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SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**SHANE SIMPSON**

Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

## **CEO Network Event**

**Richmond Marriott**

**7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC V6X 1A4**

**Thursday, January 25, 2018**

**Time: 2:30 p.m.**

**DRAFT #6**

## **Background**

The BC CEO Network, which was founded in 2008, represents 130 social service organizations in B.C. that assist people with disabilities. Member organizations receive most of their funding through contracts with Community Living BC and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The CEO Network was founded to provide member organizations with a collective “voice” when negotiating with government, to establish and promote industry best practices, and to provide leadership and mutual support. Members meet three times per year in different areas of the province.

## **CEO Network Leadership**

The CEO of the Network is Brenda Gillette, the former Executive Director of the Chilliwack Society for Community Living, which provides services for children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. She retired from that position in December 2015 after 40 years of service.

## **CEO Network and Community Living BC (CLBC)**

At least 90 percent of Network members have contracts with CLBC.

## **Issues:**

s.13

## **Key Messages for Participants:**

- Tackling the high rate of poverty in B.C is the Minister's top priority.
- Reducing poverty will take time and cooperative effort by all levels of government, non-profits, communities, individuals and businesses.
- We need to carefully evaluate programs and resources to make sure services meet peoples' needs.
- The Minister recognizes the important work that CEO Network members do to support people with disabilities and their families.
- We need your ideas and insights to create B.C.'s first Poverty Reduction Strategy.

# AGENDA

## Leadership Forum

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Marriott Airport Hotel  
7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond BC

- 8:45      **Opening Remarks and Report to Members**  
*Brenda Gillette, Doug Tennant – BC CEO Network Board President*
- 9:30      **Emergency Preparedness – What did we learn from the wildfire crisis?**  
*Melinda Heidsma, Ann Smith, Ian McLaughlin*  
*Introduction: Brenda Gillette – CEO, BC CEO Network*
- 10:15     **Refreshment Break – 30 minutes**  
*Time to Network and Socialize*
- 10:45     **WorkSafe Pilot Project Update**  
*Satvinder Basran – Project Manager, CSSEA WorkSafe Pilot Project*  
*Introduction: Ernie Baatz – BC CEO Network Board*
- 11:30     **CSSEA Update**  
*Gentil Mateus – CEO*  
*Introduction: Karyn Santiago – BC CEO Network Board*
- 12:00     **Lunch Break – 60 minutes**  
*Time to Network and Socialize*  
*Preparation for CLBC*  
*Doug Tennant – BC CEO Network Board President*
- 1:30      **Community Living BC Update**  
*Seonag Macrae – CEO CLBC*  
*Introduction: Rhonda Connell, CEO BC CEO Network Board*
- 2:00      **Refreshment Break – 30 minutes**  
*Time to Network and Socialize*
- 2:30      **Hon. Shane Simpson**  
*Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction*  
*MLA, Vancouver-Hastings*  
*Introduction: Doug Tennant – BC CEO Network Board*
- 3:15      **Feedback/Identifying Items for May Meeting Discussion**  
*Doug Tennant, Shari Mahar – BC CEO Network Board*

3:50

Business Card Draw

Closing Remarks

*Brenda Gillette – BC CEO Network, CEO*

Next Meeting Dates and Location:

*Hotel Grand Pacific – Victoria*

*May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

### **Special instructions for the Minister**

The CEO of the CEO Network, Brenda Gillette, will meet Minister Simpson in the hotel lobby and escort him to the room.

Details re; Parking and the hotel room to follow.

# **Speaking Notes**

## **Introduction**

- Honoured to be here with you today on the Musqueam Territory.
- I have had an opportunity to meet some of you and hear about the work you are doing.
- I look forward to further discussions and meeting more of you over the coming months.
- We are a new government, with new ideas and new approaches to old problems.
- Have three priorities:
  - Make life more affordable
  - Improve services
  - Build a sustainable economy
- Individually, each priority is important.
- Collectively, they tell you the kind of province we want to create.
- We know that there are many things that work well and we want to hear about those things so that we can build on them.
- We also know that there are always opportunities to do things better. We want to talk about that as well.
- We want to listen and learn, because too many people were ignored for too long.

## **CEO NETWORK**

- CLBC was established in 2005 - BC CEO Network a few years later
- Don't know how many of you in the room have been around since those beginnings, but a lot has changed over the last decade.
- CLBC has grown into an agency with a billion dollar annual budget serving more than 20,000 people each year;
- The CEO Network has expanded to more than 70 members I believe; and
- Our society has changed a lot as well.
- Our ideas about people with disabilities aren't the same as they were ten, twenty, thirty years ago.
- That advancement is due in large part to the people in this room, the organizations that you run, and the families you serve that over the years have fought so hard for their children.
- Anybody who has had anything to do with CLBC will know that the moms, dads, sisters and brothers of people with a developmental disability may very well be the most passionate people in the world.
- And I know that all of you in this room share the vision for a Better BC and a commitment to improving the lives of people who face significant disadvantages in our society.



## **POVERTY REDUCTION**

- Inequality has taken a firm hold in our province and as a new government we are doing something about that.
- As Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction I have been given very clear direction from the Premier – develop B.C.’s first Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- We are visiting communities across the province – 28 in all – talking to people about the challenges they face and potential solutions.
- I have been able to attend most of the meetings so far. I’ve joined the discussion tables and heard people share their stories.
- What has struck me the most is..... *(Minister to share his personal thoughts)*
- And the top issue at every table - in every community - is affordable housing.
- I know that this is an issue that is top of mind for each of you as well.
- We will be looking at many of our programs and services through the poverty reduction strategy.
- Including CLBC services and supports for PWD.
- The demand for which we know will continue to grow.
- Of course, the cost of services continues to grow.
- And I know that CLBC does a good job balancing their available resources with the needs of families.

## **CLBC ENGAGEMENT**

- This government believes in listening to the people who use our services as the path to improving those supports.
- I know that Seonag and her staff do a good job engaging with the community.
- There are a number of ways they connect – through the Community Councils, organizations like the CEO Network and the ongoing daily interactions with families and service providers.
- As I get to know my portfolio - to understand what is a very complex portfolio - I have had some good discussions with Seonag and the Board.
- I've also had the opportunity to speak with families and service providers.
- In all the discussions that I have had since becoming Minister, there is one thing everyone agrees on – that continual improvement is important for any government services.
- I know that CLBC demonstrates that commitment.
- They place a heavy emphasis on their responsiveness and ability to adapt their service delivery.
- And I understand that they consulted with the CEO Network while developing their annual strategic plan.
- It's an agency committed to improving the experience of individuals and families – and that is a principle that will continue to drive their work.

## **CONCLUSION**

- In the end, we are all looking for the same thing.
- An inclusive, welcoming society. Where everyone has opportunities - and equality and diversity aren't something we have to work towards, they just are.
- Working together, we can build that society.
- I know we are all eager to make change happen now, but I caution that it will take time.
- After so many years of neglect, we can't fix everything in one budget cycle.
- There is a great distance between where we are now and where we need to be.
- But we will get there.
  
- Thank you.

Speaking Notes  
for

# **Minister of Labour**

## **Hon. Harry Bains**

at the

### **Bentall Memorial**

Mon, Jan. 8, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

West corner of Art Phillips Park  
Burrard Skytrain Station

Speaking length – 4 minutes

**Event:** Memorial: Donald Davis, Gunther Couvreur, Yrjo Mitrunem, Brian Stevenson

**When:** Mon. January 8, 2018 at 11 am  
○ Minister will speak for 4 minutes.

**Where:** West corner of Art Phillips Park  
Burrard Skytrain Station  
Parking available underground at the Hyatt Hotel

**Contact:** Onsite person: Brynn Bourke  
Cell #778-888-5493

### **Key Participants:**

- Harry Bains, Minister of Labour
- Al Johnson (WCB)
- Irene Lanzinger (BCFed)
- Don Davies (MP)
- Hedy Fry (MP)
- Raymond Louie (Acting Mayor)

### **Event Details:**

- Audience Composite: Approximately 40-50 people. The victim's families will be in attendance, local politicians, along with affiliates and friends of the BC Building Trades.
- Media Attending: yes
- Q&A to Follow: no
- Event Context: An annual event. Speeches from previous years are available, and current WorkSafeBC speech available to review.
- Logistics notes: Table seating (classroom or roundtable), who is the Minister seated with, Podium with stationary microphone or lapel mic, etc), panel discussion, visuals that accompany, etc.
- Clothing: Dress for an outdoor venue.

- **Good morning and thank you for the invitation to join you today.**
  - *Acknowledge traditional territories of the Coast Salish people, including: the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (phonetic spelling: Sail-wa-tooth).*
- **Today we stand in the shadows of tall buildings, like the Bentall Four Tower down the street, which remains the 12<sup>th</sup> tallest building in this city.**
- **It stands tall like a giant and serves as a testament to the hard work of hundreds of skilled tradespeople.**
- **Construction workers, carpenters, electricians; all of whom helped build this city quite literally, from the ground floor up.**
- **But standing here today also serves as a sad reminder.**
- **Because more than three decades later, while the Bentall building continues to tower in the downtown skyline, it also continues to be a monument to the four carpenters that tragically died there on Jan. 7, 1981.**
- **Four men came to work on the 36<sup>th</sup> floor, but they never made it back down, nor did they make it back home safely at the end of the work day.**
- **They left behind families, friends and colleagues.**
- **They were men with wives and children, with parents and loved ones.**
- **They were workers with lives cut far too short.**
- **And today, we remember them and offer words of support to those that mourned them then and continue to miss them now.**
- **All of us are here to recognize that their loss must not be in vain, that their tragic accident must serve as a springboard for greater worker safety in B.C.**
- **As Minister of Labour, it is my promise to continue improving worker safety and to aim high by helping make B.C. workplaces the safest in Canada.**

- Because I want to prevent any more families from grieving the loss of someone who goes to work but doesn't return home.
- Families like those of the four men we honour here today.
- I heard the brother of Brian Stevenson say that the death haunted him.
- And the son of Don Davis says that as a 13-year-old boy, he wondered what he could have done to keep his dad from going to work that day, wishing he had hugged him just a little while longer before his dad left that morning.
- During the Coroner's Inquest Gunther's wife, now a widow, asked:  
 "How many more must die before changes are made?"  
 "Is it too much to ask that it never happen again?"
- The most heart wrenching of her comments, was that she thought life seems cheap in the construction business.
- To Kit, his widow, I want to say that as the Minister of Labour, her words are not lost on me, even now, 37 years later.
- Her questions – they are valid.
- And no, life is not cheap; no matter the job or industry you're employed in.
- Let me be clear, safety within the construction industry is of paramount interest to me and I've spoken with the leaders at WorkSafeBC about it.
- They recognize that injury rates in the construction field – which are almost twice the B.C. average – remains of significant concern...
- Despite over 5,000 worksite inspections each year and thousands of work orders and penalties issued for unsafe practices.
- Despite developing a specific strategy concentrating on high risk activities in the construction industry – with a strong focus on preventing falls.
- Yet more work must and will be done.

- However, I would argue that the greatest work that's needed is in our mindset... we need to change the culture of behaviour at worksites.
- With more education and training that makes safety awareness an automatic reaction and an absolute expectation – for every contractor, sub-contractor, supervisor and worker on a job site.
- In the words of Claude Heywood who was the Chair of the Committee in charge of the Safety Inquiry after the Bentall Tower accident:

**“We’re all in this together.”**

- It's not just a worker issue, or an employer issue, or a government issue.
- It's all of our issue... it's our collective responsibility.
- Some weeks ago, I attended the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BC Building Trades Council – I saw many of you there.
- During the evening I talked about my priorities as Minister of Labour.
- First and foremost, I said, is worker safety.
- I say it pretty much every time I speak publicly.
- It's something I've said since I was a young man in the trades myself, and eventually as a union activist.
- It has become my mantra of sorts, and I'm working to make workplace safety the mantra of every employer and worker in this province.
- Because I remember that tragic day in 1981; it was a sunny Wednesday afternoon, a day that nobody suspected tragedy would occur.
- And I remember the inquiry that followed...
- The 60 recommendations that resulted...
- It was a pivotal moment for B.C.'s construction industry.



- It shone a light on the need for increased safety training and prevention...
- The need for better regulations and adherence to safety standards...
- And the need for increased compliance monitoring and enforcement.
- Now... here we are 37 years later, with vast improvements in worker safety behind us and still greater need for continued work ahead of us.
- While today we lay wreaths and speak the names etched in the memorial, a plaque which begs that these four men and the unnecessary accident that claimed them not be forgotten, what we must really do is turn and look at the person beside us.
- Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with governments of all level, among industry and family, employers and workers alike...
- We must turn and say the words of Claude Heywood, the Safety Inquiry Chair, that yes, "We're in this together."
- Together we will not tolerate a similar tragedy.
- For the families and friends of Donald, Gunther, Yrjo and Brian – the pain of your loss will never disappear...
- But it is my sincere hope that your pain is lessened by knowing that the lives of your loved ones are remembered and honoured...
- That their deaths were a catalyst for change – change that has prevented countless other deaths and injuries among construction workers.
- And that as a government, and specifically as Minister of Labour, there is an absolute commitment to ensuring workers are safe and families are reunited at the end of the work day.
- Thank you.

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

**Canadian Labour Congress  
Pacific Region Winter School**

**Harrison Hot Springs Resort  
100 Esplanade Avenue  
Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.**

**Monday, January 29, 2018**

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

**Speaking length – ~10 minutes**

**Event:** Canadian Labour Congress – Pacific Region Winter School

**When:** Monday, January 29, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.

- Minister will speak at 7:00 p.m. for about 10 minutes.
- Minister requested to arrive around 4:00 to check into hotel.
- Minister to speak after dinner, to be introduced by Orion Irvine, CLC regional director

**Where:** Forum Room, Harrison Hot Springs Resort  
100 Esplanade Avenue, Harrison Hot Springs  
Parking at resort

**Contact:** Ron Stipp, CLC Pacific Region Representative  
C | 604 603-4611

**Key Participants:**

- Harry Bains, Minister of Labour
- Orion Irvine, Canadian Labour Congress Pacific Regional Director

**Event Details:**

- Audience Composite: Approx. 200 labour activists from around B.C., attending the winter school for a variety of courses.
- Media Attending: No
- Q&A to Follow: Yes
- Event Context: The CLC's Pacific Region Winter School provides five weeks of education programs with courses in workplace health and safety, fighting racism and discrimination, media and public relations, economics, campaign management, human rights and global solidarity, as well as workplace representation and union steward training.

The event is a dinner on the Monday evening of the third week of courses. Courses during that week will cover: labour arbitration, federal and provincial labour laws, health & safety (building activism), facing management effectively, steward training,

transforming conflict into union activism, unions in the community, and women's health & safety in the workplace.

- Event Billing/Theme: See above
- Speech Theme: Labour relations, employment standards, direction of the new government
- Logistics notes: Theatre style seating, podium with mic, roving mic for questions to follow
- Clothing: Business casual

### Itinerary:

<b>4:00 pm</b>	Minister arrives at hotel to check in and settle in
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Dinner
<b>7:00 pm</b>	Minister introduced by Orion Irvine, Minister speaks
<b>7:10 pm</b>	Minister takes questions
<b>7:45 pm</b>	Event ends

## **Framework:**

### **Welcome**

- Good evening, thanks for inviting me. Acknowledge the territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.
- I know the Winter School well, having been an instructor here years ago....
- The Winter School gives you invaluable training and skills that you will use to become the future leaders of the labour movement.
- And when I say ‘leadership’, I’m talking about the leadership to uplift all of your fellow workers and improve their lives.
- (Chris Hadfield quote)
- My own background is heavily influenced by the trades and unions... Worked in a large sawmill where I dealt with discrimination... Prompted me to get involved with the union, and become a worker’s advocate and activist, which led me into political life.
- Very honoured to be appointed as the Minister of Labour

### **My priorities as Minister**

- First: workplace safety: we can and must invest in prevention, training, monitoring and enforcement... Unacceptable for workers to be exposed to dangerous situations or substances... Workers deserve to go home each night to their families.
- And for workers injured on the job – ensuring they get the care and support they need, with dignity and respect.
- Second: raising minimum wage to \$15/hr: established the Fair Wages Commission... they have recently wrapped up consultations ... I’ve received their first report and will announcing our decision shortly.
- Third: the protection and support of temporary foreign workers.
- All workers have the same rights and protections, but immigrant workers are vulnerable to abuse, and face challenges to getting the support they need... We are creating the Temporary Foreign Worker Registry.

### **Aligning legislation with goals**

- We need to ensure that legislation aligns with and supports our goals... that the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Code fully reflect and keep pace with the changing nature of today’s workplaces.

- I've received recommendations from the BC Fed and the Employment Standards Coalition on what a fair Employment Standards Act should look like. My ministry is also participating in the independent review of the ESA being led by the BC Law Institute... expect to see their first recommendations in the next few months.
- The Code has huge significance to unions and organized labour... the Code establishes the relationships between labour and management... how workers join unions... how employers, unions interact... how collective bargaining disputes are resolved.
- In particular, Section 3 deals with forming unions and conducting votes... I am looking at forming a Section 3 Committee to look at ways to improve the Code... I know I can count on folks here and across the province to be actively engaged in the process.
- And the Labour Relations Board – we are committed to establishing a new vision and strategic direction... we are in the process of hiring a new Chair for the Board.

### **Government's key commitments**

- 3 key commitments to British Columbians that guide the work all ministries are doing
- First: make life more affordable – too many families have been left behind
- Second: deliver the services that people count on: education, medical care, seniors living with dignity
- Third: build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone... tackle poverty and inequality, create good-paying jobs, ensure people from every background can achieve their full potential.
- I am confident that, with the help of folks such as yourselves, we will fulfill those commitments.
- Thank you for your time and effort, and for helping to “lay the groundwork for others’ success.”
- Enjoy the week!

- Thank you, Orion – and good evening, everyone.
- I'm pleased to be here on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.
- Thanks so much for inviting me here tonight to talk to you about our new government's priorities, and the important role of unions and the labour movement within those priorities.
- I know the Winter School well – in fact, I was one of the instructors here years ago. I taught ... (Minister to add remarks about this...)
- I'm a strong supporter of the Winter School because I believe it gives you invaluable training and skills that you will use in your future leadership of the labour movement.
- And when I say 'leadership', I am not talking about climbing the so-called corporate ladder – union or otherwise. I'm talking about the leadership to uplift all of your fellow workers and improve their lives.
- Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield once said: *"Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine."*
- Sounds like a pretty good overall philosophy for organized labour, doesn't it?
- As some of you may know, my own background is heavily influenced by the trades and unions. When I first came to Canada in the early '70s, I worked in a large sawmill here on the Lower Mainland. I was definitely a minority in that mill and, unfortunately, found myself dealing with discrimination.

- That prompted me to get involved in the union, and I became a shop steward. Later I worked for the union and became a workers' advocate and activist, which eventually led me into political life, where I have remained focused on workers' rights, protections and respect.
- So you can imagine that I was very honoured to be appointed as the Minister of a new, standalone Ministry of Labour, in this new government.
- I'd like to take a moment to speak about my priorities as Minister of Labour. These are the priorities that Premier Horgan specifically outlined in my mandate letter last July, but they are also my own, personal priorities.
- First and foremost is worker safety. I am firmly committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest and healthiest in Canada.
- That means focusing on prevention, training and enforcement in all sectors – especially those where injury rates are higher than average, such as the construction industry and health care.
- Workers should never be exposed to dangerous situations or substances without the proper training and safety precautions and equipment. Anything less is simply unacceptable.
- Because all workers deserve to go home each night – healthy and safe – to their families.
- And worker safety is also about support for those who have been injured on the job – ensuring they get the care they need to recover, to return to work if possible, and to get the assistance they need if they can't.
- And it's about treating workers with respect and dignity throughout that process.
- 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 commission has recently wrapped up public consultations to hear from people around the province. They were very successful sessions, with great turnouts and engaged, thoughtful participants.
- I've now received the Commission's first report and its recommendations on the best approach to reaching the \$15 goal and beyond, and I'll be announcing our decision very soon.
- 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 foreign workers, in particular, are vulnerable to abuse in the workplace, and it can be difficult for them to know where to turn 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, and protect vulnerable workers from exploitation.

- Of course, much of what I've been talking about so far has to do with the end goals – where we are heading. The other important side of the equation is ensuring that the legislation aligns with, and supports those goals.
- We need to ensure that the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Code fully reflect and keep pace with the changing nature of today's workplaces.
- The BC Federation of Labour and the Employment Standards Coalition have given recommendations on how to change the Employment Standards Act.
- We're also participating as an observer in an independent review of the Employment Standards Act, being led by the BC Law Institute.
- We expect to see their preliminary recommendations in the near future when they begin their public consultations.
- And where the Employment Standards Act deals with general working conditions, it's the Labour Relations Code that has particular significance to unions and organized labour.
- The Code establishes the relationships between labour and management – how workers join unions, how employers and unions interact, how collective bargaining disputes are resolved.
- In particular, the Code deals with forming unions and conducting votes, and I think there is room for improvement.
- I am preparing to form a committee of special advisors under Section 3 of the Code to look at that, and I know I can count on folks here and across the province to be actively engaged in that process.
- The Code also covers the Labour Relations Board, and that is an area where we are committed to establishing a new vision and strategic direction. We are in the process of hiring a new Chair for the Board, and I look forward to working with that person.
- Well, I guess I've just given you something of a whirlwind tour of my world at the moment!

- But the work we're focusing on in the Ministry of Labour is a very important part of our new government's priorities.
- We have made 3 key commitments to British Columbians that guide the work I am doing and that is being done in every ministry:
- Our first commitment is to make life more affordable. Too many families have been left behind for too long.
- Our second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. We must ensure that children get access to the quality public education they need to succeed, that families can get timely medical attention, and that our senior citizens are able to live their lives with dignity.
- And our third commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone – not just the wealthy and well-connected.
- We are tackling poverty and inequality, we're creating good-paying jobs in every corner of the province, and we are ensuring people from every background have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- I am very confident that, with the assistance of folks such as yourselves and all dedicated labour organizations across the province, we will fulfill those commitments.
- And I want to thank all of you, in particular, for being here at the Winter School.
- Each of you has made a commitment of your time and energy, to advance your knowledge of labour issues, strategies and tools.
- These opportunities are also about networking, establishing contacts and learning about and from others.
- You will take what you learn here back to your work places and to your colleagues. And through your efforts you will, as Chris Hadfield says, be *"laying the groundwork for others' success."*

- In the meantime, I'm sure you will all be enjoying your week here. It's a pretty nice location, too, isn't it? I hope you'll all find time to get out and enjoy the hot springs.
- Thank you very much.

-30-

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

**CUPE Metro regional council – monthly meeting**

**Burnaby Central High School  
6011 Deer Lake Parkway**

**Thursday, January 11, 2018**

**7:00 p.m.**

**(Minister will speak at about 7:15 p.m.)**

**Speaking length – 8-10 minutes**

**Event:** **CUPE Metro (regional council of CUPE locals in the geographical area of the Lower Mainland) – regular meeting**

**When:** Thursday, January 11, 2018

- Minister will speak at about 7:15 for 8-10 minutes.
- Minister requested to arrive at 6:50 p.m.
- Minister to speak at the beginning of the meeting, after roll call, intros

**Where:** Burnaby Central High School – room A206  
6011 Deer Lake Parkway – just south of Canada Way and across from Burnaby City Hall  
Parking on site

**Contact:** Sarah Bjorknas  
s.22

### **Key Participants:**

- **Harry Bains**, Minister of Labour
- **Paul Simpson**, local 379, President, CUPE Metro
- Other CUPE Metro Executive Board members:
  - **Frank Lee**, local 1004 – Vice President
  - **Sarah Bjorknas**, local 23 – Recording Secretary
  - **Patti Price**, local 1091 – Treasurer
  - **Drew Parris**, local 378 – Sergeant-at-Arms
  - Members-at-Large: **Tanya Paterson** (4078), **Sheryl Burns** (1936), **Susan Heard** (561), **Eric Jaworski** (728), **Maiggen Dutka** (387)
  - Trustees: **Carol Nordby** (389), **Val Cadamia**, (728) **Andrew Ledger** (1004)

### **Event Details:**

- Audience Composite: 50 – 70 delegates: assigned or elected members from CUPE locals who are affiliated to the Council. Mostly K-12 support staff, municipal workers, public library workers, university & college support staff, and workers from social service agencies.
- Media Attending: No
- Q&A to Follow: Minister's choice to take questions or not

- Event Context: This is CUPE Metro’s monthly meeting; after the Minister speaks they will continue with regular business items such as correspondence, reports from officers, committees, new business/motions, etc.
- Event Billing/Theme: Regular Membership meeting
- Speech Theme: Ministry goals, opportunities for positive change for workers, unions’ roles in those opportunities
- Logistics notes: TBC – likely to be classroom-style seating with head table and podium with microphone
- Clothing: Business casual

## Itinerary:

Time	Details
6:50pm	Minister arrives
7:00	Meeting begins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call</li> <li>• Territorial acknowledgement</li> <li>• Reading of Equality Statement</li> </ul>
7:15	Minister introduced by Paul Simpson, Minister speaks
7:25	Qs & As
7:40	Minister departs, regular business continues

## Key Issues:

CUPE Metro website and Facebook page do not indicate any current ‘hot’ issues.

CUPE BC website – highlights a commentary by their President on the positive relationship with the new NDP government – see last page for full text of that article.

The national CUPE website highlights campaigns on 4 topics: Universal Pharmacare, affordable child care, electoral reform, and airline passenger safety.

## **Framework:**

### **Welcome**

- Good evening, thanks for inviting me.
- Today marks the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the “Bread and Roses” strike in Massachusetts, where 20,000 textile mill workers went on strike for 2 months to protest women’s pay being cut.
- Named after a speech by a women’s labour activist who said “The worker must have bread, but she must have roses, too” meaning that workers are entitled to both fair wages and dignified, respectful working conditions.
- My own background is heavily influenced by the trades and unions... Worked in a large sawmill where I dealt with discrimination... Prompted me to get involved with the union, and become a worker’s advocate and activist, which led me into political life.
- Very honoured to be appointed as the Minister of Labour

### **My priorities as Minister**

- First: workplace safety: we can and must invest in prevention, training, monitoring and enforcement... Unacceptable for workers to be exposed to dangerous situations or substances... Every worker deserves to go home each night to their families.
- And for workers injured on the job – ensuring they get the care and support they need, with dignity and respect.
- Second: raising minimum wage to \$15/hr: established the Fair Wages Commission... they have recently wrapped up consultations ... Expect their first report soon
- Third: the protection and support of temporary foreign workers.
- All workers have the same rights and protections, but immigrant workers are vulnerable to abuse, and face challenges to getting the support they need... We are creating the Temporary Foreign Worker Registry.

### **Aligning legislation with goals**

- We need to ensure that legislation aligns with and supports our goals... that the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Code fully reflect and keep pace with the changing nature of today’s workplaces.
- I’ve received recommendations from the BC Fed and the Employment Standards Coalition on what a fair Employment Standards Act should look like. My ministry is also participating in the independent review of the ESA being led by the BC Law Institute... expect to see their first recommendations in the next few months.



- The Code has huge significance to unions and organized labour... the Code establishes the relationships between labour and management... how workers join unions... how employers, unions interact... how collective bargaining disputes are resolved.
- In particular, Section 3 deals with forming unions and conducting votes... I am looking at forming a Section 3 Committee to look at ways to improve the Code... I know I can count on folks here and across the province to be actively engaged in the process.
- And the Labour Relations Board – we are committed to establishing a new vision and strategic direction... In the process of hiring a new Chair for the Board.

### **Government's key commitments**

- 3 key commitments to British Columbians that guide the work all ministries are doing
- First: make life more affordable – too many families have been left behind
- Second: deliver the services that people count on: education, medical care, seniors living with dignity
- Third: build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone... tackle poverty and inequality, create good-paying jobs, ensure people from every background can achieve their full potential.
- I am confident that, with the help of folks such as yourselves, we will fulfill those commitments.
- Thank you, and may we all look forward to much bread and many roses in 2018!

- Thank you, Paul – and good evening, everyone. And Happy New Year!
- Thanks so much for inviting me here tonight to talk to you about our new government's priorities, and the important role of unions and the labour movement within those priorities.
- You might be interested to know that today marks the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the "Bread and Roses" strike of textile mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.
- The strike began on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1912, following the passing of a new law that cut the number of hours that women were allowed to work each week – effectively cutting their pay.
- The textile industry's workforce at that time was primarily female and immigrant. Mill owners thought that these groups would not be able to effectively organize themselves, especially in the middle of winter.
- They were wrong.
- The strike, led by the Industrial Workers of the World, quickly united over 20,000 mill workers of more than 40 nationalities. It lasted for 2 months, and led to Congressional hearings that exposed the terrible working conditions in the mills.
- The mill owners were forced to settle the strike, giving workers across New England significant pay raises and improved working conditions.
- What I find interesting about that particular strike is its name. It was called the "Bread and Roses" strike after a speech a few months earlier by Rose Schneiderman (*shh-NEYE-der-man*) – a women's labour activist in New York.
- In her speech, Rose said "The worker must have bread, but she must have roses, too."
- She meant that workers were entitled to both fair wages *and* dignified, respectful working conditions.
- That really strikes a chord with me. I couldn't agree more.

- As some of you may know, my own background is heavily influenced by the trades and unions. When I first came to Canada in the early '70s, I worked in a large sawmill here on the Lower Mainland. I was definitely a minority in that mill and, unfortunately, found myself dealing with discrimination.
- That prompted me to get involved in the union, and I became a shop steward. Later I worked for the union and became a workers' advocate and activist, which eventually led me into political life, where I have remained focused on workers' rights, protections and respect.
- So you can imagine that I was very honoured to be appointed as the Minister of a new, standalone Ministry of Labour, in this new government.
- I'd like to take a moment to speak about my priorities as Minister of Labour. These are the priorities that Premier Horgan specifically outlined in my mandate letter last July, but they are also my own, personal priorities.
- First and foremost is worker safety. I am firmly committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest and healthiest in Canada.
- That means focusing on prevention, training and enforcement in all sectors – especially those where injury rates are higher than average, such as the construction industry and health care.
- Workers should never be exposed to dangerous situations or substances without the proper training and safety precautions and equipment. Anything less is simply unacceptable.
- Because every worker deserves to go home each night – healthy and safe – to their families.
- And worker safety is also about support for those who have been injured on the job – ensuring they get the care they need to recover, to return to work if possible, and the assistance they need if they can't.
- And it's about treating workers with respect and dignity throughout that process.

- 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 commission has recently wrapped up public consultations to hear from people around the province. From what I heard, they were very successful sessions, with great turnouts and engaged, thoughtful participants.
- I look forward to reviewing the Commission's first report and its recommendations on the best approach to reaching the \$15 goal and beyond.
- 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 foreign workers, in particular, are vulnerable to abuse in the workplace, and it can be difficult for them to know where to turn 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, and protect vulnerable workers from exploitation.

- Of course, much of what I've been talking about so far has to do with the end goals – where we are heading. The other important side of the equation is ensuring that the legislation aligns with, and supports those goals.
- We need to ensure that the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Code fully reflect and keep pace with the changing nature of today's workplaces.
- The BC Federation of Labour and the Employment Standards Coalition have given recommendations on how to change the Employment Standards Act.
- We're also participating as an observer in an independent review of the Employment Standards Act, being led by the BC Law Institute.
- We expect to see their preliminary recommendations in the near future when they begin their public consultations.
- And where the Employment Standards Act deals with general working conditions, it's the Labour Relations Code that has particular significance to unions and organized labour.
- The Code establishes the relationships between labour and management – how workers join unions, how employers and unions interact, how collective bargaining disputes are resolved.
- In particular, the Code deals with forming unions and conducting votes, and I think there is room for improvement.
- I am preparing to form a committee of special advisors under Section 3 of the Code to look at that, and I know I can count on folks here and across the province to be actively engaged in that process.
- The Code also covers the Labour Relations Board, and that is an area where we are committed to establishing a new vision and strategic direction. We are in the process of hiring a new Chair for the Board, and I look forward to working with that person.

- Well, I guess I've just given you something of a whirlwind tour of my world at the moment!
- But the work we're focusing on in the Ministry of Labour is a very important part of our new government's priorities.
- We have made 3 key commitments to British Columbians that guide the work I am doing and that is being done in every ministry:
- Our first commitment is to make life more affordable. Too many families have been left behind for too long.
- Our second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. We must ensure that children get access to the quality public education they need to succeed, that families can get timely medical attention, and that our senior citizens are able to live their lives with dignity.
- And our third commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone – not just the wealthy and well-connected.
- We are tackling poverty and inequality, we're creating good-paying jobs in every corner of the province, and we are ensuring people from every background have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- And I am very confident that, with the assistance of folks such as yourselves and all dedicated labour organizations across the province, we will fulfill those commitments.
- Thank you for having me here this evening, and may we all look forward to much bread, and many roses in 2018!

-30-

Excerpt from CUPE BC's Commentary section of their website:

***Working with our friends (by Paul Faoro, President of CUPE BC) Jan. 4, 2018***

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SPEAKING NOTES FOR  
MINISTER JINNY SIMS  
MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

'Connected Coast'

Hotel Pan Pacific  
Pacific Rim Suite 1  
999 Canada Place, Vancouver

Jan. 17, 2018

9 a.m.

Speaking Time and Length of speech:

6 minutes, 693 words

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**Contact at the event:**

Jarrett Hagglund, events coordinator  
604-817-1458 (cell)

**Getting there and parking:**

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**Audience:**

First Nations chiefs and councilors  
Media

Invited guests including:

- Leon Leroux, VP Access Network Implementation, Rogers Communications
- Steve Van Binsbergen, senior director, Rogers Communications
- Ruth Williams, project manager, All Nations Trust Company
- Jamie Sterritt, chief engagement officer, All Nations Trust Company

### **Notable attendees:**

Minister of Indigenous Services Jane Philpott  
 Minister of Citizens' Services Jinny Sims  
 Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice  
 Peter Lantin, President Haida Nation

### **Event description:**

The B.C. government, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the Government of Canada's Connect to Innovate program are working together to bring broadband capacity to 154 communities – including 56 First Nations communities – along the BC coast, Minister of Citizens' Services Jinny Sims announced.

A joint investment by the provincial and federal governments will see a subsea fibre optic cable installed to provide connectivity to currently-underserved coastal communities between Prince Rupert and Vancouver, including Haida Gwaii and Vancouver Island.

Costs for the \$45.4 million project will be shared by the federal government's Connect to Innovate program (50%), Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (25%) and B.C.'s Connecting British Columbia program (25%).

### **Background:**

Proposals were submitted to the federal Connect to Innovate program by CityWest in partnership with Strathcona Regional District

Project is a subsea fibre optic line that would connect unserved/underserved coastal communities between Prince Rupert and Vancouver, and around Vancouver Island.

Project would provide high speed internet access to communities along the route, subject to each location's ability to connect with the fibre optic transport line. Communities may be better positioned to seek grant funding for 'last mile' connections to homes and businesses once they have access to the transport line.

Total project cost estimated at \$45.4 million, with B.C. paying for 25% through the connecting British Columbia program administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Rest of funding comes from federal government (75%) from the following departments: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Connect to Innovate (50%) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (25%).

Joint Gathering 2018 (sixth annual gathering of B.C. First Nations chiefs) is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2018 in Vancouver. This provides an opportunity to have many of the leaders from remote communities that benefit from this announcement present.

#### Key issues

- Announcement is in Vancouver despite rural communities being the main beneficiaries. This is to seize upon an opportunity (Joint Gathering 2018) to have First Nations representatives gathered in one place.
- Additional media interviews to be coordinated to speak to local communities/ media.

<b>Event Summary</b>	<b>Inside Event with podium. Poster of communities in background with Ministers and Peter Lantin</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Event Itinerary</b>
7:00 am	FMAV arrive onsite for set-up with Jarrett Hagglund
8:45 am	Ministers and Speakers
8:50 am	Event briefing with speakers led by Jarrett Hagglund
9:00 am	<b>Event Begins</b>
9:00 am	<b>Parliamentary Secretary Rice welcomes everyone and makes introductions</b>
9:02 am	<b>Parliamentary Secretary Rice Introduces Minister Philpott</b>
9:03 am	<b>Minister Philpott Speaks</b>
9:13 am	<b>Parliamentary Secretary Rice thanks Minister Philpot and introduces Minister Sims</b>
9:14 am	<b>Minister Sims Speaks</b>
9:19 am	<b>Parliamentary Secretary Rice thanks Minister Sims and Introduces Peter Lantin</b>
9:21 am	<b>Peter Lantin Speaks</b>
9:26 am	<b>Parliamentary Secretary Rice thanks everyone and advices there will now be time for Q and A</b>
9:28 am	<b>Media Q and A Moderated by Media Relations: Name TBC</b>
9:38 am	<b>Group Photo</b>
9:45 am	<b>Event Ends</b>

[Event begins at 9am. **Parliamentary Secretary Rice** gives opening remarks and welcomes **Hon. Jane Philpott** to give her speech]

[**Philpott** gives 10 minute speech]

[**Parliamentary Secretary Rice** returns to the podium and invites **Hon. Sims** to give her remarks]

- **Thank you, Parliamentary Secretary Rice for the introduction.**

***[If needed: FN acknowledgement]***

- **I would also like to acknowledge our presence on Coast Salish territory.**
- **It is a privilege to be here today on the territory of the Musqueam (MUSS-quee-um) Indian Band, Tsleil-Waututh (tSLAY-wah-tooth) First Nation and Squamish Nation.**

***[End: FN acknowledgement]***

- **And thank you all for taking the time to be here today.**
- **One of my many goals as B.C.'s Minister of Citizens' Services is to improve access to high-speed internet...for all British Columbians...**
- **...It is especially important for all our rural and remote areas including First Nations communities throughout the province.**
- **The internet is an essential tool for doing business in today's digital economy.**
- **In the past it was our railroads and highways, which brought jobs and economic opportunity to our communities...**
- **Today, it's digital connections that are changing the way we do business.**

- **Connectivity not only provides endless opportunities for businesses, but it also allows us to provide innovative health care options like tele-health and online counselling, and new and exciting educational tools for those living in rural communities.**
- **In cities like Vancouver, high-speed internet is a fact of life -- we take it for granted.**
- **But for many rural communities in BC, there are no reliable options for high speed internet – and they simply can't keep pace with the digital economy.**
- **Building the digital infrastructure needed to service an area as vast and geographically diverse as our province is a difficult task.**
- **Our terrain – while spectacular – presents significant challenges with some parts of**

**our province that are not even accessible by road.**

- **[PAUSE]**
- **In my travels around B.C., I have found that there are many opportunities to grow our rural economies when they have access to global markets.**
- **Last November, I had the opportunity to meet with the team at the ThoughtExchange in Rossland.**
- **This small community is now home to a successful tech start up because they can access new markets and world class talent due to their high speed internet connectivity.**
- **These entrepreneurs are growing our rural economy.**



- **They're creating local technology jobs...the decent paying jobs our children and grandchildren will be looking for in the years to come.**
- **[PAUSE]**
- **Here in British Columbia there are 203 First Nations...more than any other province or territory.**
- **As a government, we are committed to reconciliation with First Nations, that means we are committed to the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.**
- **Connectivity is a foundational piece to achieving these commitments.**

- **Through this project, 56 First Nations communities will gain access to high speed internet that will expand opportunities and provide the groundwork for more improved access to education and healthcare, and provide new opportunities for economic growth.**

**[PAUSE]**

- **We are here today because we all share a vision of a British Columbia where every region can benefit from a growing digital economy.**
- **Thanks to this shared vision we are announcing an investment that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of British Columbians on the coast, for years to come.**

- **This investment will connect 154 coastal communities, including 56 First Nations communities, to high speed internet comparable to what people in cities like Vancouver experience.**

## **[CONCLUSION]**

- **Those of us who live in cities take for granted our fast and reliable internet connection, and all that goes with it.**
- **However, for our coastal communities, the availability of a reliable connection can make all the difference.**
- **It brings families closer together...**
- **It enables our businesses to connect with customers around the world...**

- **It gives British Columbians easier access to services that they count on like health care and education...**
- **It helps our first responders save lives...**
- **And, by increasing access to high-speed internet, we make our province more accessible to the world...**
- **We bring the world to the doorstep of our communities...**
- **Our classrooms...**
- **Our shops, art galleries, museums, restaurants and sports fields.**
- **We still have a lot of work to do to accomplish our shared vision of connecting British Columbians, no matter where they live.**

- **And we're just getting started.**
- **When our dreams are this big, the task can seem daunting when tackled alone.**
- **But together, we will make a meaningful difference in peoples' lives.**
- **Many are here today because of what this investment will mean in the lives of those who live in these coastal and First Nations communities.**
- **Without question, there is still work to be done to get our coastline truly connected.**
- **But this is so exciting and I can't wait to see the impacts our combined efforts have in your communities.**

- **Together, we can create the foundation for our coastal communities to not just participate, but compete in the digital economy.**
- **So, let's get started. Thank you.**

**[Parliamentary Secretary Rice** returns to the podium and invites validator [TBC] to speak]

**[Peter Lantin** [TBC] speaks for 5 minutes]

**[Parliamentary Secretary Rice** returns to the podium and invites media/guests to ask questions]

**[Sims, Philpott** field questions from media for about 10 minutes. **Staff/GCPE** will be able to follow up with media on any technical questions]

**[Event concludes]**

SPEAKING NOTES FOR  
MINISTER JINNY SIMS  
MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

BC Transplant registration drive

Service BC Nanaimo  
460 Selby St, Nanaimo

Jan. 29, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Length of speech: 2 mins

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Contact at the event:**

Event planner: Rick Devereux

**Getting there:**

460 Selby Street, Nanaimo

**Audience:**

- Service BC staff
- Members of the public
- Health care workers
- BC Transplant stakeholders
- media

**Speakers:**

- Hon. Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services
- Local MLA Leonard Krog, MLA for Nanaimo (emcee)
- Leanne Appleton, Provincial Executive Director, BC Transplant
- Julia Ainsley, customer service representative at Service BC (Duncan) and spokesperson for program. Julia's son's grandfather received a liver transplant and has a heart-felt story to share. Julia's story: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/news/2017/0410/donate-life>
- Deborah Graves, liver transplant recipient, BC Transplant volunteer and Nanaimo resident

**Event description:**

A celebration of a growing partnership between Service BC and BC Transplant and an opportunity to encourage British Columbians to consider giving the gift of life by registering as an organ donor.

**Quick Facts:**

- Amount of registrations at all Service BC locations since the start of the partnership in 2015: more than 60,000
- Amount of registrations collected at the Nanaimo office since the start of the partnership in 2015: 1,705
- Amount of registrations at all Service BC locations from April to Dec. 2017: 18,797, which is a 4 per cent increase from the previous year.
- Amount of registrations collected at the Nanaimo office from April 2017 – Dec 2017 is 548.
- At the end of 2017, there were more than 1.2 million donors registered in the BC Organ Donor Registry.
- As of Jan. 1, there are 638 people waiting for a transplant in British Columbia.
- 479 transplants were performed in 2017 in British Columbia.
- Up to eight organs can be donated from a single deceased donor.



[Event begins at 10:00 a.m. Leonard Krog, MLA for Nanaimo, recognizes the traditional territory, welcomes guests and invites Minister Sims to give remarks]

- Thank you, Leonard, for the warm introduction.
- And thank you to those here from Service BC Nanaimo for having us all here today.
- I am always happy for an opportunity to celebrate the amazing Service BC staff whose dedication and hard work I so respect.
- With 62 Service BC offices across the province you do so much on a daily basis to help the people of British Columbia ...
- Together with our partners at BC Transplant we can see – and soon hear – how registering as a transplant donor can save not just one life – but many.

- Since 2015, Service BC has worked with BC Transplant to help more than 60,000 British Columbians register as donors.
- That's 60,000 people who have made a decision to live life ... and pass it on.
- That decision is one of the greatest gifts that can be made ...
- Giving someone another chance at life.
- At this very moment, there are nearly 640 people waiting for a transplant in our province.
- These could be our friends, our neighbours or a family member.
- That, for me, is what makes this partnership so very important.
- I have had the opportunity to visit many Service BC offices across the province.

- Staff refer to their work as Service with Heart.
- This takes that motto to a whole new level.
- The decision to become an organ donor is not an easy one for many.
- But it's staff like those here today who can help make that decision a little easier.
- For those who want a better understanding of how important that decision is, you will hear from folks who have experienced the gift of life – first hand.
- And afterwards, Service BC staff are available to answer questions ...
- ...and help make the registration process an easier one.

- The decision to give life to another is one of the most courageous things we can do.
- I encourage those that haven't yet registered to take advantage of this opportunity.
- On behalf of my ministry, I'd also like to thank you.
- For taking the time today to join us and consider giving the gift of life.

[MLA Krog thanks Minister Sims and invites Leanne Appleton, Provincial Executive Director, BC Transplant to speak]

[Leanne Appleton speaks]

[MLA Krog thanks Leanne Appleton and introduces Julia Ainsley, customer service representative at Service BC, Duncan]

[Julia Ainsley speaks]

[MLA Krog thanks Julia and invites Deborah Graves to speak]

[Deborah speaks]

[MLA Krog thanks Deborah and invites members of the media to ask questions]

[Media QA from the podium]

[Group photos]

[Event ends and refreshments provided by Service BC Nanaimo]