- **Dr. Kendra Strauss**
 - Associate professor and director of SFU’s Labour Studies Program and the Morgan Centre for Labour Research. Associate Member, Department of Geography, Faculty of Environment. Dr. Strauss is a labour geographer and feminist political economist with teaching and research interest in the areas of labour market change, welfare regimes, and systems of regulation.

- **Jim Sinclair**
 - Chair of SFU’s Labour Studies Advisory Committee and former president of the BC Federation of Labour from 1999 to 2014. Prior to that, Mr. Sinclair was vice-president of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union.

- **Kate Braid**
 - Writer, poet, worked for many years in the construction industry when few other women did. Taught creative writing at UBC, SFU and Malaspina College.

- **Professor Marjorie Griffin Cohen**

Event Details:

- Audience Composite: About 100 attending – students, faculty, union folks, members of the broader labour community
- Media Attending: No
- Q&A to Follow: No, but mingling afterwards
- Event Billing/Theme: Celebrating the creation of a new Major program in Labour Studies at SFU, which will commence in the Fall of 2018. Builds on the existing Minor and Certificate programs in Labour Studies at SFU.
- Speech Theme: Importance/significance of labour studies and the labour movement; tie in with Ministry priorities
- Logistics notes: Reception set-up: food tables along one wall with some seating and stand-up tables. Podium with mic at the front of the room for speakers. SFU photographer will be there for official pictures of the event
- Clothing: Business casual

Itinerary:

Time	Details
6:00 p.m.	Welcome and introductions by Kendra Strauss
6:05	Territorial acknowledgement
6:10	Jim Sinclair speaks about the establishment of the new Major program
6:14	Kendra Strauss introduces Minister Bains
6:15	Minister Bains speaks
6:25	Andrew Petter speaks on Labour Studies and the engaged university
	Kendra Strauss speaks on Labour Studies
	Kate Braid speaks on the history of the Program and reads 2 short poems
	Jim and/or Kendra wrap up the program and thank the speakers

Framework:

Introduction

- Acknowledge Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish peoples.
- Thank Elder Margaret George of the Skawahlook First Nation for her welcome.
- Thank you to Jim Sinclair for inviting me to be part of this special celebration.

Importance of labour to human society

- Pleased to see SFU expand its Labour Studies Program so students can specialize in the study of work, labour movements and workers' experiences.
- Labour is the very foundation of human society. It is the thing we do as a society that manufactures everything around us, develops innovation in all fields. As individuals, it can define who we are and involve us in our society.
- The industrial revolutions in Britain, the U.S., and in Canada marked enormous cultural and societal shifts – moving those countries from agricultural to industrial economies.
- But those periods saw horrendous conditions for the workers. Low wages, long hours, child labour, extremely dangerous workplaces. Most workers lived in poverty, while the industry giants reaped all the rewards.
- That was the birthplace of labour movements that continue to fight for a fair balance between profits and people. I believe that's a pretty good measure of success as a society.

Minister's priorities

- Honoured to serve as Min. of Labour, and it's significant that we now have a standalone ministry for labour. My role is to promote fair, healthy and safe labour conditions to support a strong and sustainable economy and prosperous society.
- My priorities: First: workplace safety: we can and must invest in prevention, training, monitoring and enforcement.
- Second: raising minimum wage: established the Fair Wages Commission to recommend timelines for reaching \$15/hr, and fair wages for all workers. Wrapped up the public sessions around the province. Thank you to Marjorie and the other commissioners.
- Third: the protection and support of temporary foreign workers. All workers have the same rights and protections, but immigrant workers are vulnerable to abuse. We are creating a Temporary Foreign Worker Registry to protect and support them.

Wrap-up

- We're building on the achievements of the labour movements over the last 100 years. Here at SFU, you honour those achievements and prepare the future leaders. My sincere congratulations on the launch of this new Major program.

- Thank you Kendra, Jim, and good evening, everyone. It's great to be here at SFU's Vancouver campus.
- I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered on the Coast Salish territory of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh (*sail-wha-tooth*) and Squamish peoples.
- Thank you to Elder Margaret George of the Skawahlook (*skow-look*) First Nation for her welcome.
- I am really pleased to be part of this evening's celebration.
- It's terrific to see Simon Fraser University expand its Labour Studies Program to provide students with the opportunity to specialize in the study of labour movements and workers' experiences ...
- As well as the past, present and future of the local and global workforce.
- "*Work.*" "*Labour.*" Simple words that encompass a fundamental and sometimes all-consuming part of our lives.
- In fact, I would argue that labour is the very *foundation* of human society.
- It is the thing we do, as a society that builds our villages, towns and cities; that offers services and manufactures the things we use.
- That develops innovations in science, health, technology and all other fields.
- And it is the thing we do, as individuals, that contributes to the world around us, that allows us to participate in our society, and enjoy its benefits. And for many, it is what defines who and what we are for a major part of our lives.
- And I would argue that how we, as a society, *treat* our workers is the most significant measure of the success of our society.
- When you look back at the industrial revolutions in Britain, the U.S. or here in Canada – they mark enormous cultural and societal shifts – moving those countries from primarily agricultural economies to industrial ones.

- But those periods also saw horrendous conditions for those working in the factories, mines and mills.
- Low wages, long hours, child labour, and dangerous workplaces were the norm.
- Most workers lived in poverty, while their bosses, the industry giants – the top 1% as they are called today – reaped the rewards and the wealth.
- It's no surprise that it was the birthplace of the labour movements that continue to this day, fighting for better wages, benefits, safer working conditions, equality, and respect.
- So it has been those labour movements that have raised the standard of living for workers on many fronts, and they continue to fight for a fair balance between profits and people.
- And I believe that's a pretty good measure of success as a society.
- Shifting gears to where we are today ...
- British Columbia now has a standalone Ministry of Labour.
- And I think it's very significant that Premier Horgan created a new, standalone Ministry for labour ...
- To put dedicated resources to focus on labour relations, employment standards, and the workers' compensation system.
- In simple terms, my role is to focus on employment conditions in all workplaces across B.C.
- That means promoting fair, healthy and safe labour and employment standards, work environments and relationships.
- In turn, those support a strong, sustainable and innovative economy – and a prosperous society as a whole.

- And I'd like to take a moment to speak about my priorities as Minister of Labour.
- These are priorities that are specifically laid out in my mandate letter from the Premier when I was appointed, and they are also my own priorities.
- First and foremost is worker safety. I am firmly committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest and healthiest in Canada.
- Whether we're talking about workplace injuries, exposure to toxic substances like asbestos, impairment issues including legalized use of cannabis, PTSD, or exploitation and abuse - we must invest in prevention, training and enforcement.
- Doing this will foster safer, more supportive work environments for everyone.
- Another priority for this government is increasing the general minimum wage to \$15 an hour, as well as looking at the minimum wages for certain farm workers, live-in home support workers and others who are not employed on an hourly basis.
- To that end we've established a Fair Wages Commission that is tasked with recommending a timeline for raising minimum wages in the short and long terms.
- The chair of the commission is your own Marjorie Griffin Cohen – an economist and Professor Emerita here at SFU in political science and women's studies, and member of your department's Advisory Committee.
- The commission has just wrapped up public consultations to hear from people around the province.
- Yesterday Marjorie hosted an in-person consultation in Cranbrook – the last of eight sessions held around the province.
- From what I heard, they have been very successful sessions, with great turnouts and engaged, thoughtful participants.

- **Thank you, Marjorie! I know these last few weeks have been extremely busy for you and the other members of the committee – Ivan Limpricht and Ken Peacock. Please pass on my appreciation for all their work. I’m looking forward to receiving your first report in a few weeks’ time.**
- **A third priority for me and my ministry is the need to better protect and support temporary foreign workers in our province.**
- **B.C.’s workforce, like any other part of Canada, is bolstered by international workers, and these workers often become new Canadians.**
- **My family and I are living proof that you can come to this country – to this province – and contribute greatly to its prosperity and the richness of its people.**
- **All workers, regardless of their immigration status, have the same rights and protections as any other worker.**
- **But temporary workers, in particular, are vulnerable to abuse in the workplace, and it can be difficult for them to get help.**
- **Which is why my ministry is taking the lead on creating a provincial Temporary Foreign Worker Registry that will allow us to put in place the tools that will help prevent abuse.**
- **This government, and myself, have made a commitment to protect vulnerable workers from exploitation, and I look forward to delivering on that commitment, and on the other priorities for my ministry.**
- **There are no shortcuts to addressing labour issues. It takes time, a great deal of cooperation and consultation, and many, many small steps to see real progress.**
- **But we are building on the achievements of individuals in the labour movements over the last 100 years and more.**

- Here at SFU, in this department, you honour those achievements, and guide and prepare the future leaders of the labour movements.
- I fully expect to be working with many of your graduates in the years to come!
- So, my sincere congratulations on the launch of this new Major in Labour Studies. Frankly, if I didn't already have my dream job, I would consider enrolling!
- Thank you, everyone.

Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

SPEAKING NOTES FOR PEBcelebrates

Confidential

Event: Project Everybody Celebrates (PEBcelebrates)

When: Friday, Dec. 1, 2017

- Minister will speak at approximately 1:15 p.m. for approximately 3 to 5 min.

Where: Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews at the Corner of Davie and Pacific, on the former Expo 86 site.

Parking: Underground parking is available. It can be accessed off Drake (south of Pacific Boulevard).

Contact: Charles Freund, Project Coordinator, Open Door Group^{s.22}

Event Details:

- Audience Composite: Approximately 400 people are expected to attend the event throughout the afternoon. There should be 100 to 150 people in attendance at the start of the program, when the Minister speaks.
- Media Attending: Accessible Media Inc. (AMI) will be broadcasting live from the event starting at noon. The broadcast will go nation-wide. The event organizers issued a press release Wednesday afternoon and will advise if additional media confirm attendance at the event.
- VIPs Attending

Joe and Esther Calder – Indigenous Elders
Heather Deal – City of Vancouver Councillor
Tom Burnell – CEO of the Open Door Group
- Event Context: This is an annual event to celebrate the accomplishments of people with disabilities. It is very popular and is well attended by community members and people with disabilities.

- Speech Theme: Commemorate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations international Day of Persons with Disabilities, preliminary messages on release of Accessibility Report and invite people to participate in government's poverty reduction consultations.
- Logistics notes: If the Minister comes to the registration desk at the main exhibition hall, someone will meet him, and take him to the speaking area.

Itinerary:

Time	Details
1:00 p.m.	Joe and Esther Calder - Opening remarks and Traditional Elder Welcome. –
1:05 p.m.	Councilor Heather Deal – Greeting from the City of Vancouver and reads proclamation.
1:15 p.m.	Minister Shane Simpson speaks for 3 to 5 minutes
1:20 p.m.	PosAbilities – Sponsor Slot #1
1:25 p.m.	Open Door – Sponsor Slot #2
1:35 p.m.	PEBtalks #1 presentation – Hip Hop Recording Artist Greg Labine
1:45 p.m.	PEBtalks #2 presentation – Paralympian Teri Thorson
2:00 p.m.	PEBtalks #3 presentation – Inspirational Humorist David Roche
2:00 p.m.	Art show and sale featuring live music in the Exhibition Hall
2:45 p.m.	Music performance by Simon Paradi
3:00 p.m.	Music performance by Mark Ash and Michelle Alviar
	Recreation demos – Sledge Hockey and Bocci – Room B and Music
3:30 p.m.	Performance - TBA
4:00 p.m.	Music Performance by Glen Loft Duo
4:15 p.m.	Healthy living demos – Eating healthy on the go! – Exhibition Hall
	Digger Dan and Kristina Sheldon featuring Dave Simington and Graeme Wyman
6:00 p.m.	PEBcelebrates concludes

Speaking Notes

for the

**Honourable Shane Simpson
Minister of Social Development
and Poverty Reduction
MLA for Vancouver-Hastings**

PEBcelebrates Event

The Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre

Friday Dec. 1, 2017

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

(Minister will speak at about 1:15 p.m.)

Speaking length – Approx. 5 minutes

Introduction

- Thank you to Joe and Esther Calder are from the Nisga'a band for welcoming us today.
- Acknowledge we are on the territory of the Coast Salish people, including the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh (sail-wa-tooth) Nation.
- I bring greetings on behalf of the Premier.
- And I'd like to thank the organizers for hosting this celebration as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations international Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- The *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* is based on an understanding of the fundamental worth of people with all abilities.
- The UN's theme this year, '*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all*' is a vision shared by our government.
- In B.C. we believe in equity, fairness, and diversity. Those are the values that are the foundation of an accessible and inclusive province, and those are the values of our government and the people here today.

- Yesterday, the Government of Canada tabled the UNCRPD Optional Protocol, an important step towards creating a truly accessible country.¹
- The Province will be looking at this in the coming months.
- We will also be sitting down with people in the disability community in the coming months to look at how we can create new opportunities for inclusion in BC. And I look forward to those discussions.
- Today's event raises awareness and reminds everyone of how important it is to support full participation in every aspect of our society.
- It's also a reminder that there is still more work to do.

Building a Better BC

- Article 9 "Accessibility" in the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* states that Governments must make it possible for people with disabilities to live independently and participate in their communities.
- Much of the work we are doing to support this right, is highlighted in a report we will release on Sunday- the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

¹ This messaging has been approved by JAG. See Appendix A for more details.

- This report outlines the recent accomplishments – large and small – by government, businesses and community organizations.
- Accomplishments that make B.C. a better place for us all.

Highlights include:

- Improved bus and transportation services for students with disabilities
- an increase in assistance rates and earning exemptions for people on assistance
- an initiative to maximize uptake of the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) in B.C., and;
- a website dedicated to helping employers build more inclusive workplaces – accessibleemployers.ca
- The report shows us that together we can build a more equitable B.C. where people with disabilities can find opportunity, security and prosperity.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

- An important priority for me is to create a poverty reduction strategy for B.C.

- On Monday, we held our first public engagement meeting, listening to Victoria residents who live in poverty discuss their experiences and share their daily challenges.
- We expected 40 – 50 people -- 175 came and were deeply engaged.
- It was an emotional and visceral experience and I was deeply moved by how open people were.
- Monday was a reminder of why we are engaging. We can't develop a strategy without talking to the people impacted by poverty.
- When the strategy is released, I want people to see that their voices are included.
- We will visit the lower mainland in the New Year and I encourage you to join us if you can and participate in these public discussions.
- If you can't, you can still get involved, by sharing your thoughts at our engagement website.
- Tell us what we can do as individuals, as communities and as a province to make life better for people with disabilities.

Thank you.

APPENDIX A

United Nations Convention

Rights Persons Disabilities Optional Protocol

ADVICE AND RECCOMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Government of Canada tabled the UNCRPD Optional Protocol, an important step towards creating a truly accessible country.**
- **The Province will be looking at this in the coming months.**
- **We will also be sitting down with people in the disability community in the coming months to look at how we can create new opportunities for inclusion in BC. And I look forward to those discussions.**

KEY FACTS

- Minister Hehr sent communication to Minister Simpson, and it was referred to Minister Eby, requesting BC's formal support for the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN OP-CRPD).
- Recognition of this announcement is important for the disability community.
- JAG is the lead so the KM is the extent of what we can currently say.

BACKGROUNDER

- On Nov. 30, 2017 The Government of Canada tabled the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The Optional Protocol would allow individuals in Canada to make a complaint to the United Nations if they believe their rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) have been violated.
- The Convention protects and promotes the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. In 2010, Canada became a Party to the Convention and committed to promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities.
- Accession to the Optional Protocol would provide added protection by allowing the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to consider complaints against Canada. The Committee is a specialized committee with expertise in disability issues.
- In December 2016, the Government of Canada announced that it had begun the process toward possible accession to the Optional Protocol. Consultations were launched with provincial and territorial governments, who play an important role in Canada's accession, as well as Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, and civil society.

- Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010. Parties to the Convention are required to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities.
- The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention by States Parties. States Parties to the Convention are expected to submit reports to the Committee every four years, with an initial report due two years following ratification. Canada submitted its initial report in February 2014 and appeared before the Committee in April 2017.
- The Government of Canada continues to work with the provinces and territories, which must undertake their own internal processes prior to providing their feedback on accession.