

Event Information / Speaking Notes for Minister Fleming

Event: Canadian Home Builders' Association of B.C. – Victoria National Conference Reception

When: Monday, March 19 5:30-7:00 pm (speeches between 5:45-6pm)

Where: Shaughnessy Room, The Empress

Length: 2-minute welcoming remarks

Background:

The Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC (CHBA BC) is the voice of the residential construction industry in British Columbia, representing 1,900 members across the province.

CHBA BC advocates for the issues that matter to its members, and members have provided input in a number of areas including technical code issues, developing policy, and addressing affordability.

The residential construction industry in British Columbia is considered to be a barometer of the province's overall economic health. According to the CHBA BC website, the industry provides \$23.1 billion in economic activity and creates over 158,000 jobs.

Key Participants:

- Neil Moody, CEO, CHBA BC
- Matt McCurrach, president, CHBA BC (pronounced Mc-Curr-ah)
- Kevin Lee, CHBA National CEO

Other local & provincial government attendees:

- Minister Jinny Sims
- Minister Bruce Ralston
- Parliamentary Secretary Bowinn Ma.
- Adam Olsen MLA
- Geoff Young, councillor, City of Victoria (in lieu of Mayor)

Audience: 80-100 residential construction industry professionals (mostly small to medium sized businesses). Most are Canadian Home Builders' Association members in B.C., some from across Canada.

Contact: Alycia Coulter, Manager, Government and Public Relations,
CHBA BC

Cell: s.22

Itinerary:

5:45 - 2 minutes - Welcome and introductions from CHBA BC CEO or President

- Will include acknowledgement of First Nations territory and recognition of government representatives & other VIPs

5:47 - 2 minutes - Remarks from Minister Rob Fleming

5:49 - 2 minutes - Thank you from CHBA National CEO Kevin Lee

Speaking Notes
for the

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education

Canadian Home Builders' Association of B.C.
Victoria National Conference Reception
Victoria Conference Centre
720 Douglas Street

Monday, March 19, 2018
2 minute welcoming remarks

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- On behalf of government and as the MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to Victoria.
- The residential construction industry is a key economic driver in B.C.
- We will continue to work together to tackle the housing affordability crisis and support youth entering the trades.

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:

- Neil Moody, CEO, CHBA BC
- Matt McCurrach, president, CHBA BC (pronounced Mc-Curr-ah)

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:

- The opening speaker will acknowledge territory

INTRODUCTION:

- Hello everyone –
- Thank you to
 - Neil Moody - CEO, Canadian Home Builders' Association BC
 - Matt McCurrach - president, Canadian Home Builders' Association BC

for inviting me here today.

- On behalf of government and as the MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to our beautiful city.

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT:

- Here in B.C. we have a vision of a strong economy that works for everyone.

- As one of the largest employers in the province, the residential construction industry plays a very big role in that ...
- ...employing over 158,000 people in jobs that pay a total of over \$9 billion in wages.
- Canadian Home Builders' Association members in rural and urban communities are creating good-paying, local jobs.
- These are jobs that support B.C. families and are a key driver of the economy.

EDUCATION:

- It's important that we work together as government and industry to promote the skilled trades from a young age.

- Many of the jobs of tomorrow are in residential construction to meet housing demand and fulfill retirements.
- There are many great programs already happening in B.C. schools to support students as they explore the trades.
- For example, we are working on a revised graduation program that will focus on connecting students with work experience opportunities...
- Opportunities like co-ops, work experience electives, and trades training programs.
- That means that students can develop a strong set of skills by the time they graduate high school, so they transition directly to jobs in the trades.
- We will continue to work with your industry to ensure we are supporting the needs in the education system.

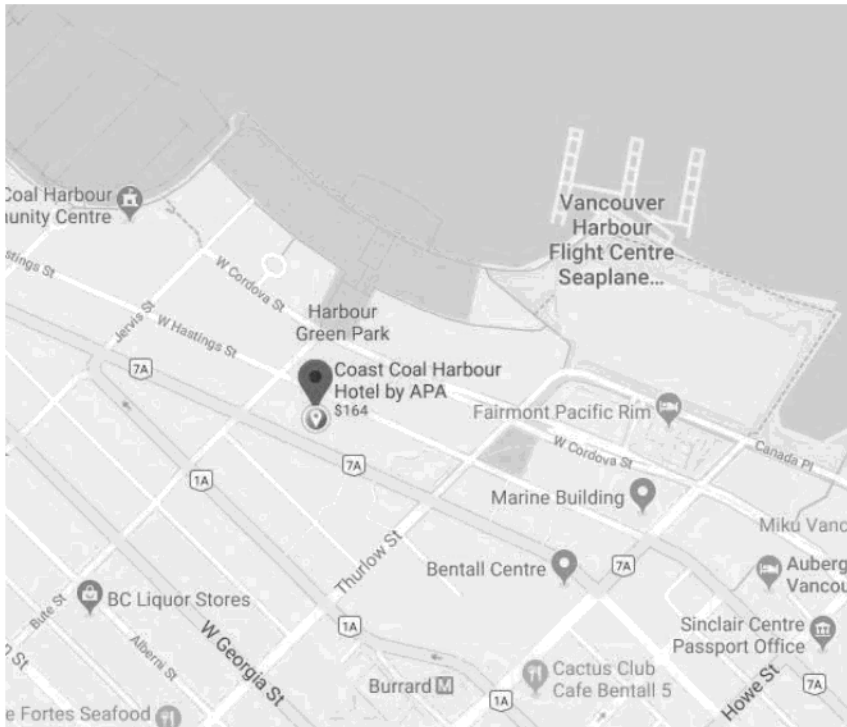
AFFORDABILITY:

- Another piece that government will continue to work with your association on is housing affordability.
- Tackling the housing affordability crisis in B.C. is one of this government's top priorities, and I know it is a concern that Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC members share.
- So many people are struggling to find affordable housing in many of our urban centres.
- Budget 2018 lays out our \$7 billion dollar comprehensive housing plan.
- And associations like yours are an important voice as we continue our work to grow the housing supply and make life more affordable for B.C. families.

CONCLUSION

- Once again on behalf of government, welcome to our capital city.
- Thank you as an industry and association for your contributions to our province.
- I hope you enjoy your time here this week.

Event Information/Introductory Remarks for Minister Rob Fleming



Event: Perspectives on Public Education Plenary at High Ground:
Columbia's Centre for Civic Governance Annual Forum

When: March 23, 2018 – 1pm-2pm

Where: Coast Coal Harbour Hotel by APA

1180 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

Background:

The High Ground Conference is led by the Columbia Institute, a national charitable organization that fosters individual and organizational leadership.

Targeted to locally elected leaders working for inclusive, sustainable communities, High Ground draws 175 school trustees and city councillors. The conference features a K-12 stream, a skills stream, a social justice stream and an environmental/climate action stream.

Minister Fleming is taking part in the Perspectives on Public Education Plenary, to share his perspective on emerging issues and an update on the work being led in public education in BC. The panel will also share their perspectives.

Panel members:

- Paul Shaker, SFU Faculty of Education emeritus
- Katharine Shipley, president, Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association
- Jen Mezei, president, BCCPAC
- Stephanie Higginson, vice president, BCSTA
- Student speaker, TBC

Audience: School trustees, city councillors, several students

Format:

Minister Fleming's introductory remarks – 3-5 minutes

Brief comments from panel members

Q and A from the audience – 20 minutes

Minister Fleming's closing remarks – 5-10 minutes

Introductory Remarks
for the

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education

Perspectives on Public Education Plenary
High Ground: Columbia's Centre for Civic Governance
Annual Forum

Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, Vancouver
March 23, 2018
1:30pm (5 minute opening remarks)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- Education is integral to our vision for a government that cares for the people of B.C.
- As local leaders who are invested in supporting your communities, you know the value of a strong education system.
- We see education not only as a priority but as a key area of investment for our new government.
- Our government is working to build equity in the system and better support students.

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:

- Panel members
 - Paul Shaker, SFU Faculty of Education emeritus
 - Katharine Shipley, president, Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association
 - Jen Mezei, president, BCCPAC
 - Stephanie Higginson, vice president, BCSTA
 - Student speaker, TBC

- Local leaders and students in the audience

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:

- Acknowledge territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-waututh [sail-wha-tooth] First Nations.

INTRODUCTION

- Good afternoon
- It's a pleasure to be here to speak with you all about education in B.C.
- I'd like to recognize my fellow panel members -
 - Paul Shaker, SFU Faculty of Education emeritus
 - Katharine Shipley, president, Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association
 - Jen Mezei, president, BCCPAC

- Stephanie Higginson, vice president, BCSTA
- Student speaker, TBC
- Education is integral to our vision for a government that cares for the people of B.C.
- My mandate from the Premier is ambitious.
- Premier John Horgan is a firm believer in the value of education...
- ...He credits much of his own success with the valuable experiences and inspiring teachers he had in school and university.
- As local leaders who are invested in supporting your communities, you also know the value of a strong education system.

- One that gives *all* students the opportunity to follow their passions, give back to their communities and lead fulfilling lives.
- After all, public education is a powerful tool to support inclusion and equity.
- Indeed, as noted in our government's Speech from the Throne—we know that education is the great equalizer.
- We see education not only as a priority but as a key area of investment for our new government.
- Equity is a very important part of our approach.
- When we talk about student success we are talking about ensuring all learners are successful...
- ...and can benefit from the opportunities that come with a quality education.

- This government is working to build equity in the system and better support students.

ABE

- That's at the heart of why we quickly moved to eliminate tuition fees for Adult Basic Education (ABE) upgrading courses and post-secondary English Language Learning (ELL) programs.
- Those tuition fees were shutting people out of the system.
- By eliminating them, we are re-opening those doors and removing barriers to career programs, training opportunities, and advanced education.

CURRICULUM

- We are also continuing the successful implementation of B.C.'s new curriculum.
- The new curriculum is about helping

students develop core competencies through hands-on learning.

- Core competencies that will help them participate fully in our changing world – collaboration, critical thinking and communication.
- The new curriculum supports personalized learning for students.
- That means students can tailor their studies to their passions and develop skills that will help them pursue their interests...
- ...whether that's arts, trades, technology, or anything in between.

BULLYING PREVENTION

- B.C.'s new curriculum is also helping to ensure our schools are inclusive, with a focus on valuing diversity and respecting differences.

- We want to ensure every child feels safe, accepted and respected, regardless of their race, culture, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Now, every school board and independent school in B.C. must have codes of conduct and anti-bullying policies that are SOGI-inclusive.
- I'm also pleased that on Pink Shirt Day this year, the Premier and I announced \$100,000 to offer social media education sessions to parents in all 60 school districts.
- These sessions – called Raising Digitally Responsible Youth – will give parents the tools they need to help their children use the Internet safely and prevent cyberbullying.

FUNDING & CAPITAL

- We all know that students will do their best in a system that is properly resourced.
- That's why we are investing more than ever before in education with Budget 2018.
- We are supporting the Memorandum of Agreement with \$400 million annually to fund 3,700 full time equivalent teaching positions...
- And we are adding an additional \$24 million annually for 200 more teachers.
- We are investing \$1.8 billion over three years to replace aging schools, add more spaces in growing communities and fast-track seismic upgrades.
- This funding will help ensure we are supporting British Columbians in rural,

urban, and growing communities with the safe school infrastructure they need.

- I am highly aware of how important schools are to their communities, especially in rural areas.
- In many communities, the school serves as the hub, a place where people can gather and access services.
- Our government is about building schools, not closing them.
- We are reviewing the school funding model to find a better, more stable way to fund schools....
- ...one that better supports vulnerable students, and recognizes the differences between rural, remote and urban school districts.
- One that drives better outcomes for all students.

- We also know there is a strong connection between early learning and success in the K-12 education system.
- Budget 2018 provides \$9 million to support child care and new early learning initiatives in K-12 schools.

LEADERSHIP

- There is one more piece that is critical to ensuring students have every opportunity to find success...
- School district leaders.
- Principals, superintendents, and of course trustees.
- We know that with students' needs changing so rapidly, the demands on leaders are increasingly complex and

challenging.

- We also know that many experienced and effective leaders are approaching retirement, and we need to recruit and train the next group of leaders to support our students.
- We have been working with our partners - BCSTA, BCPVPA, BCSSA, BCASBO and FISA – to strengthen the leadership in schools and districts so students can continue to succeed.
- We're investing \$200,000 in professional learning opportunities for education leaders and to create a Leadership Development Framework that will guide us moving forward.

CONCLUSION

- Choosing to invest in students means we're investing in a strong, sustainable British Columbia.

- It means we're investing in the social capital of this province, which is the recipe for success all over the industrialized world.
- I'll be happy to take your questions.

Event Information / Speaking Notes / Minister Fleming



Event: A school big enough for Royal Bay students

When: Friday March 16, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

Where: 3500 Ryder Hesjedal Way, Colwood

Length: 30 minutes

Speech: 2-3 minutes

Parking: Main Parking Lot

Key Participants:

- Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
- Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin
- Ravi Parmar, chair, Sooke Board of Education (TBC)
- Maddie Morison, Grade 11 student at Royal Bay

Other Attendees:

- Students, teachers and support staff
- Jim Cambridge, superintendent, Sooke School District (TBC)
- Local government representatives
- CUPE and BCTF representatives

Audience Size: 30 – 40

Event Coordinators:

- Marlene Behrens (planning): 778-584-1253
- Joleen Badger (onsite): 604 916-3551

Background:

The Ministry of Education is providing \$23.2 million for the Sooke School District to build a 600-seat addition to Royal Bay Secondary School. The school district will contribute \$2 million for the project.

The addition to Royal Bay is needed to deliver on government's commitment to get students out of portables in fast-growing communities.

Royal Bay opened in 2015 and currently has 10 portables on site. This project will increase the school's capacity to 1,400 seats, up from the current 800 seats.

Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2018 and to be complete in September 2020.

The addition will include three stories and 21 classrooms, as well as a small gymnasium that the community can also make use of as a Neighbourhood Learning Centre.

Sooke School District

West Shore's population has increased dramatically in recent years and public schools have required portables to meet space constraints.

Royal Bay Secondary is currently operating at 135% capacity and is projected to grow to 177% capacity by 2026 without an addition.

The closest neighbouring secondary school is Belmont (Langford), which is at 111% capacity and is expected to increase to 129% capacity by 2026.

In total, without an addition to Royal Bay, there would be a shortfall of 965 secondary student seats by 2026.

Capital Investments

This announcement will be the second Government has made in SD 62 since September 2017.

On Dec. 21, Government announced a \$23.3 million contribution for the school district to purchase 16 acres in Westhills for the purpose of building a middle school and an elementary school on the site.

Time	Event Itinerary
Event Summary:	Podium event at Royal Bay gymnasium. After announcement, Minister Fleming will play soccer with Royal Bay Soccer Academy students.
Key contacts	Media relations: Corinna Filion, Carol Morrison Photographer/Videographer: Adam Blakely, MediaOne Event Coordinator: Marlene Behrens (planning), Joleen Badger (onsite)
7:00 a.m.	Joleen Badger and SWAV on site for technical setup.
9:00 a.m.	Speakers, media and guests begin to arrive. Students led to gym area.
9:15 a.m.	Students briefed by Joleen Badger
9:20 a.m.	Pre-brief with speakers, led by Joleen Badger Location: Royal Bay Secondary School gymnasium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Fleming, Minister of Education • Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin (MC) • Carol Hamilton, Mayor, Colwood • Ravi Parmar, Chair, Sooke Board of Education • Windy Beadall, Principal, Royal Bay Secondary • Maddy Morison, Grade 11 Royal Bay student
9:28 a.m.	Speakers led to speaking area and positioned at podium by Joleen
9:30 a.m.	MLA Mitzi Dean welcomes guests, provides introductory remarks, introduces speakers and invites Minister Rob Fleming to the podium.
9:32 a.m.	Minister Rob Fleming makes announcement.
9:36 a.m.	Mitzi Dean thanks Minister Fleming, invites Mayor Carol Hamilton to podium.
9:37 a.m.	Mayor Carol Hamilton makes remarks.
9:40 a.m.	Mitzi Dean thanks Mayor Hamilton, invites Ravi Parmar to podium.
9:41 a.m.	Ravi Parmar delivers remarks.
9:44 a.m.	Mitzi Dean thanks Ravi Parmar, invites Maddy Morison to the podium.
9:45 a.m.	Maddy Morison delivers remarks.
9:48 a.m.	Mitzi Dean thanks Maddie Morison, invites Windy Beadall to the podium.
9:49 a.m.	Windy Beadall delivers remarks.
9:52 a.m.	Mitzi Dean thanks Windy Beadall, delivers concluding remarks.
9:54 a.m.	Media availability, scrum format – moderated by Corinna Filion.
10:04 a.m.	Group photo. (strike podium)
10:07 a.m.	Minister Fleming puts on his running shoes and the Royal Bay jersey and joins Royal Bay Soccer Academy for a short game. (Go Ravens!)
10:15 a.m.	Game ends, Event Concludes.

Speaking Notes
for the

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education

Royal Bay Secondary School
Expansion Funding Announcement

Friday March 16, 2018
9:30 a.m. (30 minutes)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- **We're working hard to build new schools and add more spaces in growing communities.**
- **Education is a top priority for our government, and we are committed to making sure that the use of portables to address growth pressures is not a long-term solution.**

- **We have committed to reducing the need for portables as long-term solutions for students.**

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE IF PRESENT :

- **MLAs if present**
- **Jim Cambridge**, outgoing superintendent
- **Scott Stinson**, incoming superintendent
- **Ian Johnson**, president, Sooke Teachers' Association
- **Amber Leonard**, president, Sooke CUPE

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:

- **Coast Salish First Nations, including the Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation**

SPORTS TEAM NAME:

- **Royal Bay Ravens**

INTRODUCTION:

- Hello everyone, and thank you, Mitzi, for your warm welcome.
- It's a pleasure to be here with you all today at the beautiful Royal Bay Secondary.
- I am so happy to be here with you all today.
- This is such a beautiful community, and it's no wonder why it is growing at the pace that it is.
- This area is an amazing place for young families.
- But growth brings challenges to public infrastructure like schools.
- We need to make sure our investments keep up with that growth.
- That hasn't happened in previous years, but our government is working to fix this.
- Since becoming Minister last July, we have made significant progress in accelerating seismic upgrades and building new schools.
- We want to make sure that every student in B.C. has the best possible learning environment...

- ... giving them the tools to succeed, live happy, full lives and contribute to their communities.
- That is what students like you deserve.
- But when students are spending their days in over-crowded schools, it can be a challenge.
- That is why I am here today.
- ... to make a long overdue investment that will make life better for students and families.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

- I am here to announce \$23.2 million in provincial government funding to build a new, 600-seat expansion to Royal Bay Secondary School.
- It will include 21 classrooms and a small gymnasium.
- And deliver on our commitment to get students out of portables and into positive environments that support 21st century learning.
- Because that is what students deserve.

- Students here can expect the new space to be ready for fall 2020.
- And I can't wait to see them there.

SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- I want to acknowledge the work of the Sooke School District, which is contributing \$2 million to this project.
- This is another great example of how we can build relationships with our partners to give students the best school experiences possible.
- We know there is a lot more work to do as families continue to flock to the west shore.
- A few months ago, we provided the school district with \$23.3 million to purchase land for a new elementary school and middle school in Langford.
- With today's announcement, that's more than \$46 million we've already invested to create more student spaces in this district.

CONCLUSION:

- This has been a very exciting school year.
 - We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure all students are successful – and that includes learning in a beautiful and bigger school.
 - We are putting our kids first and investing in schools, classrooms and a better future for our children.
 - And we are starting to see what a well-supported education system can deliver for all British Columbians.
 - Thank you.
- END -**

When: Friday March 9, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. (pre-brief at 9:15 a.m.)

Where: Richard McBride Elementary School

331 Richmond Street, New Westminster

Length: 30 minutes

Speech: 2-3 minutes

Parking: Stall #14 has been set aside for Minister Fleming in the school parking lot, off of School Street.

Key Participants:

Other Attendees:

- Jonathan Cote, Mayor, New Westminster TBC
- New Westminster City Councillors TBC
- New Westminster school board trustees
- New Westminster School District staff and officials
- Grant Osborne, president, New Westminster Teachers' Union TBC
- Marcel Marsolais, president, CUPE409 TBC
- Richard McBride staff and teachers
- École Lord Tweedsmuir staff and teachers
- School and district PAC members

Audience Size: 20 – 25

Contact: Marlene Behrens, GCPE Events

C: 778 584-1253

Event Background:

Minister Rob Fleming will announce \$28.7 million in Ministry of Education funding for the \$22.6-million replacement of Richard McBride Elementary School and the \$6.1-million upgrade of École Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School in New Westminster.

These are the 14th and 15th seismic projects announced since September 2017.

In 2014, École Lord Tweedsmuir was rated as H1-High Risk of failure in the event of an earthquake. Six portables will be brought on-site to accommodate students while the building is seismically upgraded. Construction of École Lord Tweedsmuir is scheduled to begin in summer 2018 and complete fall 2020.

In 2013, Richard McBride was rated as high seismic-risk and needs to be replaced. The new school will be built on the same property, on the upper playfield, allowing students to remain in their school during construction. Construction of Richard McBride is scheduled to begin fall 2018 and complete winter 2021.

School Enrolment

Current enrolment at École Lord Tweedsmuir is 346

Current enrolment at Richard McBride is 430

Childcare

The existing before and after school-care spaces and StrongStart program at McBride are currently being housed in a portable and outbuilding. The new building will have space for these programs to operate inside the school.

Seismic Mitigation Program:

Currently, 170 of 346 schools in the Seismic Mitigation Program have had upgrades completed, including 2 in the New Westminster School District. Seismic high-risk John Robson has already been replaced with the new École Qayqayt Elementary, and has recently completed a seismic upgrade at F.W. Howay Elementary. Once Lord Tweedsmuir and Richard McBride are complete, the district will only have one school left to be seismically upgraded – Hume Park.

The Ministry currently has \$541 million allocated for high-risk seismic projects in its three-year capital plan.

Time	Event Itinerary
Event Summary:	Podium event at Richard McBride Elementary – location TBC. Before the speaking portion, Tweedsmuir students will do a drumming performance. Minister Fleming will make the announcement from the podium, standing with Tweedsmuir and McBride students and speakers. After the event, the McBride choir will sing a song.
Key contacts	Media relations: Sean Leslie Photographer/Videographer: TBC Event Coordinator: Marlene Behrens
7:00 a.m.	Marlene Behrens, Event Coordinator, and SW AV Specialists on site for technical setup.
9:00 a.m.	Speakers, media, and guests begin to arrive.
9:20 a.m.	Pre-brief with speakers, led by Marlene Behrens, Event Coordinator Location: Staff Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Fleming, Minister of Education • Judy Darcy, MLA for New Westminster (Emcee) • Mark Gifford, Chair, New Westminster School District Board of Education • Kathleen Chad, principal, Richard McBride Elementary • Debbie Ramen, vice principal, Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary • Chief Rhonda Larrabee, Qayqayt First Nation
9:28 a.m.	Speakers led to speaking area and positioned at podium by Marlene
9:30 a.m.	Tweedsmuir drummers perform
9:34 a.m.	Minister Judy Darcy thanks drummers, invites Chief Rhonda Larrabee to offer welcome.
9:35 a.m.	Chief Rhonda Larrabee offers welcome.
9:37 a.m.	Judy Darcy thanks Chief Larrabee, provides introductory remarks then invites Minister Rob Fleming to make the announcement.
9:38 a.m.	Minister Rob Fleming makes the announcement.
9:41 a.m.	Judy Darcy thanks Minister Rob Fleming , invites Mark Gifford to the podium.
9:42 a.m.	Mark Gifford delivers remarks.
9:44 a.m.	Judy Darcy thanks Mark Gifford , invites Kathleen Chad to the podium.
9:45 a.m.	Kathleen Chad delivers remarks.
9:47 a.m.	Judy Darcy thanks Kathleen Chad , invites Debbie Ramen to the podium.
9:48 a.m.	Debbie Ramen delivers remarks
9:50 a.m.	Judy Darcy thanks Debbie Ramen and introduces Richard McBride's High Notes choir .
9:51 a.m.	Richard McBride's High Notes choir performs
9:55 a.m.	Judy Darcy thanks Richard McBride's High Notes choir delivers concluding remarks. Group photo taken.
9:57 a.m.	Media availability, scrum format – moderated by TBC
10:05 a.m.	Event Concludes.

Speaking Notes
for the

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education

New Westminster elementary schools
Richard McBride and
Lord Tweedsmuir Seismic Funding Announcement

Friday March 9, 2018
9:30 a.m. (30 minutes)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- The safety of students and teachers is a top priority for our government.
- We are working hard to accelerate the school seismic mitigation program to make sure all our schools are safe for students, staff and teachers.
- That's why we're investing \$6.1 million for the much-needed upgrade of École Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School, and
- \$22.6 million on the much-needed replacement of Richard McBride Elementary school
- For a total of \$28.7 on these two New Westminister schools.
- We are working with school boards and local governments to meet an ambitious timeline, so we can get schools upgraded or replaced quickly.

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:

- Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and MLA for New Westminister
- Chief Rhonda Larrabee, Qayqayt First Nation
- Jonathan Cote, Mayor, New Westminister TBC
- New Westminister City Councillors TBC
- Mark Gifford, chair, New Westminister School

Board

- New Westminster school board trustees
- New Westminster School District staff and officials
- Grant Osborne, president, New Westminster Teachers' Union TBC
- Marcel Marsolais, president, CUPE409 TBC
- Kathleen Chad, principal, Richard McBride Elementary School
- Debbie Ramen, vice principal, École Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School
- Richard McBride staff and teachers
- École Lord Tweedsmuir staff and teachers
- School and district PAC members
- Drummers from École Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School
- High Notes choir from Richard McBride Elementary School

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:

- acknowledge the Indigenous people on whose territory we are standing today

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you Minister Darcy.
- Thanks also to students from École Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary for the fantastic drumming.
- And thank you for your warm welcome.
- It's an honour to be here at Richard McBride Elementary school for **two** exciting announcements that will make life better for students and families in New Westminster.
- I first want to acknowledge the Indigenous people on whose territory we are standing today.
- And welcome all of our guests.

ANNOUNCEMENT

- I'm thrilled to be here to deliver on our commitment to provide safer schools for B.C. children.
- As a parent, there is nothing more important to me than the safety of my children.
- As Minister of Education, my top priority is the safety of everyone who walks through the doors of schools across the province.
- Parents deserve to feel confident their children are safe at school.
- That's why it is so important to us to invest in safe schools.
- If an earthquake hits, we need to be prepared, and we need to know that our children will be safe.

- We know that too many schools have been ignored for too long.
- So today I am very pleased to announce that our government is providing \$6.1 million to seismically upgrade **École Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary school.**
- I'm also excited to announce that our government is providing \$22.6 million to fully replace **this** school, **Richard McBride Elementary.**

RICHARD MCBRIDE

- Richard McBride was built in 1929.
- The whole school is rated at high risk of incurring significant damage in the event of an earthquake.
- We need to fix this.
- We are going to build a brand new elementary school that will also add three new classrooms...

- Meaning students will no longer have to go to classes in portables.
- The new school will also have space for the Strong Start program, and a **Neighbourhood Learning Centre** which will house the before-and-after-school care programs...
- ...which are currently in a portable and an outbuilding.
- Work will start this fall, and the new Richard McBride Elementary School will be complete in winter 2021.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR

- École Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School is another vital piece of this community.
- But parts of that building, including the gym, are also rated as having a high risk of damage in the event of a major earthquake.
- That is not good enough for me and it's not good enough for our government.
- And that's why we are also investing to upgrade the high-risk parts of the school.
- We expect construction to begin on Lord Tweedsmuir as soon as **this summer**, with hopes it will be ready to take on students in Fall 2020.
- Our government is working for British Columbians, and making investments that make life better for families.

- Having a safer Richard McBride and Lord Tweedsmuir elementary schools will do just that.
- And most importantly, it means students, teachers and support staff will be safer in the event of a major seismic event.
- I look forward to seeing students, staff and teachers walking through the doors of an upgraded, seismically safe Lord Tweedsmuir in fall 2020,
- And to see students, staff and teachers from this school learning and working in a brand new Richard McBride Elementary in 2021.
- I know that the thriving, positive environment you have all created here will be the same, if not even better, in your new home.

NEW WESTMINSTER SEISMIC PRIORITIES

- These projects are bringing us closer to having every student in this district in a seismically safe school.
- This government is ensuring every family in B.C. can send their children to safe, healthy schools.
- Our government is working to accelerate seismic upgrades for high-risk schools.
- And we will continue to make these investments to make life better for students and families.
- We hope to have many more announcements in the weeks and months to come.

CONCLUSION

- We are in the midst of an exciting school year that has seen many positive changes.
- Our government is working hard to ensure our kids get the quality education and opportunities they deserve.
- We are putting our kids first and investing in schools, classrooms, and a better future for our children.
- Thank you.

-END-

Event Information / Speaking Notes

Event: Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association Spring Conference 2018 (VISTA)

When: Friday, March 2

Where: Esquimalt High School, 847 Colville Rd., Victoria

Directions:



Length: Three hours

Key Participants:

- Butch Dick, giving First Nations welcome
- Edith Loring-Kuhanga, SD61 board chair
- Jordan Watters, SD61 trustee

Other Attendees: Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association members and some of their district staff (i.e. Supt. and S/T); School District 61 (Greater Victoria) hosts, including Superintendent Piet Langstraat, Deputy Superintendent Shelley Green and Secretary-Treasurer Mark Walsh; Mayor of Esquimalt Barb Desjardins plus two councillors; and B.C. School Trustees Association Board Director Donna Sargent.

Audience Size: 60 people

Audience: What do they want to hear: Future directions of education in B.C. as well as funding information.

Contact: Vicki Hanley, executive assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer and Board of Education, Greater Victoria School District No. 61

C: 250 475-4106

E: vhanley@sd61.bc.ca

Itinerary:

Time	Itinerary
5:30 p.m.	Registration begins, appetizers served
6:30 p.m.	Butch Dick gives First Nations welcome
6:45 p.m.	Edith Loring-Kuhanga , SD61 board chair, gives welcome and makes introduction
7:00 p.m.	Minister Rob Fleming makes remarks followed by Q&A.
8:30 p.m.	Jordan Watters , SD61 trustee, gives closing remarks

Speaking Notes
for the

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education

Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association
Spring Conference 2018
Esquimalt High School, 847 Colville Rd., Victoria

Friday, March 2
(20 minutes)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- Education is a top priority for our government.
- Budget 2018 includes a historic almost \$2 billion over three years for school capital and a new playground fund.
- We are also well underway with our review of the outdated school funding model.
- School trustees serve an important role in our districts across the province and are our co-governors of the system.

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:

- Butch Dick, giving First Nations welcome
- Edith Loring-Kuhanga, SD61 board chair
- Jordan Watters, SD61 trustee
- Members of the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association
- School District 61 (Greater Victoria) conference hosts

TERRITORY:

- Please acknowledge the territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

INTRODUCTION:

- Good evening.
- Thank you Butch for your warm welcome, and Edith for your kind introduction.
- I'd also like to thank our hosts, those at School District 61 (Greater Victoria), for organizing what promises to be an enjoyable and informative conference this weekend in Victoria.
- It's a pleasure to be here this evening with all of you hardworking members and supporters of the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association.
- School trustees serve an important role in our districts across the province.
- Like our government, you're working to make life better for all of the students, teachers, parents and communities you serve.
- It's been an incredibly productive seven months since I took the reins as Minister of Education.
- Our ministry has made major headway in a number of key areas and we plan to continue forging ahead at the same rapid rate to ensure

students in B.C. receive unfettered access to the quality public education they deserve.

Future of Education in B.C.

- At the Ministry of Education, we remain dedicated to student success.
- We believe that by focusing on results, equity for all, and staying focused on not just the students of today, but future generations, we will continue to take great strides toward improving student outcomes.
- Our path to helping students succeed is firmly rooted in a number of principles that guide not only my work as minister, but that of ministry staff.
- By sharing these principles with you today, I hope you are inspired to continue doing the great work you do to help students become their best selves - both in the classroom and beyond.
- The first principle we take into account is the importance of quality of instruction and leadership capacity.
- This speaks to our interest in supporting teachers and staff to ensure they have what they need to

not only do their jobs effectively but excel in their respective roles.

- The second principle is collaborative relationships and I am happy to be here with all of you tonight to maintain open lines of communication.
- Smart and equitable investments is another guiding principle and I look forward to sharing education-related details of the recently announced Budget 2018 with you later this evening.
- Finally, ensuring safe and effective learning environments is the fourth principle that guides our work.
- I am incredibly proud to report government has made tremendous headway in fast-tracking seismic upgrades, something I will move on to talk about in more detail now.

Capital and Seismic:

- Students and teachers deserve safe and inclusive schools - these are among our top priorities.

- When I was sworn in as Minister of Education in July 2017, I vowed to accelerate the pace of long-needed seismic upgrades and school construction projects.
- In fact, I've pledged to move a total of 50 seismic projects to approval in 18 months.
- I'm happy to report we're well on our way to achieving our target.
- So far, we've announced the combined funding of \$194 million for seismic upgrades or replacements at 13 high-risk schools.
- Campus View Elementary in School District 61 (Greater Victoria) is one of those.
- In October 2017 we announced a \$2.4-million seismic upgrade at that school.
- Construction is slated to begin in June and is expected to be completed in September 2019.
- A second Vancouver Island school receiving a seismic upgrade is Keating Elementary in School District 63 (Saanich).

- In January, we announced Keating Elementary would receive a \$7.92-million seismic upgrade and four-classroom addition.
- Construction is expected to begin in July and be completed in March 2020.
- The ministry is appreciative of the efforts of boards of education and municipal officials who've helped us meet our ambitious timeline so schools can be upgraded as quickly as possible.
- We know other schools on Vancouver Island are waiting for news of their own seismic upgrades.
- I can tell you, they remain a priority for us and there will be more good news to come.
- In fact, in Budget 2018, our government has committed \$541 million over three years for seismic upgrades across the province.
- So we will have many more announcements in the weeks and months to come.
- We're also continuing to respond to changes in student populations across the province, including Vancouver Island, and getting kids out of portables.

- For example, School District 62 (Sooke) is one of the fastest-growing in B.C.
- That's why in December, we announced \$23.3 million for the Sooke school district to purchase 16 acres of land in Langford to accommodate an elementary school as well as a middle school.
- This was an exciting project for us and speaks to our focus on doing what it takes to ensure the next generation of students has the ability to learn in positive, healthy and safe schools.

Task force findings:

- To ensure students receive the support they need in the classroom, last month the ministry announced a number of measures we're taking to help school districts.
- Despite the fact that districts across the province have hired thousands of teachers, teacher recruitment and retention remains a challenge in some areas, particularly for specialist educators.
- Last month, we announced the findings of an expert task force I appointed to help us identify things we can do to combat this.

- Based on their recommendations, we're allocating \$571,000 to create more than 100 new spaces in teacher education programs over the next two years in an effort to produce qualified special education, French language, secondary math and physics teachers.
- We're also earmarking \$260,000 to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in B.C.
- Indigenous learning is at the forefront of our ministry as a result of the findings from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- The ministry is continuing to work with Indigenous peoples, language experts and school districts to develop full-course offerings in Indigenous languages.
- So far we have approved 17 Indigenous language curricula to be taught in B.C. schools and another six are under development.

Funding model review:

- We're working hard to give B.C. students the best educational experience possible.
- One way we're taking action to better support students is by reviewing the K-12 Public School

Funding Allocation System and discuss how we distribute more than \$5.65 billion in operating funding to 60 boards of education throughout the province.

- Our goal is to develop a stable, predictable and sustainable model that better reflects today's education system.
- Our current funding model was introduced 16 years ago, in a time of declining enrolment.
- Now, we're seeing the opposite – enrolment is on the rise and many school districts are growing.
- We also need to make changes to fix the inequities of the past, to reflect our new curriculum, and to better support rural and remote school districts.
- Our goal is to develop a model that's more fair and will better benefit students and families - including vulnerable students, such as those with special needs, or children in care.
- On Thursday we announced we have selected the funding model review panel.

- Panel members will be led by Chris Trumpy, a former Deputy Finance Minister of B.C., who will serve as chair.
- Panel members include Piet Langstraat, superintendent of the Greater Victoria School District, who (I believe) is here this evening.
- Thank you Piet for your participation.
- On Thursday we also announced that government and the B.C. School Trustees Association have agreed upon the following principles to guide the review panel's work.
- The principles are: Responsive, Equitable, Stable and Predictable, Flexible, Transparent and Accountable.
- The review is technical in nature and requires a significant amount of sector expertise, hence school trustees, such as yourselves, will play a key role.
- To those of you who have already made your voices heard or who will soon be participating in upcoming consultations, I am grateful for your time.

- The Ministry of Education will decide how best to proceed next fall when the review is complete.
- We expect to announce the new model in December, and have it in place for the 2019/20 school year.

Budget announcements:

- It was a real pleasure to hear Finance Minister Carole James tabling Budget 2018 in the legislature last week.
- Historic investments were made in housing and childcare, which were encouraging to hear.
- Also encouraging to hear was the additional funding allocated for B.C.'s education system.
- An extra \$409 million will be provided in operating funding over the next three years, bringing the total to approximately \$6.4 billion by 2020/21.
- We are providing \$1.2 billion over the next three years and delivering on our promise to fund the MOA with the BCTF.
- Budget 2018 includes an increase of \$24 million annually, or \$72 million over three years, for 200

more teachers to support the MOA with the BCTF.

- Government is now supporting the MOA with the BCTF with \$400 million annually for 3,700 full time equivalent teaching positions – up from 3,500 positions funded in Budget Update 2017.
- Budget 2018 provides an historic investment of nearly \$2 billion over three years to replace aging schools, add more spaces in growing communities and fast-track seismic upgrades.
- News of a new playground fund was particularly welcomed, to help ease the burden on parent advisory councils to ensure safe places for our kids to play.
- This will be a \$5 million annual fund - and I'm looking forward to rolling out details in the weeks ahead.
- The new budget also includes \$100 million over five years for an Enrolment Growth Program envelope to add more classrooms in districts with rapidly growing enrolments that are at or exceeding their student capacity.

- Also announced was an investment of \$50 million this fiscal year in support of the revitalization and preservation of Indigenous languages.

Foundation Skills Assessment:

- I'd like to say a few words now about the Foundation Skills Assessment.
- The FSA remains a vital tool for assessment that supports students, educators and parents in ensuring student success.
- It allows educators to identify students who may be struggling - and to intervene early to provide necessary supports.
- We've moved the FSA dates to the fall so that students who need a bit of extra help can be identified even earlier.
- But we heard from several of our education sector partners who expressed concerns with school-level FSA data being posted publicly.
- We agree that the data should **not** be used to rank schools.

- So the ministry is not posting or releasing school level FSA results onto our website or onto OpenData BC as we have done previously.
- We realize it's important that student progress is monitored by the teachers, administrators, parents and the Ministry of Education.
- That's why the ministry is still providing confidential and secure student information to school districts, and why district-level results have been posted on the ministry's website for students and parents.

SOGI:

- I'm pleased to see this conference includes a session called Inclusion Through SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) tomorrow morning.
- All students deserve to be welcomed, included and respected in a safe learning environment while being fully and completely themselves.
- No student should be excluded or bullied because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

- I've been keeping a watchful eye on the situation in Chilliwack, regarding the actions of trustee Barry Neufeld who continues to criticize our SOGI 123 resources.
- While Mr. Neufeld continues to disregard calls for his resignation, I can say unequivocally that our province and the Chilliwack School District are moving forward with SOGI education...
- And will continue to ensure all students feel welcome in school, regardless of how they identify.
- It's encouraging to see that SOGI education and policies are well supported by teachers, superintendents, parent groups as well as trustees like yourselves who want to see all forms of discrimination and bullying removed from the school system.

CONCLUSION:

- I'm excited about the progress we've made in the past seven months and I'm excited to continue making life better for people in B.C.
- All of you play an important role in helping us achieve our goals and I'm grateful for your hard

work and dedication, helping to positively shape B.C.'s world class education system.

- I wish you an exciting conference weekend and would like to once again say thank you for having me here this evening.
- It's been a pleasure.

Event Information / Special Chiefs Assembly March 9, 2018

Event: B.C. Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly

- (Two-day session starting Thurs. March 8, ending Fri. March 9.)

Date: Friday March 9, 2018

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 am

Where: Ramada Hotel, Prince George, B.C.

Length: 10 minutes approximately, plus Q&A afterward

Moderator: David Luggi (hard g – rhymes with “boogie”) will introduce the minister. He is former Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council from 2009 – 2012 and a member of the Stellat’en First Nation.

Audience: Approximately 200 attendees: First Nations leaders in BC.

Event summary:

- **Minister is asked to speak for 10 minutes, then regional chief Terry Teegee will say a few words, then open the floor for Q&A.**
- Minister Heyman is asked to speak about **Environmental Assessment revitalization and Climate Change.**
- BCAFN will most likely have a report out to the Chiefs from the FNEMC (Dave Porter or other TBD) to compliment the Minister’s talk.
- Organizer has also confirmed Ministers Farnworth and Donaldson to attend.
- They have invited the Premier as well, and several federal cabinet members.
- FNEMC Environmental Assessment Regional Workshop meets on March 1 and March 7, just prior to this Assembly.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are by any chance honoured with a blanket or a cedar headband during this gathering, be sure to leave the item on for the duration, and ask the host about protocol before removing them if you get uncomfortably hot, etc. before the conclusion of the event.

Introduction:

Territorial Acknowledgement: Lheidli T'enneh (clayt-clay ten-ay) First Nation

Key people to recognize and thank:

- Elders and chiefs
- Youth representatives
- Delegates
- There will be other members of cabinet in attendance: Farnworth, Donaldson, possibly others.
- Federal representatives will have been there the day before.

Top message:

- **The government of B.C. is committed to learning from, and working with, Indigenous peoples as we chart a path towards reconciliation.**

Key Messages: UNDRIP – recognition

- Our government is taking steps in partnership with Indigenous Peoples in our jurisdiction to make true reconciliation possible.
- It is our intention to develop a cross-ministry framework in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to meet our commitments to the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Calls to Action of the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the Tsilhqot'in decision.

- Aboriginal title and rights are a matter of law and justice. We must move away from the ongoing cycle of court battles, embrace Section 35 of the Constitution and move toward meaningful reconciliation in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.
- This is a unique time in Canada's history, where all partners at the table are focused on transforming the Crown-Indigenous relationship. That process starts when we recognize the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- We look forward to working with First Nations, Métis, all Indigenous partners and Canada, as we build a new and better relationship.

Key Messages: EA Revitalization

- Revitalization of the Environmental Assessment Process will focus on three key outcomes:
 - Enhancing public confidence and meaningful participation;
 - Advancing reconciliation with First Nations; and
 - Protecting the environment while supporting sustainable economic growth.

- We are working to ensure First Nations, local governments and communities and the general public can meaningfully participate in all stages of a revitalized environmental assessment process that will be transparent, timely and provides early indications of the likelihood of success
- This work will also contribute to our government's commitment to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is working directly with the First Nations Energy and Mining Council, on behalf of the First Nations Leadership Council, to ensure a revitalized environmental assessment process advances reconciliation.
- A newly formed Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee will lead Indigenous and stakeholder engagement. This independent forum will review and make recommendations on B.C.'s current environmental assessment process.
 - The committee is co-chaired by Bruce Fraser, an ecologist by training and past chair of both the Forest Practices Board and the Taskforce on Species at Risk; and Lydia Hwitsum, former Chief of the Cowichan Tribes.

- Sunny LeBourdais is a member of the EA Advisory Committee. He is a member of the Pelltiq'te Secwepemc [*pronunciation*: suh-Wep-muhc] Nation member and the Director of Governance at Secwepemc Governance Initiative and Project Coordinator for the Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwepemc Nation (SSN)

Key Messages: Climate Action

- We recognize the challenge in front of us to reduce greenhouse (GHG) emissions and are taking meaningful steps to tackle this issue while at the same time investing in a sustainable economy.
- By law, we are required to reduce GHG emissions by 80% from 2007 levels by 2050.
- We know serious work is needed to accomplish this emissions reduction which is why we are already taking real leadership on the climate file.
- For example, our government will introduce a legislated target of 40% by 2030 to give us a benchmark on the way to the 2050 target.

Key Messages: Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council

- The Advisory Council includes members from First Nations, industry, environmental organizations, labour, academia and local government. First nations members are:
 - Gordon Planes, Chief, T'Sou-ke Nation
 - Aaron Sumexheltza, Chief, Lower Nicola Indian Band
 - Kathryn Teneese, Chair of the Ktunaxa Nation
- The Advisory Council provides strategic advice on areas of focus for climate action that go hand in hand with clean growth and job creation.
- As part of its mandate, the Advisory Council will review and publicly report on government's progress towards meeting legislated carbon pollution reduction targets and maximizing job and economic opportunities.

Key Messages: Budget 2018 and Indigenous peoples

- Addressing reconciliation is our shared responsibility.
- Budget 2018 supports Indigenous peoples in several ways:
 - \$158 million over three years for housing
 - \$30 million to continue the Indigenous Skills Training Program

- \$16 million over two years for the First Nations Health Authority to support mental health and wellness

Questions and Answers:

1. What is your government doing about drinking water quality on reserves?

- The situation of the Hullcar Aquifer shows we need a more co-ordinated, inter-agency response to water quality issues.
- I commissioned an independent review of the Hullcar Aquifer last fall. We accept the recommendations of the report and are working to implement many of the short- and longer-term suggestions, in consultation with the Splotsin in the Hullcar Valley.
- Minister Heyman and Chief Christian (Splotsin) signed an MOU on December 5, 2017, agreeing to work collaboratively to address water quality in the Hullcar Valley
- The MOU represents an innovative approach for government-to-government engagement on an important environmental issue
- We are committed to ensuring everyone in our province is able to enjoy clean, safe drinking water, by working with health authorities, local governments, water suppliers, school districts, First Nations communities and the federal government to improve drinking water quality across B.C.

2. Where is the new Ag Waste Control Regulation?

- We will take lesson learned from the Hullcar Aquifer review and ensure best practices for agriculture waste management are applied across the province.
- We released for discussion an intentions paper on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation last. November.
- The Ministry anticipates completion of the regulatory review process and changes to the regulation by Spring 2018.

3. When will the government take action on regulating biosolids?

- We intend to restore public confidence in government's ability to protect our water, land and air, and to protect human health.

- A new Intentions Paper for the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation OMRR will be released in the coming months.

4. What's happening with the Parks service and First Nations?

- BC Parks is committed to discussing reconciliation opportunities with Indigenous communities across the province.
- BC Parks is awaiting the release of the Indigenous Circle of Experts Report and Recommendations: Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 in the Spirit and Practice of Reconciliation to fully understand protected area management under a new model.
- In order to inform the design and development of a new protected area designation, discussions with Indigenous groups that reflect specific needs and interests in British Columbia are necessary.
- BC Parks is hoping to engage with Indigenous communities across the Province in the future to help inform how reconciliation can shape, influence and inform the Parks and Protected Areas system.

South Okanagan:

- The Province is engaging with Parks Canada, First Nations and stakeholders to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan, under federal jurisdiction.
- Planning discussions between the Province, federal government and the Okanagan Nation with respect to establishing a South Okanagan National Park Reserve are commencing.
- This partnership also represents a valuable opportunity to move forward on reconciliation, and to strengthen nation-to-nation engagement with the Okanagan Nation communities.
- We will ensure interests – including ranching, hunting and tourism – are taken into consideration as we work towards establishing a national park reserve that contributes positively to local economies.

Partnerships

Nuxalk Nation - Tweedsmuir Provincial Park

- Completion of the Fisheries Pool campground shelter with the addition of Indigenous cultural doors carved by a Nuxalk Nation artist, Alvin Mack.

Co-management/Collaborative Management

Osoyoos Indian Band (Indian Band of the Okanagan Nation Alliance)

- s̓wíw̓s (pronounced “s-wee-yous” – formerly Haynes Point) and s̓x̓wə́x̓wnitk̓w (roughly pronounced “Sk-woo-coo-nee-t” – formerly Okanagan Falls) Provincial Parks. Osoyoos Indian Band is the Park Operator for both s̓wíw̓s and s̓x̓wə́x̓wnitk̓w Provincial Parks. This relationship is under a collaborative management framework, where Osoyoos Indian band jointly manages these Parks in collaboration with BC Parks.

Haida Nation

- Naikoon (Agate Beach and Misty Meadows) Provincial Park - Tow Hill trail project and collaboratively managed BC Parks on Haida Gwaii. Recently collaborated on a trail marker project. The trail marker showcases Haida Art.

Nisga’a Nation – Anhlut’ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga’asanskwhl Nisga’a (a.k.a. Nisga’a Memorial Lava Bed Park)

- First Provincial Park managed jointly by a First Nation and BC Parks.
- The park is included in the “Nisga’a Final Agreement”, between the Government of Canada and the Nisga’a Nation.

Lax Kw’alaams Nation

- The bear viewing guides contribute a per person donation to the Khutzeymateen Park Enhancement Fund that collectively supports shared stewardship initiatives for Khutzeymateen Protected Areas including:
- the K’tzim-a-deen Visitor Centre and interpretation services;
- natural and cultural resource monitoring and research; and,
- to ensure visitors to the Khutzeymateen Protected Areas receive an orientation on responsible bear viewing techniques.

Cultural Recognition

- Osoyoos Indian Band (Indian Band of the Okanagan Nation Alliance)
- Changed primary Park names from colonial historical names to Syilx (pronounced See-l-x - Okanagan) names.
- Nisga’a Nation – Anhlut’ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga’asanskwhl Nisga’a (a.k.a. Nisga’a Memorial Lava Bed Park)
- Combines interpretation of natural features and Nisga’a culture.

5. How will you take into account the interests of Indigenous peoples in the proposed Species at Risk legislation?

- We will bring in an endangered species law and harmonize other laws to ensure they are all working towards the goal of protecting our beautiful province.
- B.C. has the opportunity to be a leader in Canada with an effective and innovative approach to protecting and recovering endangered species.
- We will be engaging with Indigenous communities seeking their input and interest in species at risk policy development.
- A broad public and stakeholder engagement and consultation process will be launched in the coming weeks.
- Concurrently, we will be consulting with Indigenous groups and communities on the new Species at Risk legislation.

Example: Caribou

- The Province has been in extensive conversations with West Moberly and Saulneau First Nations, as well as the government of Canada, to develop a partnership that will conserve the Mountain Caribou Federal Species at Risk Act, Section 11.
- Conversations with WMFN and SFN have been ongoing for months, and we are pleased to be working with these nations in a very collaborative manner on an extremely challenging topic.
- Strategic and meaningful recommendations are being developed which will benefit the caribou in the Central Group by working to immediately stabilize and grow the caribou populations to self-sustaining status and beyond, in order to herds that provide an opportunity for a meaningful First Nations hunt.

6. Ajax mine decision

- Together with my colleague, energy minister Michelle Mungall, I decided not to issue an environmental assessment certificate to KGHM Ajax Mining Inc. for the Ajax project.
- The area of the proposed mine is extremely important to the culture of SSN and we agreed that the Ajax project would result in significant adverse effects to Indigenous heritage and to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes.

- The project would have had adverse impacts on SSN's asserted Aboriginal rights and title, which in many cases, could not be avoided or minimized. These effects were unacceptable in the circumstances.
- First Nations affected: Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN), Ashcroft Indian Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band and Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band.

7. What is happening with the aftermath of the Mt Polley mine disaster?

- A disaster like this should never have happened in B.C., and it must never happen again
- While full environmental remediation will take years, significant progress has been made in the remediation efforts done to-date.
- Actions completed so far include assessing the extent of impacts from the breach (including impacts on fish and fish habitat), determining risks to human health, and revising long-term monitoring plans.
- Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) conducts sampling weekly for the effluent discharge permit. Monitoring of the waterways downstream of the mine continues.
- The Province, with First Nation participation, has overseen all environmental remediation and monitoring work done by MPMC and will continue to do so.
- The ministry has a monitoring and auditing plan in place. MPMC's comprehensive environmental monitoring plan is currently under revision in consultation with the ministry and First Nations.
- First Nations remain important partners in the next phase of addressing remediation of the site.
- Soda Creek and Williams Lake Indian Bands (Xatsúll and T'exelcenc First Nations) will continue to be fully engaged on permitting decisions related to Mount Polley mine.
- To-date, the two Bands have had substantial technical involvement in the water discharge permit review and the update to the Pollution Abatement Order, as well as in the review of impact and risk assessments, and the development of comprehensive environmental monitoring plans.
- Information is also being shared with the TNG and Lhtako who use downstream waters during aboriginal fisheries.

8. Professional Reliance review process

- We're conducting a review of B.C.'s professional reliance model because the public should be assured that a strong, transparent process is in place that upholds the public interest and high environmental standards.
- The views and experiences of Indigenous peoples are integral to an effective PR model; my ministry has reached out to a variety of organizations to make sure your voices are heard.
- We're also reviewing legislation and best practices in other jurisdictions, and I am expecting a final report later in the spring.

9. Who has been appointed to the Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council?

Council Co-Chairs

- Merran Smith
- Marcia Smith

Council Members

- Taylor Bachrach
- Dave Collyer

- Matt Horne
- Lee Loftus
- Gavin McGarrigle
- Michelle Molnar
- Nancy Olewiler
- Josie Osborne
- Gordon Planes
- DJ Pohl

- Sybil Seitzinger
- Aaron Sumexheltza
- Karen Tam Wu
- Kathryn Teneese
- Jill Tipping
- Tesicca Truong
- Susan Yurkovich

- Previous government and carbon tax...There are things that we can do to make a difference in both greenhouse gas emissions and reducing them while also helping the economy.
- And then we had six years of nothing. In fact, it was worse than nothing. Emission has been rising. We were going in the wrong direction.
- When I went to Bonn it reaffirmed for me how important it is that what's called sub national jurisdictions: provinces, states, cities, are doing because it is the sum of all the actions that makes a difference.
- It's not that national policy is unimportant. It's critically important.
- But if we look at the United States ironically in Bonn I saw a cluster of texts, and it said, "#WeAreStillIn."
- And I thought ok, great, it's not some sort of joke. It's a bunch of committed environmental organizations who were saying "despite our president we are still in."
- But what I learned was it was all of those people plus representatives of close to twenty states from the United States that together constitute one of the world's largest economies.
- Bigger than the rest of the United States put together who have all said "we don't care what the national policies are," and they do care.
- They said "we will continue to reduce emissions, we will continue to move toward carbon pricing, we will continue to move toward clean energy vehicles, we will continue to move toward a low carbon economy and a low carbon transition."

- And I met with people from states and provinces in European countries who have taken amazingly significant concrete actions to move it along.
- And it's making a difference. It's not enough yet but it's making a difference, and what I heard I'm going to share with you.
- Before I get to do so, probably what has the most profound impact of all, in Bonn there's a strong indigenous presence from Canada, from south pacific island nations, from southern countries.
- And the message of the indigenous people was profound:
- "We are on the front line, our traditions are at risk, our very homes are at risk" in the case of people who are impacted by flooding, whether it is oceans or rivers.
- "Our culture depends on our traditions and our food, even our language is connected to our home."
- It is amazing to me because like all of us, I'm a settler. My parents actually came from Europe.
- I believe I have traditions but nothing like millennia of connection and the language rooted in a very specific place and a very specific culture built around how the environment feeds and sustains my community.
- It was impactful beyond words.
- And what was also impactful was the determination of everyone in the room to respond to it in a meaningful way.
- So that's what I brought back to British Columbia.
- When I look around and when I think of sessions like this one I've been asked specifically...

- When I think of the five municipal climate leaders' breakfast I had attended at the Union of BC Municipalities, when I think of the work of the community energy society (I know I have the last word wrong Dale, but everyone here knows what I mean.)
- When I think of that work, I know that in many cases local governments have been there, with the limited means they have at their disposal, to address the 50% of the greenhouse gas emissions that are attributable to municipal activity or activities that take place in their municipalities.
- But what municipalities need is not more words from the provincial and federal government.
- Municipalities need partners. They need support.
- You need support. You need encouragement. And you need a framework that frames all of your activities together and amplifies that so we can set emission reduction targets not just for 2050, thirty-two years away.
- Having failed miserably to meet the legislated 2020 target, everybody knows now it's impossible. We need to set a new target.
- But more importantly, we need a plan that says "these are the steps we are going to take in industry, in transportation, in building, heating and lighting and energy use that will get us there."
- It's not going to be a mathematical formula that is exact or precise to get us there. We are going to change it every year.
- We are going to discover new things. In some cases we will be able to do more, in some cases we will be able to do less [than] we hope in some areas, which means we'll do more in others.

- But what everybody deserves in British Columbia, what everybody deserves in Canada, what everybody deserves in every municipality in this province and every First Nation in this province:
- It is transparency.
- It is a clear plan and it's a commitment from the provincial government to work together to meet that plan
- And if we can't do that, we will be miserable failures.
- We will be miserable failures for the people who come after us who depend on what we are doing today,
- And we will be miserable failures for the people who live in this province today, who work in this province today, who are trying to raise families in this province today and working good jobs in this province today.
- People need to know that there's a plan. People need to know that they are partners. People need to know that we are sincere and people need a framework in which we can work together most effectively.
- We've done a few things since we formed government a few months ago.
- And I want to recognize the important work that is being done by the Climate Solution and Clean Growth Advisory Council.
- Taylor Bachrach is a member of the council. Matt Horne is also a member of the council. Josie Osborne from Tofino was there. We also have important First Nation leaders: Kathryn Teneese, Gordon Planes and Aaron Sumexheltza.

- All bringing important perspectives, all there to hold us accountable, all there to show us opportunities, show us successes and warn us for pitfalls.
- We also have dedicated public servants.
- But I think the most important thing is we have a government that cares.
- We have a government that is repeated a commitment to set and meet targets.
- I know there are questions in this room and I am going to leave them for the question period.
- But the bottom line is the only touchstone of a climate plan is: our emissions going down.
- The only touchstone of our climate plan is: to have a credible plan all-in to meet the targets that you say you are going to set.
- Whether it is supporting First Nations over energy projects, whether it is supporting transition to bio fuels to deal with waste that otherwise is releasing greenhouse gases and polluting water,
- Whether it is setting targets and helping people to meet them to move up internal combustion engines to get into both transit and zero emission vehicles.
- Whether it is a plan to retrofit homes, commercial buildings and public buildings to reduce energy use,
- And most importantly whether it is a plan to spur clean technology and provide good jobs and training for those good jobs to our children.
- It has to be a plan that does all those things.
- There has to be a plan that feeds people's hopes instead of stoking their fears.

- It has to be a plan that you can believe in and you can participate in.
- If I can help move that plan along, I will never regret for a minute that I ran for office.

Speaking Notes
for
Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

GLOBE 2018 | PCC Forum

Vancouver Convention Centre East - Ballroom

Vancouver, B.C.

Friday, March 16, 2018

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Event Information / PCC Forum at GLOBE 2018

Event: The Pacific Coast Collaborative: West Coast Leadership for a Sustainable Future

When: Friday, March 16, 2018

Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Where: Vancouver Convention Centre East (Ballroom)

Length: Three minutes

Audience: GLOBE FORUM delegates

Event summary: The Prevailing Theme for GLOBE Forum 2018 is ‘Disrupting Business As Usual.’ From March 14-16, 2018, 2,000 business and government leaders from over 50 countries will come together to network and advance global business and sustainability agendas. A mix of armchair dialogues, roundtables, salon-style gatherings, lively debates, SPARK talks and opportunities for active participation will make GLOBE Forum a very exciting place to be.

The PCC session will feature a discussion of how B.C., Washington, Oregon and California are jointly focused on building a sustainable future that works for the people of the West Coast. This includes the approach to tech, clean energy, job creation and trade amongst four jurisdictions that are on the cutting edge of sustainability.

MC:

- Chris Henderson, Chair GLOBE Series

Introduction:

- The Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Moderator:

- Shauna Sylvester, Director of Simon Fraser University’s Centre for Dialogue

Speakers:

- The Hon. John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
- Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington
- Matt Rodriguez, California Secretary for Environmental Protection
- Janine Benner, Director, Oregon Department of Energy

Rollout:**PRE-FUNCTION:**

Unless otherwise noted, all rooms identified herein are located in the Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building

TIME	ROOM	ROLL OUT DETAIL
0900 - 10:00		PCC delegation is meeting
10:00 am to 10:10	Delegate Concourse to Meeting Room 20	As they arrive on-site, the Premier, Min Heyman, Governor, Secretary, Director Shauna Sylvester are met in the lobby of the Vancouver Convention Centre by Jane Kennedy - East Building and escorted upstairs to VIP - Speakers Service Centre (Room 20) on the Meeting level of the VCC where Chris Henderson and Mike Gerbis will join. Boris von Bormann joins this group as well.
10:15 am	Meeting Room 20	GLOBE's Official Photographers will take group pictures. GLOBE's Technical Producer, Val McHugh, will meet the Presenters, moderator and M/C, answer any questions about the use of the a/v equipment etc.
10:20	Meeting Room 20 to Ballroom	Chris & Jane Kennedy escort the party (the Premier, Min Heyman, Governors, Secretary, Director, Shauna) down the south escalator, to the lobby and then to the left around the pillars and through the service corridor and enter the backstage area via Ballroom B doors. The VCC Duty Manager leads the group to ensure easy access through the service area. Tech producer fits all with wireless lapel mics.

- 1030 Chris Henderson comes up on stage right and welcomes everyone to final set of Closing sessions (3 piece) and introduces Hon. George Heyman
- 1032 Hon. George Heyman comes up on stage left, sets the stage for the discussion and then introduces the moderator Shauna Sylvester, and the panelists (Governor, Premier, Secretary and Director).
- 1034 Shauna and panelists come up stage left and take their seats in the armchairs, Minister Heyman then exits the stage left.
- 1035 Shauna thanks Minister Heyman, says a few words and then begins the dialogue.

- **Please see attached detailed roll out from Globe for more information**

Introduction:

- **Traditional territory of the Coast Salish: Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (Slay-wa-tooth) people.**
- **Thank you to the organizers of the GLOBE Forum, the hosts of this great event.**
- **I hope you have enjoyed your week here in our beautiful city and the invaluable coast – source of sustenance, culture, and livelihood for First Nations.**

Key Messages:

- **Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, and there is still a long road ahead, but the transition to a low carbon economy has taken root in our Pacific Coast.**
- **10 years ago, west coast jurisdictions came together to work on critical issues including energy, climate, ocean health and more, and the Pacific Coast Collaborative was born.**

- **After 10 years of hard work, the Collaborative is reflecting on our many successes –**
 - **Low carbon ... fuel standard ... clean energy highway ...**
 - **and looking forward to new challenges as well.**
- **Sub-national jurisdictions are playing key roles in maintaining the momentum of the low carbon transition.**
- **(Lower emissions by six per cent ..)**

- **Leadership from the national level is important as well, and the Collaborative partners have been strong advocates in both Canada and the USA.**
- **By participating in the “We Are Still In” movement, Washington, Oregon, and California are demonstrating their commitment to help the United States achieve meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reductions despite recent obstacles.**

- **As demonstrated here, on the west coast, we know it's possible to build a thriving, innovative, clean energy economy that has the confidence of the public, ensures meaningful involvement of Indigenous Peoples, provides certainty for business and industry, and benefits everyone.**
- **Acknowledge Jay Inslee, Matt Rodriguez, Janine Benner.**

- **Our communities can and will be healthier and more prosperous with strong and visionary leadership**
- **I had the pleasure of speaking with 3 of the west coast leaders on this morning's panel,**
 - **And of course working with B.C.'s premier,**
- **We're all looking forward to sharing their thoughts and vision.**
- **There is no turning back.**

Event Information / High Ground

Event: “CLIMATE ACTION PLENARY: From his front row center seat for climate action, Minister Heyman will speak to the urgency of our climate file, the state of global and local climate action, and the potential in transitioning to a low carbon economy.”

When: Saturday, March 24, 2018

Time: 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Where: Ballroom A; Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, 1180 W Hastings Street, Vancouver

Length: 10-15 minutes

Session Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Session Participants: Minister George Heyman, Sherry Yano, Skidegate Councillors

Event summary:

- Please plan to arrive at the venue by 11:30am as the lunch program will begin promptly at 12:00pm.
 - Intro: Irene Lanzinger (5 minutes)
 - Remarks from Minister George Heyman (15-20 minutes)
 - Questions from Floor (10 minutes)
 - Remarks from Sherry Yano (5 minutes)
 - Presentation from Skidegate Councillors (20 minutes)
 - Questions from Floor (5 minutes)

We've Had Paris, Now What?

Introduction:

Territorial Acknowledgement: the Hulquimum (hull-qui-mee-num) speaking people.

Key people to recognize and thank:

- Co-presenters Irene Lanzinger, Sherry Yano, Skidegate Councillors in attendance

Top message: To outline how the new B.C. government will meet its climate targets, despite GHG emissions virtually unchanged ten years after B.C. launched its first climate plan.

Framing: How quickly world is changing ie. extreme weather, fires, hurricanes, displacements.

- 3 themes: challenge, choices, opportunity (trends - phase out, how; plan, imagine and implement the alternatives and the future)

COP 23 in Bonn – What we heard, saw, and who we met

- Talked Zero-emission vehicles with the governors of Oregon, California, and officials from Quebec and Norway
- We met with our counterparts in the Pacific Northwest region who are participating in the Pacific Coast Collaborative:
- Met with industry representatives from Suncor, Altagas, Enbridge and Schneider Electric.
- ... they support B.C.'s measures to protect jobs and the economy as we reduce emissions.
- Specifically, those industries support our goal to ensure emissions intensive, trade exposed industries to remain competitive as they work to reduce carbon pollution.
- While in Germany, we shared success stories and learned from the actions that other governments are taking.
- By being open to innovation and ensuring industry is on board with government policy, it means a stronger economy - including more jobs and minimizing costs we face with climate change.

- All levels of government have roles to play in addressing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. Community level governments are on the front lines of both.
- Many local governments provided written submissions over the consultation periods in development the CLP
- In general, they were supportive of the CLT recommendations including the Climate Action Charter; carbon tax increase; and funding for transit, active transport and other actions
- The submissions noted the importance of increased capacity to prepare for and adapt to climate impacts, and the need for provincial leadership and resources to support efforts.
- They were also supportive of important initiatives such as net zero energy ready buildings, energy efficiency retrofit programs, community and renewable energy, and waste management

Rise of EVs - change in demand scenarios

- Currently, just over 1 % of new vehicles in B.C. are zero emission.
- B.C.'s goal with the CEV Program's is to have 5% of new light-duty vehicle purchases in B.C. be zero emission vehicles by 2020.
- B.C. is a leader in clean-energy vehicles with one of the largest public charging infrastructure networks in Canada and one of the highest per capita adoption of electric vehicles in the country with close to 7000 vehicles registered.

Demand reduction

- With world economies like China, India, France, and Britain moving to ban gas-powered vehicles ...
- And world manufacturers like GM and Ford announcing major shifts to electric vehicle production ...
- Our commitments to lower our carbon emissions are continuing to pay off ... both for our economy and for our environment.

Cities committing to 100% renewables:

- Our Ministry is pleased to lend support to the National Zero Waste Council through participation on its working groups that include circular economy and food waste prevention.
- Ministry has several programs to support waste reduction:
- Residential Food Waste Prevention Toolkit as a resource for local governments or non-governmental organizations.
- B.C. is a leader in creating industry-led Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) recycling programs. BC currently has more programs than any other jurisdiction in North America and the environmental and financial benefits are substantial.

Transit

- Building on our shared vision, and as part of our commitment to lower GHGs and reduce traffic congestion our government continues to invest in infrastructure to support the expansion of public transit systems across the province.
- All B.C. communities with populations over 10,000 are being served by public transportation.

Net zero housing targets

- BC recently adopted a voluntary step code to encourage increased energy efficiency – such that new buildings will be net zero ready by 2032 - and is actively pursuing opportunities for large scale building retrofit programs.
- BC has taken regulatory action to allow utilities to increase incentives for high-efficiency building equipment, and to enhance standards for gas fireplaces and heat pumps.
- BC continues its commitment to be a carbon neutral government and has also launched a Wood First Act, and a LEED Gold equivalent requirement for public sector buildings.

ZEV targets

- The CEV Program is targeting 5,400 new ZEV purchases or leases with the \$40 million in funding (\$27 million of which is for vehicle incentives) over three years (announced Feb. 3, 2017).
- The CEV Program's vision is to stimulate the market such that by 2020, 5 per cent of new light-duty vehicle purchases in B.C. are ZEVs.

Kinder Morgan

- We made a commitment to use every tool available to defend B.C.'s interests - and we are approaching the situation thoughtfully and deliberately.
- We will continue to explore other legal ways to defend the interests of British Columbians against this unnecessary project.

Event Information / Surry BioFuel Plant opening

Event: Opening of Orgaworld facility in Surrey

When: Friday, March 9, 2018

Time: 10 am

Where: 9752 192 Street, Surrey, BC

Length: 3 minutes – greetings from the Province

Audience: Over 100 attendees: City of Surrey officials, company officials, industry representatives

Event summary:

10am Opening Remarks, MC – Councillor Mike Starchuk,
Chair Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

10:05am Aboriginal Welcome – Councillor Joanne Charles, Semiahmoo First Nation (TBC)

10:10am Partner Speeches (3-4 minutes each)

- Mayor Linda Hepner, City of Surrey
- Hon. Ken Hardie, Member of Parliament for Fleetwood—Port Kells, Government of Canada
- Hon. Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services, and MLA for Surrey-Panorama, Province of BC
- James Priestly, Managing Director - Municipal Division (UK & Canada), Renewi plc
- Roger Dall'Antonia, President and CEO, FortisBC

10:30am Announcement of the Envision® Platinum Award by the
Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure
Melissa Peneycad, Director, Sustainable Projects

10:35am Closing Remarks, MC – Mike Starchuk

10:37am Official Ribbon Cutting & Photo Opportunity

10:40am Media Q&A with all speakers
Moderated by Oliver Lum, Communications Manager, Mayor's Office

11:00am Light Refreshments | Facility Mini walking tours (15-20 mins/group of 30)
Dignitaries, speakers, Council and media (first group)

Background Information on Orgaworld:

- The Ministry of Environment issued an operational certificate for the facility at Orgaworld (<http://www.orgaworld.ca/default.action?itemid=57>) in fall 2017
- The technology used for the Surrey organics facility is called a dry anaerobic digestion and composting facility, it will be North America's largest facility using this technology.
- It will create a renewable fuel which will be used to power the city's waste trucks, they partnered with Fortis BC for this
- It will process an estimated 115,000 tonnes of organic waste each year and create as many as 160,000 gigajoules of natural gas as well as a compost to be used in the community.
- It will reduce the CO2 emissions in Surrey by an estimated 40,000 tonnes a year
- It will be the first closed-loop fully-integrated organics waste management system in North America
- The technology has been used in the Netherlands for 20 years.

Speaking notes:

- **Good morning, and thank you to Mayor Hepner and Council for inviting me here today.**
- **I'm here on behalf of my colleague Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, who sends his regrets.**
- **Representing the government of British Columbia, I bring greetings and a huge thank you to the City of Surrey.**
- **I also bring congratulations to the City and to the Orgaworld on the occasion of the grand opening of this facility.**
- **Taking action on climate change means supporting innovative companies like Orgaworld to transform our economy away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy.**
- **BC is committed to preventing and diverting organic waste to take action on climate change.**
- **The Surrey Biofuel facility is a good example of the type of infrastructure needed to divert organic waste from landfills to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **I understand that this project is in lock-step with the City's Sustainability Charter, the City's comprehensive**

Community Energy and Emissions Plan and Sustainability Dashboard.

- **The City has a ‘can do’ attitude.**
- **Turning curbside compost into fuel for its own waste collection fleet is only one of the many progressive ways that the City is tackling its carbon footprint, and only one of a number of projects it has undertaken that is providing ‘best practices’ to other BC communities.**
- **This ‘can do’ attitude is particularly important for one of Canada’s fastest growing cities.**
- **A sustainable, clean growth economy is essential to creating good jobs and growing the economy, while also reducing carbon pollution and protecting the environment for British Columbians.**
- **That’s why we say thank you for your foresight in taking this action to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.**
- **You’ve invested in infrastructure that will create new climate solutions, jobs and a clean economy.**
- **As government, we salute your accomplishment and wish you all the success with this new facility.**
- **Thank you, and good luck.**

On one of the first days in my new role as Minister responsible for gambling, I was briefed by our provincial regulator.

The first words at that briefing were, quote, “I think we are going to blow your mind.”

My mind was blown. Our regulator walked me through overwhelming evidence of large-scale money laundering in Lower Mainland casinos.

I was shown video and photographs of individuals wheeling large suitcases packed with \$20 bills, others bringing stacks of cash to casino cages.

I was astounded by the audacity of those involved. \$800,000 in twenties is very heavy.

I was equally astounded that this activity had been taking place in British Columbia without an effective criminal, legal or policy response for almost a decade. There have been no related criminal charges or tax prosecutions that I am aware of to date.

Suspicious transactions began climbing at BC casinos in 2009 following the defunding of BC’s integrated casino policing team.

Large, suspicious transactions continued unabated from 2009 until late 2017, when our new government instructed BC casinos not to accept large cash transactions unless they could confirm the legitimate source of the funds.

And we are not done yet.

Anti-money laundering expert Dr. Peter German, has been investigating and will advise me in a report at the end of the month how the province can address this problem.

At the federal level, I want you to understand the colossal nature of the regulatory failure in BC.

For example. The issue in British Columbia is so notorious, and so severe, that at least one international intelligence community now calls a model of money laundering the Vancouver Model.

We are famous. Or more accurately, we have become infamous.

In the Vancouver model of money laundering, a wealthy individual from China, a country with strict currency export controls, wants to gamble.

A gangster will meet that gambler at a Casino, offering cash in amounts as high as hundreds of thousands of dollars. The cash is the proceeds of gang crime.

To pay for the cash, the gambler agrees to transfer money in China from his bank account into a bank account under the control of the gang.

The gambler walks the illicit cash into the casino, completes a FINTRAC reporting form, buys chips, gambles, and on leaving, either cashes out, receiving a cheque, or carries the chips out of the casino.

In sum, the criminal gang has successfully laundered difficult-to-manage twenty dollar bills, moving the money out of Canada while keeping their names off FINTRAC forms. Those involved in the transaction can truthfully report that everyone is following all of the reporting rules. FINTRAC will aggressively audit and confirm that the reports have been made accurately.

The only real evidence of a problem is a guy lugging a hockey bag full of twenties into a casino.

And you might think that alone would be enough to start a full police and Revenue Canada investigation every time.

But it wasn't enough.

BC's casino policing team was funded again and resurrected with a better mandate in 2016, and is now, unsurprisingly, but thankfully, involved a massive, transnational criminal investigation.

I would like to thank those who work at FINTRAC, collecting critically important information, ensuring it is accurate.

This issue is not their fault. But there is a problem.

An anti-money laundering system that rigorously enforces compliance with reporting, but then has inadequate action on those reports, puts a sheep mask on a wolf's face.

While I know it is not true, I picture submitted FINTRAC forms being received by one lonely individual who moves the completed forms from the fax machine, into a box, over and over, in a massive warehouse lined with boxes full of reports, floor to ceiling.

Although this is not the actual situation, it may as well be true given the consequences for casino money launderers in BC to date.

Unfortunately, the impact of FINTRAC reporting in BC has been that any criticism of allowing massive cash transactions with money from unknown sources could be answered simply: "We comply with all federal anti-money laundering reporting rules."

I have no confidence that any enforcement or investigation action would result from a report submitted this afternoon with the words HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS in all-caps and triple underlined.

In fact, the current reporting system actually reduces the possibility of action because the individual completing the form would mistakenly believe that writing HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS on the form, and then submitting it, was the same as reporting to police.

It is not the same. If FINTRAC was concerned about a lack of action on their reports, they were unable to speak publicly. [Pause]

British Columbians take no comfort in the suggestion that this issue is limited to casinos.

We will be asking Dr. German to take on a second phase, this time looking into real estate.

Dr. German has requested that I provide you with his interim federally-focussed recommendations. I have submitted them to you.

Important work with the federal government is happening behind the scenes and I am grateful for that support. I am appearing here so that all members of the federal parliament, and as best as possible, all Canadians, can understand why we are asking for more support from Revenue Canada, the RCMP, and other federal agencies. We hope for your support for any interventions that are proposed.

Event Information/Speaking Notes

Event: House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

When: Tuesday, Mar. 27, 2018

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EDT (12:30 – 2:30 p.m. PDT)

Where: s.15

s.15 Ottawa

Contact: David Gagnon, Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance / s.22

Length: 30 mins (TBC)

Key Participants: TBC

Speaking

Backdrop: Meeting room

Audience

Description: Committee members:

- Hon. Wayne Easter (chair)
- Hon. Pierre Pollièvre (vice-chair)
- Hon. Peter Julian (vice-chair)
- Dan Albas, MP
- Greg Fergus, MP
- Raj Grewal, MP
- Kamal Khera, MP
- Tom Kmiec, MP
- Joël Lightbound, MP
- Michael V. McLeod, MP
- Jennifer O'Connell, MP
- Francesco Sorbara, MP

Media invited Closed to media. Minister may be scrummed following conclusion of meeting.

Agenda:

3:30 p.m.	Opening remarks from Minister Eby
4:00 p.m.	Q&A/discussion
5:30 p.m.	Meeting concludes

Speaking Notes

for

Attorney General David Eby

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Tuesday, Mar. 27, 2018

Event runs 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EDT

Minister speaks at ~3:30 p.m., followed by a QA

Introduction

- Good afternoon, everyone.
- Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.
- I would like to acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg [pronunciation] People (confirm).
- I'm pleased to be here to represent Premier John Horgan and the government of British Columbia.
- As elected officials, we all carry the responsibility and the privilege of serving the people of our province and our country.
- This can involve challenging, complex issues that cross many agencies, levels of government and provincial and territorial lines.

- That's why it's crucial for us to work together, and to have discussions like the one underway today.
- I'm glad to see that the federal government is considering amendments to Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act in order to eradicate crime and better protect Canadians.
- As you know, this has been a serious issue in British Columbia, and I'm here today to share what we've learned so far in our ongoing efforts to crack down on money laundering in B.C.

Actions to Date

- For context, let me start at the beginning of our government's leadership under Premier Horgan.

- Upon my appointment as Attorney General, I was briefed on what appeared to be a serious issue of money laundering and suspicious cash transactions in some Lower Mainland casinos.
- Despite the fact that I had been the critic on this file for a number of years, and had often raised concerns about money laundering and the size and volume of large cash transactions passing through B.C. casinos, I quickly understood that the issue went far deeper than I had imagined.
- We are seeing serious, credible allegations that B.C. casinos are being used to launder large amounts of money suspected of being the proceeds of crime.
- It was, and remains imperative that we disclose the true scope of the problem to the public.

- To investigate the issue in depth, I appointed an expert to conduct an independent and thorough review of B.C.'s anti-money-laundering policies and practices in the gambling industry.
- That expert, Peter German, is a former deputy commissioner of both the RCMP and Correctional Service Canada, and the author of Canada's leading anti-money-laundering law textbook.
- Dr. German's final report is expected very soon—at the end of this month—and it will give our government the insight we need to take deliberate and effective action against money laundering in our province.
- Given the urgency, I asked Dr. German to provide me with interim recommendations as they became available, to ensure immediate action.

- In December, our government received two such recommendations and I quickly directed the BC Lottery Corporation and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch to implement them as soon as possible.
- First, Gaming Service Providers (GSPs) must complete a Source of Funds Declaration for cash deposits or bearer monetary instruments of \$10,000 or more, which includes at minimum the customer's identification and the source of their funds.
- This will place a greater emphasis on the importance of accurately recording the source of funds and a declaration to its truth by the customer.
- On Jan. 10, 2018, BCLC implemented this recommendation by expanding the types of transactions to which source of funds declarations apply and requiring service providers to record more detailed

information about the source of customers' funds.

- If a customer does not provide the information required, provides information that is clearly suspicious, or fails to sign the source of funds declaration, the service provider must refuse the transaction and BCLC will undertake an investigation.
- As the second interim recommendation received, government regulators must be seen on-site at large, high-volume facilities on the Lower Mainland and available to the GSPs.
- Work is underway to ensure this enhanced presence is available, allowing for an increased vigilance in casinos.
- While these measures are a good beginning, there is more that must be done.

- We must make it as difficult as possible for organized crime to operate.
- The ramifications of unchecked money laundering are wide, and they are dire.
- Gang activity and violence has affected, and even claimed, innocent lives in my province.
- These are fights over the proceeds of crime.

Ties to Real Estate [check with FIN]

- In many parts of the country, but particularly in B.C., hard-working people are concerned about the out-of-control real estate prices,
- and many are asking about just where the money is coming from to make such expensive purchases.
- The possible ties between money laundering and real estate are alarming.

- Our Finance Minister, Carole James, has been very active in opening up dialogue to find out what information the federal government needs from B.C.,
- so that we can ensure that people are not evading taxes through our real estate market.
- In our Budget 2018 we introduced a number of measures about information sharing.

Dr. German Report and Commentary

- Dr. German's most recent recommendation was that I attend this committee meeting and share B.C.'s perspective on amendments to the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*.
- Dr. German has provided me with what I believe to be sound and timely advice and

commentary that I would like to share with you today.

- To be effective in combatting money laundering, inter-agency communications is key.
- Dr. German has met with the senior executive of FinTRAC in Ottawa and twice with the Regional Director in Vancouver and members of his staff. All were cooperative.
- He encourages the review of the latest Financial Action Task Force mutual evaluation of Canada's legislation, which points to various deficiencies in Canada's existing scheme.
- In the past, it has almost always been through this form of international peer pressure that substantive changes have been made to Canada's various criminal and other federal

legislation related to proceeds of crime, money laundering and corruption.

- The Financial Action Task Force is available online, and it contains numerous references to casinos.
- At present, police agencies appear content with the level of co-operation they receive from FinTRAC.
- Nevertheless, FinTRAC is an outlier among the world's financial intelligence units, as law enforcement is not permitted to work within its offices.
- I understand that this is largely due to privacy and Charter concerns.
- Fincen, the FIU in the United States, is staffed by law enforcement and other specialists by contract.

- To a certain extent, Canadian police and FinTRAC work with blinders on, not knowing who has or needs what information until a proactive disclosure or a request for information is made.
- Dr. German has the following comments on the specific proposals contained in the review of Canada's Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing Regime.
- The consultation paper makes the following statement regarding the **legal profession**:
“We would seek to engage Canada's law societies and bar associations to work with the Government to find solutions. Furthermore, it is the Department's intention to develop constitutionally compliant legislative and regulatory provisions that would subject legal counsel and legal firms to the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*.”

- Without question, the absence of reporting by lawyers is a significant gap in Canada's regulatory approach and is a significant impediment to police investigations involving the movement of money through real estate and other financial sectors.
- Canada is an outlier here as well.
- Other common law jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, have robust provisions in place which require financial reporting by lawyers.
- Quite frankly, consultation has occurred for years.
- There is a real need for legislation that can withstand a Charter challenge and requires the reporting of monies held in lawyer trust accounts.

- The irony is that in British Columbia, most personal real estate transactions are handled by notaries, who do report to FinTRAC.
- It is hard to rationalize why their handling of money should be treated differently than that of lawyers.
- Moving on to **high risk sectors**, the consultation paper lists several types of businesses and people to which the legislation could be extended, through amendments to the Act.
- It is something akin to ‘whack-a-mole’, as FinTRAC attempts to close gaps with vulnerable sectors that do not currently report.
- Horse racing, auto dealers, company service providers, as well as mortgage insurers and lenders are of particular interest here.

- I will address each of them in turn.
- Our Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch regulates **horse racing** in British Columbia.
- I am not aware that B.C. has ever examined the prevalence of money laundering in the horse racing sector.
- Reporting requirements would certainly shed light on what is or may be occurring.
- For **auto dealers**, it is well documented that the criminal lifestyle is often attracted to expensive consumer goods; such as luxury cars and pleasure craft.
- Due to their high value, these items are also excellent places in which illegal cash can be reintroduced to the legitimate economy during the integration phase of the laundering process.

- Luxury items are of interest because there is no tracking by government of cash purchases.
- They are not reportable transactions to FinTRAC.
- Vancouver has been described as the number one super car city in North America.
- Also, auto dealers in Greater Vancouver are among the highest new and used luxury car dealers in Canada, by sales volume.
- In essence, an individual can walk into a luxury auto dealership and purchase a high-end vehicle with \$400,000 cash.
- The only obstacle will be dealership policies.
- An incredibly large number of ‘curbers’, or unregulated intermediaries, are believed to be operating in B.C. and a vigorous awareness campaign is underway to alert British

Columbians of the dangers inherent in dealing with curbers.

- The fact that these are all cash-based activities make them extremely vulnerable to the introduction of dirty money.
- The high-risk sector of **company service providers** is relevant to the issue of beneficial ownership.
- Finally, the consultation paper addresses **mortgage insurers, land registries and title insurance companies**, as well as **non-federally regulated mortgage lenders**.
- These two sectors are relevant to real estate transactions.
- As with other sectors, if there are gaps in who must report, those who seek to launder money will gravitate towards those gaps.

- The real estate industry is of concern, as it is estimated that one third of British Columbia's GDP revolves around real estate.
- It has been said that, "everything in B.C. comes back to real estate."
- It has also been suggested that you can see a "rat move through all of it," meaning the real estate market, mortgages, insurance, and so forth.
- On September 29, 2017, a newspaper reported that an RCMP Inspector familiar with money laundering in relation to casinos had expressed the belief that VIP gamblers, funded by an illegal money service business "own many luxury properties in the Lower Mainland."
- According to the officer,
"We are finding now not only one layer of nominees, but two, three and four. And

some of these nominees live in China, and they are either related to you, or they don't know they are owners. So for many of the properties, we just had to walk away.”

- On October 1, 2017, Postmedia reported that whale gamblers were also involved in the purchase of real estate.
- Citing cross-reference research that it had conducted between filings in civil actions, land title documents and BC Lottery Corporation records obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests,
- it noted that in 2014, one high roller, who obtained \$645,000 in small bills through a drop off outside a casino, owns a \$14 million house near Point Grey Country Club.
- The article also alleged that loans from an unregistered money service business had

been used to fund real estate development, and make mortgage payments.

- Large short-term loans were allegedly secured to real property.
- As a side note, I would like to credit Postmedia's Sam Cooper for pursuing the money laundering story and increasing public awareness of the issue.
- He is a tenacious and diligent reporter, and as you may be aware, will soon be moving to Ottawa as part of the Global News National Online Investigative team.
- I expect he will continue his tenacious journalism from right here in the nation's capital, including covering Vancouver Model of money laundering in real estate and casinos.

- However, he is not the only reporter who has brought forward disturbing allegations.
- Recent reporting by Kathy Tomlinson of the Globe and Mail has shed light on the extent of the problem in B.C. real estate and the ripple effects felt throughout the economy.
- Her excellent reporting helped underscore my interest in further pursuing the issue of criminality in the real estate sector, now that the current review of money laundering in casinos is nearing completion.
- Next, Dr. German has shared some comments about **information exchange**.
- As I indicated earlier, law enforcement officials do not work within FinTRAC, due to privacy concerns.

- Any opportunity to broaden the use of the intelligence housed within FinTRAC would be a benefit.
- Unless that intelligence is used by law enforcement and other agencies, FinTRAC is simply a collector of information.
- Regarding **resources**: most leads provided by FinTRAC disclosures are sent to police.
- Unless police have adequate resources to deal with these leads, nothing will occur.
- In 2012, the RCMP eliminated its national Proceeds of Crime and Commercial Crime Sections, in favour of a new task force orientation to investigations.
- Although indications are that the RCMP is now rebuilding its financial crime expertise, the gap in federal policing in this important area between 2012 and 2017 displaced

responsibility for ‘white collar’ crime to provincial and municipal police,

- who generally did not have the resources or expertise to take on these complex files.
- **Geographic targeting orders** may be an asset if a high-risk sector is only high risk in one or more parts of the country.
- As Canada’s luxury car capital, a geographic targeting order could require the submission of suspicious transaction reports and large cash transaction reports by motor vehicle dealers in Greater Vancouver, but not in other parts of the country.
- The problem, however, with these orders may be displacement, with local buyers travelling to Alberta and beyond to buy a car.

- The better avenue may be to provide a higher reporting threshold higher than \$10,000 for these industries.
- **Money service businesses** have become a fixture of the urban Canadian financial system.
- Their primary purpose is to transmit funds electronically to distant locations.
- Some cater to a particular clientele or ethnicity.
- All must be registered with FinTRAC.
- Only in the Province of Quebec are money service businesses licensed by the province.
- Licensing is common in the United States.
- The volatility of the money service business industry has been apparent in the United

States with many financial institutions ending their relationship with these businesses,

- as part of a de-risking process to avoid the anti-money laundering hurdles that money service businesses can pose.
- Many money service businesses are unregistered and exist as a fixture within the underground economy.
- They tend to be the modern embodiment of underground banking and serve to move money around the world without the need for actual transmission.
- In place of electronic transfer, they rely on a settling of accounts at both ends of a transaction, or “app to app,” as it is sometimes called.
- Needless to say, illegal money service businesses do not submit large cash

transaction reports or suspicious transaction reports to FinTRAC.

- When asked what FinTRAC does when it becomes aware of an unregistered money service businesses, we were advised that it is a serious offence under the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*.
- Any cases would be reported to the police.
- In B.C., however, the RCMP has received very few reports of unregistered money service businesses.
- Dr. German was advised that the RCMP “is reactive to both intelligence and other sources of information which pertain to money service businesses and their complicity and facilitation of criminal activities, vis a vis, money laundering. Once received, the

enforcement response is driven by an intelligence assessment, triage and capacity.”

- In summary, the Standing Committee’s hearings into the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act* is an important step in the process of enriching the statutory framework within that statute.
- British Columbia’s perspective on various pressing issues, will allow the committee to better understand the unique challenges that we face in this Province.

Budget 2018/HLT Report

- I know there is more to come on this issue.
- Our government has taken steps to prepare, and I would urge other governments to do the same.

- Regardless of how Dr. German recommends that B.C. move forward, there will be a fiscal impact of getting the proceeds of organized crime out of casinos.
- B.C is so determined to end this illegal activity that we have already budgeted for reforms in Budget 2018.
- Earlier this month, we released a report commissioned by our BC Lotteries Corporation that evaluates the revenue impact of one option to fight money-laundering in B.C.'s casinos.
- The report, prepared by HLT Advisory Inc., looked at the impact on revenue if a restriction on cash buy-ins over \$10,000 was implemented at casinos.
- This analysis enabled the BC Lottery Corporation to project that gambling revenue

to government in fiscal year 2019 maybe reduced by approximately \$30 million.

- This possible reduction is one of the assumptions made in the 2018 Budget released last month.
- A cash restriction is one of the options available to Dr. German to recommend, and there are many others.
- Restoring B.C.'s international reputation is a cost our government is prepared to pay and has budgeted for.
- I am proud that our government is moving forward to enhance public confidence in our gambling facilities by ensuring that high standards are enforced and that criminals are kept out of casinos.
- It is essential to our ability to enforce the law...

- And it is central to solidifying our reputation in Canada and beyond as a place that does not take a lax approach to criminal activity.
- British Columbia, our fellow provinces and territories, and the federal government must have the courage to stand by our principles
- It's both hypocritical and self-defeating for any government to spend public money fighting gang crime on one hand, while pocketing the proceeds of gang crime at casinos with the other hand.

Conclusion

- To close, I want to once again underscore the importance of tackling money laundering.
- Frankly, I haven't been convinced that the federal government has been fully aware of the extent of this problem.

- And while in many cases, the existing processes have been followed, there have been major gaps exploited by organized crime, without adequate government accountability to the public.
- This isn't just about bad guys making a profit on our watch,
- This is about abusing an outrageous real estate market to evade taxes, which hurts regular Canadians.
- This is about allowing drug traffickers to profit from dealing fentanyl, which has proved deadly to so many.
- This is about innocent people getting shot in gang violence fought over the proceeds of crime.

- For the health and safety of the people we serve,
- I hope this message is heard by this committee, and by all of your colleagues— of all parties—who are serving Canadians in parliament.
- As decision-makers, it is our duty to take the necessary actions to eradicate this criminal activity, and to keep the public informed of our efforts.
- Through agencies like FinTRAC, Revenue Canada, and the federal RCMP, the Government of Canada has a major role to play in combating money laundering.
- British Columbia is more than ready to share information and align our efforts.
- Thank you for listening so attentively.

- I'd be happy to take any questions you may have.

<END>

Event Information/Speaking Notes

Event:	Prince George Indigenous Court Inauguration/Opening Ceremony
When:	Friday, Mar. 23, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where:	Prince George Civic Centre 808 Canada Games Way Prince George, BC V2L 5L1
Parking:	Minister can be dropped off outside front doors of Civic Centre
Contact:	Karen Leung, Media Officer, Provincial Court s.22
Length:	3 minutes
Key Participants:	Terry Teegee, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations Chief Dominic Frederick and Council, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation BC Judiciary Chief Judge Thomas Crabtree Lyn Hall, Mayor of the City of Prince George Christina Draegen, Lead of the PG Indigenous Court Working Group, Northern Regional Manager of Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC Warren Brown, RCMP Superintendent and member of the PG Indigenous Court Working Group Verna Blinn, Elders Justice Council representative, Executive Director of Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society

Speaking

Backdrop: Podium and mic

Audience

Description: Local First Nations, Provincial Court staff, community members. Event is open to the public and media.

Media invited Minister will have media availability following the ceremony. Photo op will be arranged during event.

Number of

Participants: TBC

Agenda:

	Opening Prayer - Elder Mary Gouchie, Lheidli T'enneh
	Welcome to the Lheidli T'enneh territory -Chief Dominic Frederick and council
	Welcome to Prince George - Mayor Lyn Hall
	<p>Gifting of Blankets to Guest Dignitaries as witnesses to the undertaking of this historical day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attorney General David Eby · Chief Judge Thomas Crabtree · Mayor Lyn Hall · Chief Terry Teegee · Superintendent Warren Brown · Jamie Deitch
	<p>Blanketing of the Elders Justice Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Elder Violet Bozoki · Elder Ray Izony · Elder Tom Reece · Elder Lorretta Pelletier/Adams · Elder Marcel Gagnon
	BC Attorney General Honorable David Eby
	BC Judiciary Chief Judge Thomas Crabtree
	City of Prince George Mayor Lyn Hall
	Assembly of First Nations BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee
	RCMP Superintendent Warren Brown, member of the PG Indigenous Court Working Group
	Christina Draegen, Lead of the PG Indigenous Court Working Group, Northern Regional Manager of Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC
	Verna Blinn, Elders Justice Council representative, Executive Director of Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society
	Acknowledgements
	Closing Prayer and Blessing of the food

Speaking Notes
for
Attorney General David Eby
Prince George Indigenous Court
Inauguration/Opening Ceremony
Friday, Mar. 23, 2018
Event runs 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Minister speaking time TBC

Introduction

- Good morning everyone.
- On behalf of John Horgan and the B.C. government,
- Thank you for the invitation to take part in this significant event here on the territory of the Lheidli T'enneh [*late-lee Ten-eh*] First Nation.
- I would like to acknowledge Chief Terry Teegee, Chief Dominic Frederick and each of the Elders here today.
- I would also like to acknowledge the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, Thomas Crabtree, and other members of the Provincial Court.
- Thank you to members of the community who have taken the time to join us as well.

- Today's event is an important milestone on the path to reconciliation here in B.C.
- Reconciliation touches upon all social, economic and cultural aspects – including Indigenous governance and jurisdiction.
- Indeed, justice is an indivisible part of reconciliation in its own right.
- As Attorney General,
- Part of my mandate is to work towards achieving better outcomes for Indigenous people involved in the justice system –
- And the creation of this court is one such measure.
- At the invitation of local First Nations and the Provincial Court,

- a working group under the leadership of Christina Draegen of the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association has shown impressive teamwork in bringing this Indigenous Court to the region.
- The goal was to develop a local solution to the problems being faced by the community which involved collaboration by a large and varied group –
- This included:
 - The Elders Justice Council,
 - First Nations leaders and members;
 - The Provincial Court;
 - Superintendent Warren Brown and the local RCMP;
 - The City of Prince George;
 - The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC,
 - The Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society

- The legal community including the Legal Services Society, the Law Foundation, the private bar, duty counsel and others;
 - Social services and victims support groups;
 - BC Corrections
 - Staff from my ministry;
 - and many others.
-
- Motivated by a desire for better outcomes, these partners came together to make this new court a reality.
 - I commend you all for your dedication to the community and for your commitment to improving our justice system for Indigenous people.
 - The creation of an Indigenous court in Prince George will provide a new path to healing for those coming before the Court.
 - They will benefit from the local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers providing

advice and guidance to both the accused and the presiding judge, in order to restore justice and balance to them and the community.

- I am truly honoured to be here today with you all to witness this important step in our province's path to reconciliation.
- Congratulations and thank you.

-END-

Event Information/Speaking Notes

Event: SFU Reconciliation Event

When: Friday, Mar. 16, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Simon Fraser University
580 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K3

Parking: There is no reserved parking. SFU is working to MO to arrange a spot (TBC).

Contact: Janet Webber
Cell: s.22

Length: 10 minutes

Key Participants: The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of B.C.
The Honourable David Eby, Q.C., Attorney General of B.C.
Andrew Petter (President, Simon Fraser University
Joe Wild, Senior ADM of Treaties and Aboriginal Government, INAC
Jessica Wood, ADM, Reconciliation, Transformation and Strategies Division
Harry Swain, Associate Fellow, Centre for Global Studies, UVic
Dr. Nadine Caron, Associate Professor, Northern Medical Program, UNBC
Ginger Gosnell-Myers (Indigenous Relations Manager, City of Vancouver) and Tony Penikett (Visiting Professor, SFU School of Public Policy) (Event Co-chairs/Facilitators)

Maureen Maloney, QC, SFU professor and panel moderator

Speaking

Backdrop: Podium and mic. The Minister will have a panel seat reserved with his name on it next to the podium. There are mics at the panel seats, or he may use the podium to deliver his address.

Audience

Description: Attendees will include Indigenous community members, students, faculty and others.

Media invited No media have been invited. The event is under Chatham House Rule (no attributed quotes allowed by anyone).

Number of

Participants: Organizers are expecting approximately 100 attendees, 20 presenters and 20 volunteers/facilitators for the dialogues in the afternoon.

Agenda:

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.	Traditional welcome to the territory: Shane Pointe, Musqueam Elder
9:05 – 9:15a.m.	Day's agenda and housekeeping <i>Co-chairs / facilitators:</i> Ginger Gosnell-Myers (Indigenous Relations Manager, City of Vancouver) and Tony Penikett (Visiting Professor, SFU School of Public Policy) <i>Format of day:</i> Chatham House Rule
9:15 – 9:30a.m.	Welcome from Andrew Petter (<i>President</i> , Simon Fraser University)
9:30 – 10:30a.m.	Indigenous perspectives on reconciliation: <i>If we achieved Reconciliation tomorrow, what would it look like?</i> Dr. Nadine Caron , Associate Professor, Northern Medical Program, UNBC Guest Indigenous Scholar <i>Format:</i> Brief talks by panelists followed by facilitated dialogue between panelists and participants.
10:30 - 11:00a.m.	BREAK
11:00-12:00p.m.	Ministers' perspectives: <i>Given the long lists of TRC and Reconciliation agendas, what are your government's constitutional and legal priorities?</i> <i>Moderator: Maureen Maloney QC</i> <i>Speakers:</i> The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould , P.C., M.P. Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada The Honourable David Eby , Q.C, Attorney General of B.C. <i>Format:</i> Brief presentations by panelists, followed by Q&A from participants
12:00 – 12:50 p.m.	LUNCH Speakers: Garry Wouters and Patrick Kelly, Coastal First Nations
1:00 – 2:45p.m.	Breakout Sessions <i>Format:</i> Participants break out into 5-6 rooms, groups of

	<p>15-20. One facilitator and rapporteur per room.</p> <p><i>Each group answers 1, 2, or 3 PLUS 4.</i></p> <p>1. (Social) How do we shift from expenditure concerns to investment commitments on TRC calls, education, health and social development?</p> <p>2. (Economic) Where does B.C. find the political will to reconcile conflicts about land, resources (fish, forests, minerals) FPIC and UNDRIP?</p> <p>3. (Political) What has to change in government operations to achieve RCAP calls, treaties, self-government agreements and true reconciliation?</p> <p>4. Which Reconciliation objectives are most urgent?</p> <p>(2:30pm Rapporteurs report back to their groups what they captured)</p>
2:45-3:15p.m.	BREAK
3:15-3:30p.m.	Hon. John Horgan, Premier
3:30-4:15p.m.	<p>Senior officials panel: <i>How might the machinery of government be improved to achieve true reconciliation?</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Cassie Doyle</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Joe Wild, Senior ADM of Treaties and Aboriginal Government, INAC</p> <p>Jessica Wood, ADM, Reconciliation, Transformation and Strategies Division</p> <p>Harry Swain, Associate Fellow, Centre for Global Studies, UVic</p>
4:15p.m.	Final reflections from Forum Rapporteur
4:45p.m.	<p>Wrap-up, thanks, next steps</p> <p><i>Co-chairs: Ginger Gosnell-Myers and Tony Penikett</i></p>
5:00p.m.	Adjourn

Speaking Notes
for
Attorney General David Eby
Panel Discussion and Q&A on Reconciliation
Simon Fraser University
Friday, Mar. 16, 2018
Event runs 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Minister speaks at 11:00 a.m.

Introduction

- Thank you for that kind introduction.
- I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered on the territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-waututh [*sail-wha-tooth*] First Nations.
- I want to thank Simon Fraser University for organizing today's panel,
- And I'm honoured to join both Attorney General Wilson-Raybould and Maureen [*Maloney, SFU professor and panel moderator*] for this discussion.
- I certainly appreciate the invitation to be here with you both, and with everyone else attending today's event.

Reconciliation:

- The Supreme Court of Canada stated in 2005 that the *“fundamental objective of the modern law of aboriginal and treaty rights is the reconciliation of aboriginal peoples and non-aboriginal peoples and their respective claims, interests and ambitions.”*
- Reconciliation touches upon all social, economic and cultural aspects – including Indigenous governance and jurisdiction.
- I know my colleague, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser, has been working actively and collaboratively with Indigenous community representatives and stakeholders to establish a clear vision of reconciliation and to act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.

- Part of that action includes the role of treaty negotiations as a pathway to mutual trust, and to reaching agreement together.

The AG's role in Reconciliation:

- As Attorney General, I appreciate that the ways of negotiating treaties must evolve to better reflect case law and the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Part of my mandate is to work towards achieving better outcomes for Indigenous people involved in the justice system –
- Indeed, justice is an indivisible part of reconciliation in its own right.
- We must improve and support legal aid, including First Nations legal services, dispute resolution services for families and expanded poverty law services to increase access to justice.

- We must also work with First Nations to set targets and take action to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people involved with or incarcerated in the justice system, and in foster care.

Indigenous Justice Strategy:

- Our government's partnership with the B.C. Aboriginal Justice Council to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy is a vital part of increasing access to justice and decreasing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system.
- The Memorandum of Understanding we signed last September lays out the approach to develop the strategy,
- And our government has created meaningful dialogue around ways to address the systemic issues that indigenous people of the province face.

- It will support the development of culturally-appropriate programs and services and is a key part of this government's larger commitment to truth and reconciliation.
- Funding has also been allocated to engage the Aboriginal Justice Council and justice system partners in business process mapping, policy development, and explorations of digital options that will inform the Indigenous Justice Strategy

Indigenous Courts:

- The Provincial Court has responded to the needs of First Nations communities by establishing Indigenous Courts that recognize the unique circumstances of Indigenous offenders within the framework of existing laws.

- The Courts provide support and healing to assist in rehabilitation and to reduce recidivism.
- Indigenous Courts have been developed in consultation with local First Nations, the community at large, police, Community Corrections, Crown counsel, defence lawyers, and other support service groups like the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia.
- Last October, I participated in the opening ceremony for the Nicola Valley Indigenous Court in Merritt, B.C.
- It was a privilege to be part of the opening for the Indigenous Court, together with local First Nations, community members, Provincial Court staff, and our Provincial Court Chief Judge, Thomas Crabtree.

- I'm thrilled that later this month, another Indigenous Court will officially launch in Prince George – the sixth in the province.
- By providing a First Nations-focused sentencing court in the community, it will provide residents with access to a restorative justice process and a path to healing.
- It is the local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers that the community can turn to for advice, guidance to restore justice and balance,
- And sentencing that is sensitive to the local context and needs of the community.

Indigenous Justice Centre:

- We are currently working with the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of

BC, the Legal Services Society and others to jointly develop a model and business plan to turn the idea of an Indigenous Justice Centre into reality.

- This initiative will form part of the Indigenous Justice Strategy, and will eventually become a mechanism for alternative dispute resolution and integrated services to help end the overrepresentation of Indigenous adults and children in jails, prisons and foster homes.
- It is truly a grassroots initiative to advance front-line legal services, and I look forward to seeing it develop.

Budget 2018:

- In our recent Budget, we've put forth funding commitments to carry out these priorities that I've mentioned.

- We are investing \$51 million over three years to improve access to justice,
- Including funding to LSS to enhance legal aid service delivery, expand the Parents Legal Centre and allow the development and implementation of improved Indigenous legal aid services.
- We have also allocated funding this fiscal year to engage the B.C. Aboriginal Justice Council and justice system partners to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy together.
- I am confident that with the budget commitments we have made, we are taking big steps forward to reduce the number of Indigenous people involved with and incarcerated in the justice system,
- And to improve and support First Nations legal services, dispute resolution services for

families and expanded poverty law services to increase access to justice.

Conclusion:

- We have a unique opportunity with a new government that is focused on true reconciliation.
- We know that we must build stronger relationships with Indigenous communities,
- And we must learn from Indigenous traditions and healing practices to be able to build a culturally-sensitive justice system that enables better outcomes for Indigenous people.
- While government has a leadership role to play in guiding and support communities across the province,

- We also want to hear from our stakeholders about their thoughts and perspectives on how to make B.C. an even better place to live.
- Thank you. [*Q&A to follow*]

-END-

Event Information/Speaking Notes

Event:	House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
When:	Tuesday, Mar. 27, 2018 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EDT (12:30 – 2:30 p.m. PDT)
Where:	Room 415, 180 Wellington St. (entrance at 197 Sparks St.), Ottawa
Contact:	David Gagnon, Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance / 613-697-5012
Length:	5 mins
Key Participants:	TBC
Speaking Backdrop:	Meeting room
Audience Description:	Committee members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon. Wayne Easter (chair)• Hon. Pierre Pollièvre (vice-chair)• Hon. Peter Julian (vice-chair)• Dan Albas, MP• Greg Fergus, MP• Raj Grewal, MP• Kamal Khera, MP• Tom Kmiec, MP• Joël Lightbound, MP• Michael V. McLeod, MP• Jennifer O’Connell, MP• Francesco Sorbara, MP

Media invited Closed to media. Minister may be scrummed following conclusion of meeting.

Agenda:

3:30 p.m.	Opening remarks from Minister Eby
4:00 p.m.	Q&A/discussion
5:30 p.m.	Meeting concludes

Speaking Notes

for

Attorney General David Eby

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Tuesday, Mar. 27, 2018

Event runs 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EDT

Minister speaks at ~3:30 p.m., followed by a QA

Introduction

- Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.
- I'm pleased to be here to represent Premier John Horgan and the government of British Columbia.
- As elected officials, we all carry the responsibility and the privilege of serving the people of our province and our country.
- This can involve challenging, complex issues that cross many agencies, levels of government and provincial and territorial lines.
- That's why it's crucial for us to work together, and to have discussions like the one underway today.

- I'm glad to see that the federal government is considering amendments to Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act in order to eradicate crime and better protect Canadians.
- As you know, this has been a serious issue in British Columbia, and I'm here today to share what we've learned so far in our ongoing efforts to crack down on money laundering in B.C.

Actions to Date

- Upon my appointment as Attorney General, I was briefed on what appeared to be a serious issue of money laundering and suspicious cash transactions in some Lower Mainland casinos.
- Despite the fact that I had been the critic on this file for a number of years, and had often raised concerns about money laundering and

the size and volume of large cash transactions passing through B.C. casinos, I quickly understood that the issue went far deeper than I had imagined.

- We are seeing serious, credible allegations that B.C. casinos are being used to launder large amounts of money suspected of being the proceeds of crime.
- It was, and remains imperative that we disclose the true scope of the problem to the public.
- To investigate the issue in depth, I appointed an expert to conduct an independent and thorough review of B.C.'s anti-money-laundering policies and practices in the gambling industry.
- That expert, Peter German, is a former deputy commissioner of both the RCMP and Correctional Service Canada, and the author

of Canada's leading anti-money-laundering law textbook.

- Dr. German's final report is expected very soon—at the end of this month—and it will give our government the insight we need to take deliberate and effective action against money laundering in our province.
- Given the urgency, I asked Dr. German to provide me with interim recommendations as they became available, to ensure immediate action.
- In December, our government received two such recommendations and I quickly directed the BC Lottery Corporation and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch to implement them as soon as possible.
- First, Gaming Service Providers (GSPs) must complete a Source of Funds Declaration for cash deposits or bearer monetary

instruments of \$10,000 or more, which includes at minimum the customer's identification and the source of their funds.

- This will place a greater emphasis on the importance of accurately recording the source of funds and a declaration to its truth by the customer.
- On Jan. 10, 2018, BCLC implemented this recommendation by expanding the types of transactions to which source of funds declarations apply and requiring service providers to record more detailed information about the source of customers' funds.
- If a customer does not provide the information required, provides information that is clearly suspicious, or fails to sign the source of funds declaration, the service provider must refuse the transaction and BCLC will undertake an investigation.

- As the second interim recommendation received, government regulators must be seen on-site at large, high-volume facilities on the Lower Mainland and available to the GSPs.
- Work is underway to ensure this enhanced presence is available, allowing for an increased vigilance in casinos.
- While these measures are a good beginning, there is more that must be done.
- We must make it as difficult as possible for organized crime to operate.
- Gang activity and violence has affected, and even claimed, innocent lives in my province.
- The possible ties between money laundering and real estate are also alarming.

- Our Finance Minister, Carole James, has been very active in opening up dialogue to find out what information the federal government needs from B.C.,
- so that we can ensure that people are not evading taxes through our real estate market.
- In our Budget 2018 we introduced a number of measures about information sharing.

Dr. German Report and Commentary

- To be effective in combatting money laundering, inter-agency communications is key.
- At present, police agencies appear content with the level of co-operation they receive from FinTRAC.
- Nevertheless, FinTRAC is an outlier among the world's financial intelligence units, as law

enforcement is not permitted to work within its offices.

- I understand that this is largely due to privacy and Charter concerns.
- To a certain extent, Canadian police and FinTRAC work with blinders on, not knowing who has or needs what information until a proactive disclosure or a request for information is made.
 - Without question, the absence of reporting by lawyers is a significant gap in Canada's regulatory approach and is a significant impediment to police investigations involving the movement of money through real estate and other financial sectors.
 - Other common law jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, have robust provisions in place which require financial reporting by lawyers.

- There is a real need for legislation that can withstand a Charter challenge and requires the reporting of monies held in lawyer trust accounts.
- The irony is that in British Columbia, most personal real estate transactions are handled by notaries, who do report to FinTRAC.
- It is hard to rationalize why their handling of money should be treated differently than that of lawyers.
- It is something akin to ‘whack-a-mole’, as FinTRAC attempts to close gaps with vulnerable sectors that do not currently report.
- Horse racing, auto dealers, company service providers, as well as mortgage insurers and lenders are of particular interest here.

- Finally, the consultation paper addresses **mortgage insurers, land registries and title insurance companies**, as well as **non-federally regulated mortgage lenders**.
- These two sectors are relevant to real estate transactions.
- As with other sectors, if there are gaps in who must report, those who seek to launder money will gravitate towards those gaps.
- The real estate industry is of concern, as it is estimated that one third of British Columbia's GDP revolves around real estate.
- As I indicated earlier, law enforcement officials do not work within FinTRAC, due to privacy concerns.

- Any opportunity to broaden the use of the intelligence housed within FinTRAC would be a benefit.
- Unless that intelligence is used by law enforcement and other agencies, FinTRAC is simply a collector of information.
- Regarding **resources**: most leads provided by FinTRAC disclosures are sent to police.
- Unless police have adequate resources to deal with these leads, nothing will occur.
- In 2012, the RCMP eliminated its national Proceeds of Crime and Commercial Crime Sections, in favour of a new task force orientation to investigations.
- Although indications are that the RCMP is now rebuilding its financial crime expertise, the gap in federal policing in this important area between 2012 and 2017 displaced

responsibility for ‘white collar’ crime to provincial and municipal police,

- who generally did not have the resources or expertise to take on these complex files.
- **Money service businesses** have become a fixture of the urban Canadian financial system.
- Their primary purpose is to transmit funds electronically to distant locations.
- Some cater to a particular clientele or ethnicity.
- All must be registered with FinTRAC.
- Only in the Province of Quebec are money service businesses licensed by the province.

- Many money service businesses are unregistered and exist as a fixture within the underground economy.
- They tend to be the modern embodiment of underground banking and serve to move money around the world without the need for actual transmission.
- In place of electronic transfer, they rely on a settling of accounts at both ends of a transaction, or “app to app,” as it is sometimes called.
- Needless to say, illegal money service businesses do not submit large cash transaction reports or suspicious transaction reports to FinTRAC.
- British Columbia’s perspective on various pressing issues, will allow the committee to better understand the unique challenges that we face in our Province.

Budget 2018/HLT Report

- Regardless of how Dr. German recommends that B.C. move forward, there will be a fiscal impact of getting the proceeds of organized crime out of casinos.
- B.C is so determined to end this illegal activity that we have already budgeted for reforms in Budget 2018.
- Earlier this month, we released a report commissioned by our BC Lotteries Corporation that evaluates the revenue impact of one option to fight money-laundering in B.C.'s casinos.
- The report, prepared by HLT Advisory Inc., looked at the impact on revenue if a restriction on cash buy-ins over \$10,000 was implemented at casinos.

- This analysis enabled the BC Lottery Corporation to project that gambling revenue to government in fiscal year 2019 maybe reduced by approximately \$30 million.
- This possible reduction is one of the assumptions made in the 2018 Budget released last month.
- A cash restriction is one of the options available to Dr. German to recommend, and there are many others.
- Restoring B.C.'s international reputation is a cost our government is prepared to pay and has budgeted for.
- I am proud that our government is moving forward to enhance public confidence in our gambling facilities by ensuring that high standards are enforced and that criminals are kept out of casinos.

- British Columbia, our fellow provinces and territories, and the federal government must have the courage to stand by our principles
- It's both hypocritical and self-defeating for any government to spend public money fighting gang crime on one hand, while pocketing the proceeds of gang crime at casinos with the other hand.
- Frankly, I haven't been convinced that the federal government has been fully aware of the extent of this problem.
- And while in many cases, the existing processes have been followed, there have been major gaps exploited by organized crime, without adequate government accountability to the public.
- Through agencies like FinTRAC, Revenue Canada, and the federal RCMP, the

Government of Canada has a major role to play in combating money laundering.

- British Columbia is more than ready to share information and align our efforts.
- Thank you for listening so attentively.
- I'd be happy to take any questions you may have.

<END>

Event Information/Speaking Notes

Event: Surrey Board of Trade Breakfast

When: Wednesday, Mar. 21, 2018
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Where: Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel
15269 104th Ave, Surrey

Parking: VIP parking will be reserved in front of the hotel, marked with cone and sign.

Contact: TBC

Length: 25 minutes with Q&A afterwards

Key Participants: Dr. Greg Thomas, Chair of SBOT

Speaking Backdrop: Podium and mic

Audience Description: SBOT members, business, government officials and industry leaders.

Media invited Media are invited to attend. SBOT will arrange a media scrum if there are several media outlets or help facilitate one-on-one interviews with speakers. ***MO to advise if this should be done before or after remarks.***

Number of Participants: 100-150

Agenda:

7:30 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:00 am	Program Commences
8:15 am	Minister's Address
9:00 am	Q & A by the audience, moderated by SBOT Chair Dr. Greg Thomas
9:30 am	Conclusion

Speaking Notes
for
Attorney General David Eby
Surrey Board of Trade
Breakfast
Wednesday, Mar. 21, 2018
Event runs 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Minister speaks at 8:15 a.m. followed by audience Q&A

Introduction

- Thank you for that kind introduction.
- I would like to acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Coast Salish People.
- I want to thank the Surrey Board of Trade for inviting me here today.
- On behalf of Premier John Horgan and the government of B.C., it's my pleasure to join you.
- As Attorney General, I'm proud of the work we are undertaking to help make B.C. a better place to live,
- And I appreciate the opportunity to discuss some of that work today.
- Over the past months, I have been actively engaging with our many stakeholders,

partners, ministries, and all levels of government to ensure B.C. improves the services British Columbians count on.

- When our government took office, we made three key commitments to British Columbians:
 - 1.To make life more affordable, especially for many families who were, for too long, left behind. We committed to do our part to make their lives easier.
 - 2.To deliver the services that people count on, so that families get access to the quality public education they need to succeed; individuals and families get timely medical attention; and our seniors are able to live their final years with dignity.
 - 3.And to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone, tackles poverty and inequality, creates good-paying jobs in every part of

- the province, and ensures people from every background have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- As Attorney General, I am working to ensure substantive progress on priorities that include:
 - Getting big money out of politics;
 - Holding a province-wide referendum on proportional representation this fall;
 - Re-establishing the Human Rights Commission;
 - Increasing access to justice and addressing delays in the province's court system;
 - Working with First Nations to set targets and take action to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people involved in the justice system and incarcerated,
 - And many others.
 - Today I wanted to focus on two topics that I know are of great interest to many in the province today:

- First, the issue of money laundering in the Lower Mainland.
- As you know, we are actively looking into improvements and reforms for B.C.'s gaming sector to keep criminals out of B.C. casinos.
- Second, we are taking action to address the fiscal crisis at ICBC and I will give you some idea about what our government is doing to address it.

Gambling

- We must ensure that the gambling sector in B.C. operates responsibly.
- We recognize the important role it plays in our society as a source of entertainment and as a significant source of revenue for important government services like health and education.

- As Attorney General, part of my job is to ensure that gambling remains a safe and responsible pursuit...
- That it has protections and resources available for players,
- And safeguards for businesses, government and taxpayers.
- Of course, the vast majority of people play by the rules and enjoy gambling responsibly.
- However, like many other pursuits in life, gambling can present risks of addiction to a small percentage of the population.
- That's why government is committed to providing responsible gambling resources to support those who may be struggling with gambling addiction.

- Addressing issues of mental health and addiction in B.C. communities is a top priority for our government...
- ...and we are most successful when we can work together in partnership.
- Earlier this month, our government announced a new information guide for local governments.
- The guide focuses on four key themes around the public-health risk of gambling, including problem-gambling prevalence, revenue generated from problem gamblers, high-risk games, and the availability of alcohol and the impact of alcohol on gambling.
- The guide highlights existing programs and strategies that minimize harm, as well as other steps that can mitigate health risks in communities.

- It's our hope that the guide will be valuable to cities like Surrey that already host gambling facilities.
- This info guide builds on government's historic service increase for British Columbians grappling with gambling addiction.
- Last December, we made the most significant increase in more than a decade in front-line service availability for British Columbians who are, or may be, at risk of gambling addiction.
- These protections include new and much-needed additional off-site services, along with an expanded GameSense Advisor program to be rolled out by the BC Lottery Corporation.
- These changes ensure prevention and support services will be more readily available for those who need them most, not just in casinos but anywhere in the province.

- Beyond supporting responsible gambling, however, we are also coming to terms with a significant criminal element that must be addressed.
- Upon my appointment as Attorney General, I was briefed on what appeared to be a serious issue of money laundering and suspicious cash transactions in some Lower Mainland casinos.
- Despite the fact that I had been the critic on this file for a number of years and had often raised concerns about money laundering and the size and volume of large cash transactions passing through B.C. casinos, I quickly understood that the issue went far deeper than I had imagined.
- We are seeing serious, credible allegations that B.C. casinos are being used to launder

large amounts of money suspected of being the proceeds of crime,

- And it is imperative that we disclose the true scope of the problem to the public.
- To investigate the issue in depth, I appointed an expert to conduct an independent and thorough review of B.C.'s anti-money-laundering policies and practices in the gambling industry.
- That expert, Peter German, is a former deputy commissioner of both the RCMP and Correctional Service Canada, and the author of Canada's leading anti-money-laundering law textbook.
- We are expecting his report very soon—at the end of this month—and it will give our government the insight we need to take deliberate and effective action against money laundering in our province.

- As this is an urgent issue, I had asked that he provide me with any early recommendations he had immediately, so that we could take action on them right away.
- In December, our government received two such interim recommendations from Dr. German that addressed suspicious cash transactions in casinos,
- and I quickly directed the BC Lottery Corporation and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch to implement them as soon as possible.
- First, Gaming service providers – or GSPs – must complete a Source of Funds Declaration for cash deposits or bearer monetary instruments of \$10,000 or more.
- At a minimum, the declaration must outline a customer's identification and provide the

source of their funds, including the financial institution and account from which the cash or instrument was sourced.

- After two consecutive transactions, cash can only be accepted from the customer once it has been determined that it is not of a suspicious or illegal nature.
- Second, government regulators must be seen on-site at large, high-volume facilities on the Lower Mainland and available to the GSPs.
- We are working to ensure that the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch has an increased presence in casinos and is available to operators.
- This presence will allow for an increased vigilance required in casinos.
- In early January, BCLC implemented the first of Dr. German's interim recommendations, so

that updated source of funds requirements are now in place for all cash and bank draft or certified cheque buy-ins for \$10,000 or more.

- Customers must now prove the source of the funds, or they are turned away.
- I know there is more to come on this issue, and our government has taken steps to prepare.
- Regardless of how Dr. German recommends we move forward, there will be a fiscal impact of getting the proceeds of organized crime out of casinos.
- We are so determined to end this illegal activity that we have already budgeted for reforms in Budget 2018.
- Just last week, we released a report that evaluates the revenue impact of one option to fight money-laundering in B.C.'s casinos.

- The report, prepared by HLT Advisory Inc., looked at the impact on revenue if a restriction on cash buy-ins over \$10,000 was implemented at casinos.
- This enabled the BC Lottery Corporation to project that gambling revenue to government in fiscal year 2019 maybe reduced by approximately \$30 million.
- This possible reduction is one of the assumptions made in the 2018 Budget released last month.
- A cash restriction is one of the options available to Dr. German to recommend, and there are many others.
- Restoring B.C.'s international reputation is a cost our government is prepared to pay and has budgeted for.

- I am proud that our government is moving forward to enhance public confidence in our gambling facilities by ensuring that high standards are enforced and that criminals are kept out of casinos.
- It is essential to our ability to enforce the law...
- And it is central to solidifying our reputation in Canada and beyond as a place that does not take a lax approach to criminal activity.

ICBC

- I want to turn now to one of the most significant issues facing our government – both from the perspective of affordability, and with regard to the impact it has on our bottom line.
- That issue is the financial state of ICBC.

- ICBC's year-end loss is now projected to hit \$1.3 billion – a staggering figure.
- We now know the former government had received clear recommendations in 2014 from independent auditors that could have saved the corporation hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Yet they did not act but instead, they rejected the recommendations and they hid them from a report presented to the public.
- ICBC must become financially sustainable to keep rates affordable for British Columbians,
- and we're moving forward quickly to repair the damage that's been done.
- In February, our government announced significant reforms to the auto insurance system, including the doubling of accident benefits, introducing a limit on pain and

suffering payouts for minor injuries and the creation of a new dispute resolution process for minor injury claims.

- We are working to make these changes take full effect April 1, 2019.
- The focus is on directing more care to those injured in crashes, to reducing legal costs and to keeping insurance rates affordable.
- First, and for the first time in 25 years, major changes will be made to ICBC's accident benefits to dramatically increase the care available for anyone injured in a crash.
- This means more money will be available for treatments and that more types of treatments will be covered. The increased accident benefits will be available to anyone injured in a crash, but we know they will make the biggest difference to those people

who are most catastrophically injured in a crash on our roads.

- ICBC will also pay the fair market rate for necessary treatments. Again, this applies to anyone injured in a crash regardless of whether the driver is at fault or not.
- With this change, customers are less likely to have to pay out-of-pocket costs and more likely to seek the care they need to recover from injuries.
- ICBC will add coverage for new treatment providers such as kinesiology, acupuncture, counselling and massage therapy to the list of treatments pre-approved for payment,
- And will increase limits for existing costs such as wage losses, funeral costs and death benefits.

- These are substantial changes that will make an enormous difference to British Columbians who are injured and in need of care and recovery.
- Second, implementing a \$5,500 limit on payouts for pain and suffering for minor injuries is another key change.
- This will move the focus away from maximizing compensation and will reduce legal costs so that more funds can be allocated to the care, treatment and support that customers need to get better.
- B.C. is the last province to take this kind of action.
- We will be establishing in legislation and regulation a definition for minor injury that will include things like sprains, strains, mild whiplash, cuts and bruises, anxiety and stress from a crash.

- It will not include things like broken bones, head injuries, or other more serious impairments.
- And it will recognize that, if you don't get better after a certain period of time, your injury is not considered minor.
- Just as today, ICBC will rely on a medical professional to diagnose these injuries.
- To be clear, these medical professionals will be chosen by the injured person – they are not people who are chosen or employed by ICBC.
- ICBC is now in the process of working directly with medical treatment providers to determine appropriate guidelines that can be put in place so that we can work together and help people get better as quickly as possible.

- The third change I want to highlight is our plan to enable the Civil Resolution Tribunal to help resolve certain motor vehicle injury disputes.
- CRT adjudicators will be independent of ICBC and will provide fair, fast resolution, without requiring the involvement of a lawyer.
- It has already shown success in resolving disputes for strata and small claims and freeing up court time –
- Currently, the CRT aims to resolve claims in 60 to 90 days, on average, whereas the average legal claim with ICBC can take up to 30 months.
- Collectively, the changes I have outlined are expected to save about \$1 billion each year in claims costs.

- We have much work yet to do to ensure these changes will become effective April 1, 2019, including the introduction of legislation.
- We have much work to do,
- But it's clear to me that everyone will benefit if we drastically cut down on legal costs, provide increased care for those with minor injuries, keep insurance affordable and make rates more fair.
- To help make this happen and ensure lower risk customers pay less and higher-risk customers pay more, we have invited British Columbians to share their thoughts on fairness in auto insurance rates,
- So the improvements that we make take their views and experiences into account.

- We are currently conducting a survey to ask questions on how individual insurance rates are set, driver accountability and more.
- The engagement on this topic is available online through April 5, 2018.

Conclusion

- Both of these topics are matters that I am taking very seriously,
- And I look forward to sharing more information with British Columbians as we progress.
- Thank you everyone for the opportunity to be here today,
- And I am happy to answer any questions you have.

<END>

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Speculation Tax - Technical Implementation

Opening Remarks

- Good afternoon.
- Today, on our call, I'm going to speak to the speculation tax, and I want to begin with the context.
- In the 8 months since taking office, our government has taken significant steps to make life better for the people of B.C.
- Housing is a key priority for our government and we want to make sure that people who live and work in British Columbia are able to find and afford a place to live in their community.
- For too long, this housing crisis was allowed to escalate... and it's hurting working families, renters, students, seniors and others across our province.
- Our government got to work right away.
- We announced thousands of new modular and affordable housing units in our September budget update.

- In our first full budget we announced our 30-point housing plan, including a historic 7 billion dollar investment to boost housing supply.
- Reining in an out-of-control housing market that is increasingly catering to wealthy non-residents isn't easy.
- But as the provincial government, we have a responsibility to act.

Speculation Tax Details:

- In February, as part of this housing plan, I announced the principles of the speculation tax.
- Our goal has been to ensure that speculators are not able to treat our housing market as a stock market at the cost of British Columbians.
- With this new tax, we are taking action to curb that speculation.

- Speculators and those with vacant secondary homes will pay the tax, or have the option of freeing up their vacant homes to be homes for people and families who live and work in their communities.
- Since budget day, we have been talking to people, businesses, local government, and the Green caucus as we finalize the implementation of the tax.
- Some people and organizations have asked us to not enact the tax.
- Others have raised concerns and have made constructive suggestions.
- Many people have thanked us, saying this is the first time in years they have hope that they'll be able to afford a home one day.
- The feedback has been listened to as we worked through the details.
- The principles of the speculation tax remain the same.
- It asks foreign investors and non-residents who hold vacant properties in our major urban centres to contribute to our province.

- It provides incentives for people who own multiple properties to rent those properties out.
- Over 99% of British Columbians will not pay the tax.
- Only those who choose to hold multiple properties, leaving them empty in our province's major cities will be asked to contribute.
- Our tax on speculators focuses on people who are tying up housing stock in BC's overheated housing markets in order to build their financial portfolio.
- People with cottages at the lake or on the islands will not pay this tax.
- People with second homes outside of high-cost urban areas will not pay the tax.
- We are going after those who are clearly taking advantage of the market and driving up prices.
- We are ensuring that housing stock in our major cities is available for people who work hard for a living to live in.

Technical Implementation

- I recognize that there have been some questions and some frustration around the technical details of the tax.
- It is a new tax and a bold measure, and we took the time needed to listen and get the implementation right.
- First, we've **refined the geographic areas** the tax applies to.
 - We have excluded most smaller islands and communities and unincorporated areas.
 - We are focusing in on the major urban centres in the province to tackle the housing crisis where it runs deepest.
 - This will help ensure that British Columbians' vacation homes and cabins are not impacted.

- Second, we are providing additional details on the **rate structure**.
 - British Columbians who own vacant homes in designated urban centres will be taxed at a rate of 0.5% on the property value in 2018 and beyond.
 -
 - The tax rate for Canadians who don't reside in B.C. will start at 0.5% in 2018 and increase to 1.0% in 2019 and beyond.
 -
 - And the tax rate for foreigner investors and satellite families will start at 0.5% in 2018 and increase to 2% in 2019.
- Third, we are further clarifying the **credit structure** for British Columbians.
 - Second homes of BC residents with a value of \$400,000 or less will be fully exempt from the tax. This will ensure that cabins are not impacted.
 - For homes over this value, the owner will receive a non-refundable credit that offsets tax payable on the first \$400,000 in value.

- Fourth, properties with **long-term rentals** are exempt from the tax. A long-term rental is defined as a property that is rented out for at least six months out of the calendar year in increments of at least 30 days.
 - This provides flexibility for people like students and retirees.
 - It also discourages short-term vacation rentals.
- Fifth and finally, there will be exemptions for those facing **special circumstances**.
 - For example, there will be exemptions where an individual is temporarily absent for medical or work purposes.

B.C. Taxpayers and Close

- The details I've outlined today mean that:
 - British Columbians who own their own home:
 - Will not pay.
 - British Columbians who are landlords:
 - Will not pay.
 - British Columbians with cabins and cottages in rural areas:
 - Will not pay.
- In total, over 99% of all British Columbians will not pay.
- Those with multiple properties sitting empty in major urban centres or for non-residents with similar properties in cities, the tax will apply.
- We have a responsibility to ensure that hard working British Columbians can afford to call this province home.
- The need for action is clear.

- The housing crisis demands bold action and we are delivering.
- Our goal is to make sure that the people who work and contribute to our communities can afford to live here.
- I will now turn the call over to the Moderator...
- And will take your questions on the speculation tax or other questions you have on our housing affordability plan.