

## Legislation on Cannabis – Announcement

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**Event:** B.C. proposes legislation to ensure safe transition to Federal cannabis legalization

**When:** Thursday, Apr. 26, 2018 at 11:15 a.m.

**Where:** Press Theatre, Legislative Buildings

**Contact:** **Caroline McAndrews, GCPE-PSSG, cell. 250-208-3254**  
**Rick Devereux, GCPE Event Services, cell. 250-812-1207**

**Length:** 5 minutes

### Key Participants:

- Minister Farnworth
- Representative from Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat (TBD)
- Representative from Liquor Distribution Branch (TBD)
- Representative from Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (TBD)

**Speakers:** Hon. Farnworth will give remarks prior to opening up to media for Q&A (moderated by GCPE Media Relations Staff and supported by participants).

### Attendees:

- Minister Farnworth
- Representatives from the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat, LDB and LCLB
- Media

## Speaking Notes

Hon. Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

### B.C. Cannabis Legislation Introduction

Press Theatre  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C.

Thursday, Apr. 26, 2018  
11:15 a.m.

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

## Introduction

- Thank you all for joining me again today, as we gather on the traditional territory of Lekwungen people - including the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- As I stated when we last got together in February,
- It's our governments' goal to introduce legalized non-medical cannabis in a responsible and safe way,
- Ensuring our regulations balance and reflect the views and values of all British Columbians...
- ...while keeping public health and safety top of mind.

- Today marks a **major milestone** in this process.
- Our government has now introduced legislation for the legalization of non-medical cannabis that I believe, does just that.
- The legislation includes details of B.C.'s non-medical cannabis provincial regulatory framework we previously announced in February,
- And is a common-sense approach informed by:
  - Experiences from other jurisdictions that have legalized non-medical cannabis,
  - The feedback received from local governments, including members of the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation, as well as Indigenous governments and organizations,



- And the broad public and stakeholder engagement we've undertaken to-date.
- This engagement work is ongoing, and will continue past legalization.

## **Legislation**

- The legislation introduced today will provide for legal, controlled access to non-medical cannabis in B.C. and includes three bills.
- It puts our province in a position to not only meet the federal deadline,

- But does so in a way that satisfies our provincial goals to protect children and youth, prioritize public health and safety, keep cannabis out of the hands of criminals, keep our roads safe and support B.C.'s economic prosperity.
- The proposed **Cannabis Distribution Act** will establish the Province's exclusive jurisdiction over wholesale distribution of cannabis and provide authority for public retail sales,
- While the proposed **Cannabis Control and Licensing Act (CCLA)** establishes provincial control over the sale, supply and possession of non-medical cannabis.
- The CCLA also establishes licensing of private cannabis retailers, including registration and training requirements for those who will work in cannabis retail stores,

- And outlines restrictions on the possession, personal cultivation and consumption of cannabis by adults and prohibitions for minors.
- In addition, it includes an extensive compliance and enforcement regime to ensure legalization of non-medical cannabis prioritizes public health and safety, keeps cannabis out of the hands of criminals and keeps our roads safe.
- And a key component of this enforcement regime will be a new community safety unit that will target illegal sellers.
- We know that to ensure we keep our roads safe, we must give police more tools to remove drug-impaired drivers from the road.
- So, we've also made amendments to the **Motor Vehicle Act** to toughen provincial regulations to further deter drug-affected driving.

- The amendments will provide police with new tools to remove drug-impaired drivers from the road. Specifically:
  - We've created a new 90-day Administrative Driving Prohibition for drug affected driving; and,
  - We've expanded the current zero tolerance restrictions for the presence of alcohol for drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program to include zero tolerance for the presence of THC.
- This is in addition to the measures that are being introduced by the federal government—and we're eager to hear more from them on that front.

- We're also increasing training for law enforcement to assist in detecting drug-impaired driving,
- And we'll continue to work with law enforcement and stakeholders to help British Columbians make safe decisions about driving.

## **Timeline**

- The B.C. Legislature will now take time to debate and review our proposed pieces of legislation, before they are finalized and passed into law...
- ...However, B.C.'s new laws are dependent upon the proposed federal legislation receiving Royal Assent.

- Upon implementation, we'll continue to monitor our regulations and make any necessary adjustments to ensure our provincial goals are being met.
- I know there is much interest in hearing when non-medical cannabis will be legal but that decision is up to the federal government.
- ...And as I've said before, the date set by the federal government for cannabis legalization will just be the beginning.
- Until then, we'll continue to develop regulations and supporting policies to prepare for the legalization of non-medical cannabis here in B.C.

## LDB Update

- In addition, the Liquor Distribution Branch, B.C.'s wholesale distributor of non-medical cannabis, is expected to open the first government-operated retail store by the end of summer 2018,
- To ensure British Columbians have access to non-medical cannabis once legalized.
- They're also working to implement an e-commerce solution to offer online sales to the public.
- The brand identity and logo for BC Cannabis Stores, developed in-house, will be featured on store fronts and within print material.

- More information on this can be found on the B.C. LDB website.

## **Conclusion**

- In closing, we still have work to do to prepare for the legalization of cannabis,
- But the legislation we've introduced today is a major step forward for B.C.
- Some may think that this work will end when cannabis is legalized by the federal government,
- But the truth is, our Government will be dealing with this significant change in policy for years to come.



- We'll need time to implement the federal government's decision...
- ...to learn from the implementation of our own regulations and adjust along the way.
- So, as we wait for more clarity on an exact timeline from the federal government,
- Our priority remains focused on ensuring the needs and values of British Columbians are reflected in the decisions we make, while we continue to prioritize:
  - The protection of young people,
  - The health and safety of British Columbians,
  - Keeping cannabis out of the hands of criminals,
  - Keeping our roads safe; and,

- Supporting the economic development of our province.
- And we look forward to working together to get this right in B.C.
- Thanks for your attention. I'll now take any questions you may have...

-END-

## Pill Press Legislation – Announcement

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**Event:** B.C. proposes legislation to restrict ownership, possession and use of equipment that can be used to make illicit drugs such as automated pill presses, gel cap machines and pharmaceutical mixers.

**When:** Wednesday, Apr. 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Golden Gates, Legislative Buildings

**Contact:** **Caroline McAndrews, GCPE-PSSG, cell. 250-208-3254**  
**Rick Devereux, GCPE Event Services, cell. 250-812-1207**

**Length:** 2-3 minutes

**Key Participants:**

- Minister Farnworth

**Speakers:** Hon. Farnworth will give short remarks prior to opening up to media for Q&A (moderated by GCPE Media Relations Staff).

**Attendees:**

- Minister Farnworth
- Media

## Speaking Notes

Hon. Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

B.C. Pill Press and Related Equipment Introduction

Golden Gates  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C.

Wednesday, Apr. 25, 2018  
3:00 p.m.

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

## Introduction

- Thank you all for joining us today, as we gather on the traditional territory of Lekwungen people - including the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- On average, three people died every day in February 2018 from illicit drug overdoses,
- And families across the province are suffering the profound grief of losing a child, a husband, a friend, to a poisoned illegal drug supply.
- So, it's my pleasure to announce that we've introduced new legislation, the **Pill Press and Related Equipment Control Act**, in a decisive move against the illegal production of illicit opioids
- This issue is of great importance to me,

- As you may know, I tabled a bill on pill press regulations back in 2016 when I was the public safety critic,
- And I'm proud that our government has decided to exercise its jurisdiction to take critical steps against the illegal production of illicit opioids.
- For those that may not know, pill presses are used in the production of pharmaceuticals,
- But in the wrong hands they can be used to make low cost fentanyl into counterfeit pills, such as fake Oxycodone or Xanax.
- And in the case of fentanyl, there is a large profit motive for dealers to make counterfeit pills.
- Prior to this legislation, there have been **no limits** on who can own this equipment in B.C.

- So, restricting access to pill presses is a key tool to help interdict the supply of illicit drugs.
- This comprehensive Act is critical in bolstering police efforts to disrupt the supply chain...
- ...getting counterfeit pills off the streets and out of the hands of those who recklessly distribute death-dealing drugs.
- It also sets out significant penalties for offences committed in relation to controlled equipment and activities.
- We're proud to have introduced legislation that is cutting edge in Canada.
- This Bill is more comprehensive than the legislation that was introduced by Alberta in 2016, which focused on limiting who has access to this equipment,

- Or by the federal government in 2016- which only set notification requirements for people importing this type of equipment into Canada.
- For example,
- Our legislation requires people who want to sell the equipment to register and agree to a criminal record check,
- There are notification requirements for when people acquire and dispose of the equipment,
- As well as powers to appoint inspectors so that compliance with the legislation can be monitored.
- All of these provisions will make it easier to track where controlled equipment is, and easier to take it out of the hands of those who are not authorized owners.



- In addition to this new bill, we continue to undertake urgent action to escalate the response to the overdose crisis,
- And we'll continue to work on a multi-pronged strategy targeted at gangs, drug traffickers and importers to get these deadly drugs off our streets.
- This government remains committed to tackling this crisis,
- And addressing some of the core causes of the opioid crisis including homelessness, poverty, trauma and the need for improved enforcement.
- I'll now take any question, Thanks.

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

BC Police Association

s.15

April 10, 2017  
12:15 pm

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

## **BC Police Association Spring Meeting & Legislative Conference**

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**Event:** The BCPA is the combined voice for approx. 2,934 front-line police members in 12 police associations and unions across the province. The meeting is for representatives of each of the locals of the BCPA.

**When:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 12:15 p.m.

**Where:** s.15

**Contact:** **Kaari Hytainen, Ex. Assistant,** [KHytainen@vpu.ca](mailto:KHytainen@vpu.ca), 604.685.6441  
**Michelle Roberts, GCPE-PSSG,** cell. 778-677-8570

**Length:** 20 mins

**Speakers:** Hon. Mike Farnworth /**Emcee:** Tom Stamatakis

**Audience:** BC Police Associations and officers, no media.

**Agenda:** Minister to report to the<sup>s.15</sup> meeting space upon arrival.

0900 – 0915 – Introduction

0915 – 1000 - Rob Taylor – TRG Benefits discussion with Julie Winstanley

1000 – 1030 – Stan Lowe – OPCC

1045 – 1100 - Coffee Break

1100 – 1200 - BCPA Issues

- CPA Update
  - LEOSH Health and Safety
  - BC Police and Peace Officers memorial (Rick Stewart)
- BCPA Liaison Officer

- Update
- Bargaining

1200 – 1300 - Lunch

**1215 - Minister Mike Farnworth**

1300 – 1345 – Mr. Ronald MacDonald – Chief Civilian Director IIO

- Overview of IIO
- Current case load
- Ongoing initiatives
- Future

1400 – 1430 – Alex MacLennon

- E-ticketing discussion

1430-1445 – Coffee Break 3

1445 – 1600 – BCPA business con't

- Pension
- Other issues
- Round table

Adjourn

## INTRODUCTION

- Thank you, Tom for the introduction, and thank you for inviting me to speak with you all this afternoon.
- I'm pleased to be here to speak with you as partners in ensuring the safety of our communities.
- Know that we appreciate the dangerous nature of the work you do, and thank you for the protective services you provide in our communities.

- As Solicitor General, I expect that the public's trust in policing remains critical to ensuring we are effective in keeping British Columbians safe.
- And I'll strive to provide supports that make a difference – to your safety and the safety of those you serve.
- My job is to make sure that an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement is maintained throughout B.C.,
- So that you can respond to the ever-changing challenges you face in keeping British Columbians safe.

- So today, I'd like to focus on some areas where our vision and efforts are furthering these important ends.

## **FENTANYL RESPONSE**

- Perhaps one of the biggest challenges facing policing and law enforcement these days is the opioid crisis.
- Drug-related overdoses and deaths have become a very serious concern across the province,
- And I thank you for working together with us and with other interested agencies to help deal with this tragic issue.

- We're committed to working at all levels of government to help you intercept and disrupt the supply of toxic drugs,
- And we recognize the hard work of front line officers, first responders and organizations in dealing with this crisis.
- To continue the work already underway, our budget allocates \$31.3 million over 3 years which is specifically directed to some critical initiatives including:
  - Disrupting the supply chain in our communities and neighbourhoods with dedicated anti-trafficking teams and additional officers,

- Increasing financial support for all police agencies for enforcement,
- Ensuring we help shield you from exposure by increasing support for Naloxone supply and training, and providing more detection and protective gear,
- Exploring legislative options to give additional tools to police,
- And importantly, providing more support for police-based outreach in your communities through the use of multidisciplinary situation tables.



- We're committed to continuing to work on a multi-pronged strategy targeting illegal guns, gangs, drug traffickers and importers to get these deadly drugs off our streets...

## **GUNS, GANGS & ORGANIZED CRIME**

- ...But this won't be solved overnight.
- Combatting organized crime and gangs remains a top priority for the province.
- We're making every effort to give you the tools you need to disrupt organized crime groups and gather evidence to support successful prosecutions.

- Not only to address gangs and gang violence, but to alleviate their corrosive effects on communities and families and to keep vulnerable youth away from crime and gangs,
- And we've steadily increased financial and other support for CFSEU-BC, which is committed to aggressively pursuing gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- We also provide support to the:
  - Real Time Intelligence Center.
  - Joint Illegal Gaming and Investigation Team and;
  - Provincial Major Crime Section

- They are all committed to aggressively pursuing gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- We've also been actively pressing the federal government for action on guns, gangs and drug trafficking...
- And we're pleased they're stepping up to assist us and other provinces in dealing with it.
- We welcome the new funding they'll be providing and we'll be talking with them about how that funding will be shared among us and how quickly it will be dispersed.

## IFTF REPORT

- The Province is also taking action to help you combat the criminal use of firearms.
- As you may know, the Illegal Firearms Task Force (IFTF) was initiated to help respond to the public threats from illegal firearms in B.C.
- They've now reported out on their findings and recommendations which support new and innovative approaches in our fight to end gun violence.
- We've immediately taken action on some of the IFTF's key recommendations, such as:

- Adding a new team as part of our anti-gang unit that will focus specifically domestic and international firearms traffickers, and;
- Creating a centralized firearms intelligence hub with CFSEU-BC as lead agency to coordinate a provincial firearms focused approach that includes enhanced centralized intelligence and data gathering.
- It will provide the big picture relating to illegal firearms so you can identify firearms traffickers and opioid mid-level traffickers and plan where and how to focus investigative strategies.

- The strategies put forward by the IFTF will also help inform a new Gang Suppression Action Plan that will include comprehensive and sustained strategies and activities to bolster our response to guns and gangs and enhance the safety of our communities.
- Recommendations in the report also called for the federal government to consider enhancements to federal legislation that would assist in effectively dealing with illegal firearms,
- Among them are proposed changes to the Firearms Act (Canada), the Criminal Code (Canada), and the Canadian Firearms Program.

- And I'm pleased they've made some movement on this.
- It's an encouraging step in the necessary work to interdict the gun and gang violence that we see not just in B.C. but across Canada.
- Extensive background checks, concise tracking and recording keeping of firearms is critical to the control of weapons,
- And their legislation helps address the restrictions on the movement of firearms, verification of licences and decisions about the classification of firearms.

- But there is more work to be done and we look forward to further discussion with the federal government on this.

## **CANNABIS**

- Over the next year, we are also leading the planning for the regulation and safe implementation of legalized non-medical cannabis in B.C.
- This upcoming change in legislation will affect all of us and is a significant undertaking for all jurisdictions across Canada.



- We're working hard to develop a provincial regulatory approach that best represents the interests and priorities of British Columbians, as well as law enforcement...
- ...ensuring the right balance is struck moving forward.
- Our main priorities focus on protecting youth, promoting health and safety, keeping the criminal element out of cannabis, keeping our roads safe and supporting the economic prosperity of B.C.,

- And we've established a Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat to help guide us through the development of a provincial regulatory framework.
- We've also received feedback from over 48,000 British Columbians on priority policy areas,
- And our engagement with local governments, Indigenous governments and organizations, and stakeholders in various sectors is ongoing.
- But there are still many more decisions to be made.
- Our work will not end when non-medical cannabis is legalized by the federal government,

- The truth is, this is just the beginning.
- Our government will be dealing with this significant change in policy for years to come.
- We still have many decisions to make which are dependent on having better clarity regarding federal legislation and regulations
- So, I do want to stress, this will be an ongoing process.
- We will all need time to implement the federal government's decision...
- ...to set rules, learn from the implementation of them and adjust along the way.

- We also know there will be significant costs associated with the related compliance and enforcement activities this regulation will require.
- And we're committed to working with you to get this right.
- We're working with the federal government and police partners to implement a collaborative approach to training and capacity building, to make sure you have the necessary tools and skills to identify and remove drug impaired drivers from our roads.

- We'll also work with you and our road safety partners to help educate British Columbians about making safe decisions about drug-affected driving,
- And we'll undertake our own public education activities to supplement the work being done by the federal government to ensure British Columbians are familiar with our provincial regulations when they come into force.
- It's our goal to introduce legalized non-medical cannabis in the most responsible and safe way possible.

## ROAD SAFETY & AUTO CRIME

- But our work doesn't end there...
- ...We're also taking steps to help you in your jobs when it comes to road safety & auto crime,
- And I'd like to thank you for your recent work in helping us to get tougher with distracted and high-risk drivers.
- As you know, we now have a new model in place that allows you to complete a High-Risk Driving Incident Report.

- This triggers a review by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, who assesses each incident and is now able to set longer, more appropriate prohibitions.
- Under this new model, street racers and other dangerous drivers will spend a longer time away from their wheels.
- We're toughening our laws so you can remove drug-affected drivers from the road for 90 days – a much more serious penalty than the existing, 24-hour driving prohibition,

- And addressing the legal loophole to ensure 24 hour suspensions for drugs have a means of appeal other than the current onerous and costly Judicial review process.
- We're also extending B.C.'s zero-tolerance restriction for the presence of alcohol to cover the presence of specific drugs among new drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program (GLP) – a move that received overwhelming support from people during our recent cannabis engagement.
- And we're continuing to support enhanced enforcement efforts like Counterattack,



- By providing dedicated overtime funds to police agencies to detect and remove both alcohol- and drug-affected drivers from our roads immediately.
- Finally, like the other provinces, we're awaiting federal approval of a device that will enable you to screen for the presence of certain drugs at the roadside.
- Most recently we introduced Electronic ticketing (eTicketing),
- Which will help you make our roads safer by improving the integrity of the system and our ability to track and prevent future dangerous driving behaviours.

- E-ticketing will also help to improve officer safety in B.C. by providing better real-time information about the driver in question,
- And reducing the amount of time an officer needs to be outside their vehicle during a traffic stop.
- We'll review the results of the pilot testing this summer to help us plan a roll out of the eTicketing system province-wide.
- You know better than most about the difficulties of keeping up with new technology—certainly the criminals seem to be doing so.

- And auto crime as a good example – since this is Auto Crime Enforcement Month.
- I know police agencies in all regions of our province have contributed to the success of IMPACT,
- And we continue to work hard to deal with the changing nature of auto-crime and technology in an integrated manner that keeps getting better.
- Innovations like the use of real-time, live video technology have made a big difference,

- But while high-tech makes life easier for us, it can also make things easier for thieves— as some of you will have experienced in your own communities.
- So, this year we're out again, reinforcing our message to the public – “Lock it or Looted” — because we know you cannot solve these problems on your own,
- And because we understand that engaging the community is a critical part of any meaningful lasting solution to drive down crime.

## CONCLUSION

- At the end of the day, our shared priority is making sure everyone gets home safely to their families each and every night...
- ...and ensuring B.C. residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods from crime and gun violence...
- You are key partners in that work.
- Know that we're committed to supporting you in making the communities you serve – and yourselves– as safe as possible.

- On behalf of government, I thank you and commend you all for your service to your communities and your commitment to public safety.
- Thank You.

## Event Information / Speaking Notes –

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**Event:** Civil Forfeiture Grants 2018  
**When:** Friday, April 20, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.  
**Where:** DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society  
13455 76th Avenue  
Surrey, BC

**Itinerary:** To Come

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

Civil Forfeiture Grants 2018

DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society  
13455 76th Avenue  
Surrey, BC

Friday, April 20, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**



## Introduction

- Thanks, Rachna, for the introduction.
- And thanks also to DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society for hosting us today.
- We really appreciate the excellent work you are doing in supporting culturally diverse communities—including working with women, children, and youth who have experienced violence.
- I'd also like to acknowledge representatives from local community agencies, police, government, and my fellow MLAs who represent the people of Surrey.

## Civil Forfeiture Grants

- April 15<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> is Prevention of Violence Against Women Week in British Columbia.
- During this week, communities across the province are raising awareness about the prevention of violence against women – through community events, workshops, and presentations.
- Provincially, we're also doing our part.
- Today, I'm happy to announce that we're providing nearly \$6.5 million in grants...

- ...For crime prevention projects that address violence against women, crime reduction and community safety, and other community crime prevention initiatives.
- This funding, from civil and criminal forfeiture, will help to build safer communities through organizations like DIVERSEcity – and more than 170 others throughout the province.

## **Violence Against Women**

- Through this year's grants, we're funding projects that focus on developing or enhancing responses to sexual assault and domestic violence...

- ...As well as projects related to human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and vulnerable women in the sex trade.
- More than \$1.7 million is going towards projects to help those who have been affected by these forms of violence.
- One example is Collaborative Responses to Gender Based Violence, a funded project of Sources Community Resources Society.
- This offers training to schools and workplaces across Surrey, to help them more effectively respond to reports of gender-based violence and sexual assault.

- Another example: the Sashing Our Warriors Program, put on by Metis Nation British Columbia.
- This program enhances responses to sexual assault and domestic violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- Collectively, these grants are another way our government is investing in services that people count on...
- ...And they build on the \$5 million in increased funding announced in Budget 2018, for programs that assist victims of crime, and women and children impacted by violence.

## **Crime Reduction and Community Safety**

- We're also putting funds into projects that address Crime Reduction and Community Safety.
- These help to identify, assess, contain and reduce the frequency and severity of criminal activity, and improve community safety and well-being.
- We're investing more than \$1.3 million in projects that address crime reduction and community safety.
- A great example is right here:

- DIVERSEcity's Women's Crime Reduction Program will target women who have been in conflict with the law, through one-to-one, solution-focused counselling and group work.

## **Indigenous Healing and Rebuilding**

- Every grant stream is important – but I want to highlight one more:
- This year, \$1.4 million is going to projects that address the healing and rebuilding of Indigenous individuals, families and communities.

- These projects focus on healing of the family and broader community, as well as other culturally identified practices that contribute to holistic healing...
- Projects such as the Métis Provincial Council of BC's Cultural Kinnections.
- It connects Métis youth who are living in or out of care, with Métis elders, leaders, community members, and the land.

## **Conclusion**

- We're pleased to be able to support so many crime prevention projects that will have positive impacts across the province...



- And we're thankful to the many community agencies that have come forward to share their vision for public safety in their communities.
- We need inspired, innovative programs like these, which are rooted in knowledge of local needs and understanding of what will work to counter local crime.
- Together, we can help make our communities safer and support our most vulnerable.
- Thanks again to DIVERSEcity and all agencies receiving grants this year.
- I wish you continued success.

- Thank you.

-END-



**Speaking Notes for  
Hon. Shane Simpson**

**Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction**

**2018 Budget Update Estimates**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Approx. length: 7 minutes**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

## **Introduction:**

- To start I would like to introduce and thank the ministry staff who are joining me here today:
  - David Galbraith – Deputy Minister
  - Michael Lord –ADM and Executive Financial Officer, Corporate Services Division
  - Debi Upton, ADM, Service Delivery Division
  - Molly Harrington – ADM, Research, Innovation and Policy Division
  - Chris Brown – ADM, Employment & Labour Market Services Division and Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities
  - Rob Byers, ADM, Information Services Division; and
  - Seonag Macrae – CEO, Community Living BC

- We also have around 2,000 employees in the ministry.
- They are an incredible group of people, who are dedicated to our clients and our mission.
- They help deliver financial assistance and employment programs to almost 300,000 people each year.
- And they have embraced our new focus on reducing poverty in B.C.
- I have six items in my mandate letter. Three were quickly accomplished:
  - an \$100 increase to temporary assistance rates and disability benefits;
  - increased earning exemptions;

- and, a new transportation supplement for people on disability assistance.
- The other three goals are well under way:
  - A homelessness count has been ongoing and I look forward to reporting on those numbers in the coming months. This information will inform the Homelessness Action Plan.
  - In the next month or so we will convene an expert committee study a Basic Income for this province.
    - \$4m over 2 years has been allocated for this work.
  - And, we are making real progress toward B.C.'s first Poverty Reduction Strategy.

## **Poverty Reduction Strategy:**

- Right now, more than half a million people live in poverty in our province, and thousands more are near the edge. 160,000 single people and 200,000 families are living within a few thousand dollars of the poverty line. That is unacceptable in a wealthy province like ours.
- My priority as Minister is to deliver a Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- We will table legislation this fall that includes targets and timelines so that government is transparent and accountable and the Strategy will follow thereafter.
- The Strategy will address the problems that drive people into poverty – and it will help remove the

obstacles that so often trap people in the cycle of poverty.

- We recently completed the public engagement process – to better understand poverty in our province, and to provide insight and ideas on how we can help people.
  - Thousands of people provided feedback in person or online.
  - We visited 28 communities to hold public meetings. Sixty per cent of the people who attended self-identified as having lived experience of poverty. Many remarked that no one had ever asked them for their thoughts on how to tackle poverty – and they told us how important this process was, to have government listen.



- There was a distinct Indigenous engagement process - BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres hosted 27 meetings; 7 were organized by Metis Nation BC.
- 100 small group discussions were held by community organizations; and
- 62 stakeholders submitted policy briefs
- We received a lot of feedback and I look forward to sharing a What We Heard Report in June.
- We will release the strategy once we are done analyzing the feedback and we better understand the scope of what needs to be done to make meaningful changes for people living in poverty.
- Though my ministry will lead this effort, we won't do it alone - it will be a cross-government effort.

- And we are already working across government to reduce poverty and address the barriers people face:
- Record funding was announced for affordable housing and childcare in the February budget;
- Modular housing is being built in many communities for people who are homeless or at risk; and
- The path to a \$15 minimum wage has been charted.
- And while the Strategy is being developed, we will implement other changes and continue the fight against poverty.

## **Budget 2018:**

- Budget 2018 shows we can have both a strong economy and well-funded services.
- It shows that investing in people is the best investment you can make.
- And it demonstrates that the efforts to reduce poverty – to make people’s lives better – are at the heart of this government’s approach.
  - By far, the #1 concern we heard through the Poverty Reduction consultation is the lack of affordable housing.
  - The largest investment in affordable housing in B.C.’s history - \$7 billion over ten years - will help answer those calls.

- And Childcare is at the root of successful families, communities and moreover our society.
- People have asked for quality, affordable care. With this historic \$1-billion investment over 3 years, we've delivered.
- My ministry:
  - The overall budget for the ministry for 2018/19 is \$3.4 billion. That's up \$96-million from the September update.
  - \$2.2-billion of that is for income, disability, and supplementary assistance – this includes the \$100 increase in rates.
  - \$350 million supports employment programs through WorkBC. That's an increase of approximately \$24 million – money that will expand services to new groups of people, including the working poor.

- The \$96 million in new funding will go to a number of services, including:
  - \$69 million for the new transportation supplement.
  - \$2 million is to for 30 new front-line staff, 20 of whom will staff our phone lines.
  - And CLBC saw \$25 million in net new funding. For a total of \$60.6 million when combined with increases announced last fiscal year.
  - This will help CLBC maintain services to the 21,000 people it currently serves, and provide new services or increases to around 3,000 people.
  - In total, the provincial government will invest \$998.2 million into CLBC for 2018/19.

## **Conclusion:**

- This government has three priorities: make life more affordable; improve services for people; and build a strong, sustainable economy.
- All three are part of our work in the ministry.
- All three are an important focus for the Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- As we develop the Strategy, we will look at all our programs and services.
- In so doing, our government will ensure the needs of all British Columbians are being respected.
- This is a budget for the people who needed help around affordability and who were looking for opportunities for themselves and their families.

- Thank you. I look forward to your questions.

-END-



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**SHANE SIMPSON**

Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

**Prince George Spoke Grand Opening**

***Pacific Autism Family Network***

**#216 – 1811 Victoria Street, Prince George, BC**

Saturday, April 14, 2018 - 2:00 p.m.



## **Background**

**April is World Autism Month.**

### **Pacific Autism Family Network**

The Pacific Autism Family Network is a charitable organization founded by Sergio Cocchia and his wife Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia, to provide comprehensive supports and services to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. In late 2016, PAFN opened its headquarters – the 60,000 square foot Goodlife Fitness Family Autism Hub in Richmond.

PAFN is currently working towards opening eight satellite locations (“spokes”) in other parts of the province. The first of these “spokes” is opening in Prince George on April 14. PAFN’s “Hub and Spoke” service model will allow British Columbians to “one stop shop” for accurate information services and therapies for autism in nine communities. To date, PAFN has raised over \$43 million in provincial and federal funding and served thousands of people.

### **Goodlife Fitness Family Autism Hub**

The Hub provides a wide range of services and supports for people with disabilities and their families. These include: cutting edge information about autism, on site assessment and therapy services, and customized lab services.

### **Prince George Satellite Office (Spoke)**

At this satellite site, families will be able to access the latest information about autism and to consult with specialists at the Hub, via a WebEx based telehealth system. Prince George residents with autism will also be able to access on site speech language and behavioral therapies.

#### **Please Note:**

The Prince George Spoke will include a “navigator” to provide information on autism services in B.C. and the north. This position is entirely funded by PAFN; it is not part of the ministry’s Services to Adults with Disabilities Program (STADD) program.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

Autism Spectrum Disorder describes a set of behavioural and developmental challenges. People with ASD commonly have problems with communication, behavior and/ or socialization. These challenges, which can range from mild to severe, usually persist in some form throughout the person’s life.

ASD is one of the most prevalent neurological disorders in Canada. In February 2007, one in every 209 children in BC accessed autism funding. By February 2018, that number had risen to one in every 51 children, resulting in increased demand and cost pressures for autism programs funded by MCFD.

Today, BC provides funding to more than 14,300 children and youth who have been diagnosed with autism, compared to 600 in 2004.

The MCFD 2018/19 budget for Autism Services is \$85 million. Children under age six, who have been diagnosed with ASD, are eligible for \$22,000 in annual funding from the province for autism intervention services. Children and Youth aged 6 to 18 are eligible for \$6,000 annually. B.C. is the only province in Canada with a no-waitlist policy for families to access funding if their child or youth has a diagnosis of ASD.

The BC Ministry of Education also provides \$19,070 in supplemental funding annually (above and beyond per pupil funding) for every child or youth has been diagnosed with ASD.

**Note:**

The province does not fund diagnostic assessments for adults; they must be paid for privately.

**Note:**

The prevalence of autism has risen steadily since researchers started tracking it in 2000. This is partially due to changes in diagnostic criteria.

### **Community Living BC Services for Adults with Autism**

CLBC offers a range of supports for adults with autism who also have significant limitations in adaptive functioning. These include:

- Social, recreation and life skills supports
- Specialized behavioral and mental health services
- Customized employment supports
- Staffed residential homes
- Shared living arrangements and
- Supports for independent living

### **Autism at Work Program**

SAP is the world's third largest independent software manufacturer and a world leader in enterprise software applications. The company focusses on people's unique abilities rather than on their perceived limitations. Through its Autism at

Work program, SAP has hired 120 colleagues on the autism spectrum in nine countries.

### **Presenters**

- PAFN founders, Sergio Cocchia and his wife, Wendy Lisogar Cocchia
- Jack McGee, Board Secretary
- Jason and Jordan Oliver, Prince George Family that has strongly supported the development of the Prince George Spoke

### **Attendees**

There will be 60 to 70 people at the event. Prominent attendees will include:

- **Shirley Bond, MLA (Prince George – Valemount)**
- Ted Doherty, MP (Cariboo - Prince George) may also attend but has not yet confirmed.
- John Iverson, Chief, Prince George Fire Services
- **Mike Morris, MLA (Prince George – Mackenzie)**
- Lesley Pain, Prince George RCMP
- Kathleen Soltis, Prince George City Manager

The current RSVP list is attached.

### **Key Messages for Audience**

- Our government is committed to building a better BC for people with disabilities and making British Columbia a truly inclusive province.
- PAFN's innovative service model is changing lives and creating brighter futures for some of the most vulnerable people in B.C.
- Government recognizes the importance of supporting people with autism and their families; we are pleased PAFN's efforts complement the services we currently offer.

### **Special Instructions for the Minister**

The Minister will be greeted by Nicola Openshaw, PAFN *Marketing & Events Coordinator*, outside the PAFN Prince George Spoke. Nicola can be reached at: (C: s.22 ).

After the speeches, the Minister will be toured through the facility by the Olivers.

**Note: Opening remarks for this event will be streamed on FaceBook Live.**

### **Agenda:**

Activities	Timing
Sergio Cocchia welcomes everyone and opens the event	2:00 p.m.
Jack McGee, PAFN Board Secretary, introduces Minister Simpson	
Minister Simpson speaks	
Shirley Bond, MLA, speaks	
Jason and Jordan Oliver speak	
Open House with tours; the Olivers will tour the Minister	2:40 to 5:00 p.m.

## **Remarks**

- Acknowledge the traditional territory of Lheidli T'enneh [clayt-clay ten-ay] people.
- I am delighted to be here today, on behalf of the Province, to help celebrate the grand opening of the Pacific Autism Family Network's Prince George Spoke.
- On the flight from Victoria, I was reflecting on how becoming a parent is like setting off on the most important journey of our lives -- without a map.

- We have a destination in mind for our children, but in the beginning we don't necessarily know how to get there.
- For parents with children on the autism spectrum it can be especially tough.
- And every year, more and more parents in B.C. face these challenges.
- The rate of autism in B.C. has more than quadrupled in the past 14 years.

- Today, 1 in 51 BC children have a diagnosis of autism. In 2007, the rate was one in 209.

## **Government actions**

- Our government believes as all of you do, in building a better B.C. for people with disabilities, and making British Columbia a truly inclusive province.
- The Province provides a number of supports to try to smooth the road for people with autism and their families. These include:
  - \$85 million annually in autism funding for 14,300 children and youth through the Ministry of Children and Families,

- Funding for in-school services for each student diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- There are navigators through the Services to Adults with Disabilities Program – or STADD – that help youth aged 16 to 24 and their families prepare for the transition to adult services and find community supports.
- Specialized services for adults with autism through Community Living BC; and



- Work BC employment programs for people with disabilities.
- We have also been working with disability organizations and the business community -- on how we can make B.C. more inclusive for people with disabilities.
- We are fortunate to have a group of business leaders committed to increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities – the Presidents Group.

- I want to thank Wendy for her contributions as a member of this organization.
- Presidents Group members are engaging with employers and business owners to help build inclusive workplaces that focus on people's unique abilities and contributions.
- Some successful examples include the SAP Autism at Work program and VanCity's recent hiring of 8 people on the Autism Spectrum to support a systems change.

- Presidents Group members are sharing their learnings and resources online. If anyone here today is an employer, I encourage you to visit their website and learn more about their work.
- Our experience with the Presidents Group demonstrates that we can accomplish far more by working together, than by working alone.

## **PAFN**

- The Pacific Autism Family Network recognized this several years ago and had the vision of creating an innovative “hub and spoke” system of services to fill the gaps.

- In 2016, with the help of individual donors, a \$20 million donation from the province, and lots of hard work from Sergio and Wendy, the Board and supporters –
  
- -- the Network opened the Goodlife Autism Hub in Richmond, where families can access:
  - the most up to date information about autism,
  - assessments,
  - behavioral therapy,
  - speech language therapy,
  - customized blood collection services,

- an inclusive preschool, and
  - employment programs for people with autism -- all under one roof.
- 
- It is changing lives and providing hope for thousands of people.
  - And it's a great example of what can happen when private donors, non-profits, communities and government pool resources and collaborate to achieve an important goal.

- We know that living outside of Vancouver can often be challenging for families to access the supports they so desperately need.
- Here at the Prince George Spoke, families can get cutting edge information about autism and therapy options.
- They can consult with experts at the Hub, through the Network's autism telehealth system.

- They can meet, share experiences with and learn from other families who are on the same path.
- And people with autism can get speech language therapy and behavioral therapy right on site.
- This new centre of excellence is a tremendous asset to this community and it will play a key role in helping people with autism to reach their full potential.

## Conclusion

- This is important because, as Temple Grandin has pointed out, “our world needs all kinds of minds.”
- As many of you know, Temple Grandin, is a world renowned speaker, author and professor at Colorado State University – who also happens to have autism.
- She is proof that a diagnosis is merely a starting point –



- The path ahead stretches beyond anyone's sight and it may lead to unexpected and wonderful places.
- For people with autism, the Prince George Spoke will be critical waypoint -- a place to develop skills, build confidence and get expert help to map out their journeys.
- On behalf of the Province, I'd like to congratulate the Cocchias, the Pacific Autism Family Network, and all your supporters on opening this wonderful new centre.

- And thank you all for your tireless efforts on behalf of people with autism and their families.
- It has been an honour to share in your celebrations today.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**National Day of Mourning  
Jack Poole Plaza, Vancouver Convention Centre  
1075 Canada Place**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**Event time  
Minister will speak at 11:45 a.m.**

**Speaking length < 10 minutes**

**Event:**     **National day of Mourning**

**When:**     Saturday, April 28

- Minister will speak at 11:45 a.m. for less than 10 minutes.
- Minister requested to arrive by 11:15 a.m.
- Minister to will be introduced by MC, then will speak first, followed by Ralph McGinn and the other key participants.

**Where:**     **Jack Poole Plaza, Vancouver Convention Centre**  
1075 Canada Place, Vancouver  
Parking considerations

**Contact:**   Trish Chernecki, WorkSafeBC (cell) 778-871-5841  
Alternate: Nina Hansen, BC Federation of Labour (cell)<sup>s.22</sup>

**Key Participants:**

Minister  
Ralph McGinn – Chair of WorkSafeBC  
Irene Lanzinger – President of the B.C. Federation of Labour  
Greg D'Avignon – Business Council of BC  
Jack Thomas – Injured worker  
Rosemarie Lachnit – Mother of fatally injured worker  
Stephen Von Sychowski – Master of Ceremonies and President of the Vancouver and District Labour Council

**Event Details:**

- Audience Composite: Approximately 500-600 people
- Media Attending: Yes
- Q&A to Follow: No
- Event Context: Every year family, friends and community gather to commemorate April 28th as a day to remember workers killed because of their work and those who still suffer from work-related injury or illness. The National Day of Mourning is also a call to action: to fight for the living by renewing our collective commitment to make our workplaces healthier and safer.

- Event Billing/Theme: While the event itself doesn't have a theme, the BC Federation of Labour and the labour movement have been focused on workplace violence.
- Speech Theme: Remembering those lost and making B.C. the safest place to work in Canada.
- Logistics notes: Outdoor venue, the Minister will be addressing a standing crowd. A podium with microphone on a small stage or riser will be set up for speakers to address those gathered.
  - Speakers to meet at the eastside 10'x10' pop-up tent at Jack Poole Plaza
- Clothing: Dress, with black mourning band, and or lapel ribbon. An overcoat and umbrella may be required depending on weather.

## **Itinerary:**

11:45 a.m. Opening remarks by host Stephen Von Sychowski, President, Vancouver and District Labour Council.

11:46 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.: Minister of Labour Harry Bains - speech

11:55 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.: Ralph McGinn - speech

12:05 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.: Irene Lanzinger - speech

12:15 p.m. – 12:25 p.m.: Greg D'Avignon - speech

12:25 p.m. – 12:35 p.m.: Jack Thomas - speech

12:35 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.: Rosemarie Lachnit – speech and final remarks.

12:45 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.: Moment of silence

12:55 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Silence broken by pipe band and tug boats.

This will be followed by a procession along the Line of Work and the laying of roses on symbolic coffins and wreaths along the line of work.

1:00 p.m. End of event

## **Key Issues:**

National day of Mourning observed all around the world in many countries to remember those who have died as a result of their job and those who still suffer from work-related injury or illness.

## **Framework:**

### **Welcome**

- Good morning and thank you for the invitation to join you today.
- Acknowledge the Coast Salish people: Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (Sail-wa-tooth).

### **Open**

- Every day, workers around the province get up and prepare for work.
- In 2017, 196 workers in B.C. did not go home.
- None of them could have imagined that these would be their final moments together.

### **Remember**

- We are here today to remember and mourn those we have lost.
- Reminders are everywhere.
- Work place accidents can happen across the street and around the province.

### **Changes**

- As Minister of Labour I am committed to making B.C. the safest place to work.
- Anything less is unacceptable.
- Changes that have save lives and continue to inspire people like me.

### **Hope**

- Hopefully, it is some comfort that these tragedies can lead to changes. We must work together to ensure that B.C. families can rely on safe workplaces.

### **Closing**

- Today serves as a tragic reminder of our need to be vigilant.
- On behalf of my colleagues in Victoria, I offer my sympathies.
- Thank you.

## Welcome

- Good morning and thank you for inviting me to observe this National Day of Mourning with you.
  - Acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people, including the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (Sail-wa-tooth) where we are gathered today.

## Open

- Every day, workers around the province get up and prepare for work.
- They make breakfast and pack lunches.
- They search for the bus fare or the car keys and grab their coats.
- Some kiss the foreheads of their kids as they walk out the door.
- Others say a quick goodbye and promise to finish the conversation or help with chores when they get home.
- But tragically some of these workers never make it home.
- In 2017, 196 workers in B.C. lost their lives, including due to a workplace incident.
- None of them, nor their loved ones, could have imagined that these would be their final moments together.
- None of them could have foreseen that a workplace incident would steal their future.

## Remember

- **We're here today to remember and to mourn those we've lost to workplace incidents and occupational disease, and those whose lives have been forever changed as a result.**
- **And there are reminders all around us.**
- **Where we stand today, we can see ...**
  - **The Iron Workers Memorial Bridge, named for the 19 workers that died building it in 1958.**
  - **Bentall Four where in 1981, scaffolding collapsed and four workers lost their lives.**
  - **And on the other side of the plaza, where a stuntwoman was killed just last year while filming a movie.**
- **It is a reminder that accidents happen ... just across the street.**
- **And around the province.**
- **Today we also remember:**
  - **Three farm workers who died in an accident on their way to work near Abbotsford in 2007.**
  - **The four mill workers that died in two separate explosions in Burns Lake and in Prince George in 2012.**
  - **We remember the three arena workers from Fernie who died last year.**
  - **We remember the countless workers who have died because of asbestos exposure and other work related occupational disease.**



- These injuries and losses are preventable.
- They do not have to happen and they shouldn't.
- It is unacceptable because even one death is one too many.
- And maybe it seems like we can't do anything but we can... We must.

### Changes

- As Minister of Labour, I am firmly committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest in Canada.
- That means focusing on strong enforcement, prevention and training.
- Especially in those sectors where injury rates are higher than average, like in construction and health care.
- Workers should never be exposed to dangerous situations or substances without the proper training and safety precautions and equipment.
- Anything less is simply unacceptable.
- Because all workers deserve to go home each night ... healthy and safe.
- And worker safety is also about support for those who have been injured on the job ... or who have become sick because of their work.
- It's about treating them with dignity and respect ...
- Ensuring they get the care they need to recover and return to work ...
- And to get the assistance they need if they can't return to work.

- My direction to WorkSafeBC has been to focus on prevention and enforcement, but also on stronger supports for injured and sick workers.
- And I'm grateful for the work they've undertaken since Ralph assumed the position of Board Chair this past December.
- There is a renewed vigor there towards helping me reach my vision of B.C. becoming the safest jurisdiction for workers in Canada.
- Towards renewal, reflection, reviews of how they can do even better at increasing worker health and safety, and in service delivery to injured and ill workers.
- But still we saw an unusually high number of workplace deaths across the province this past month, and so I'm grateful for their additional action.
- For reaching out to employers to remind them of their responsibilities and accountabilities to workplace safety...
- To remind them to be vigilant and focused on prevention.

### Hope

- Hopefully, it is some comfort to those who have lost loved ones that these tragedies often lead to changes that improve workplace safety.
- Changes that save lives and continue to inspire people such as myself, to do what we can to improve working conditions for people in our province.
- For example, last year the deaths of the three workers in Fernie made painfully clear the need for increased inspections and changes to aging equipment in arenas.

- The deaths of the three farmworkers shone a spotlight on unacceptable working conditions in the agricultural industry and led to several changes to improve worker safety.
  - Like bringing in random roadside safety checks on vehicles used to transport farm workers;
  - And expanding legislation and enforcement to improve vehicle safety and make contractors more accountable for safely transporting workers;
- These are examples of the tools we can use for a safer work place.
- And our government continues to support workers and safety through education.
- Ensuring workers know their rights to refuse unsafe work.
- Workers must know how to identify and recognize unsafe working conditions;
- Because we shouldn't have to wait for tragedy to strike before we make our workplaces safe, or we change laws.
- And though we are making improvements to increase safety precautions, the work is never done.
- We must all work together to ensure that B.C. families can rely on safe workplaces.

## **Closing**

- Today serves as a tragic reminder of the need to be vigilant in our efforts to keep workers in all sectors safe.

- On behalf of my colleagues in Victoria, I offer my sympathies to those who continue to suffer from illness or injury and to those who have lost a loved one in the workplace.
- And I wish to specifically acknowledge Jack and Rosemarie for their courage in being here today to speak to you in a few minutes about their very personal experience.
- We can't change what has happened, but we can learn from the past.
- And in doing so we can make B.C. the safest place to work in Canada.
- So every worker goes home safely at the end of their shift.
- Thank you.

-30-

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

**United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 –  
10<sup>th</sup> Local Annual Delegated Meeting  
& Education Seminars**

s.15

**Friday, April 20, 2018  
9 a.m. – Noon**

**Minister will speak at about 10 a.m.**

**Speaking length – 15 minutes**

**Event:**      **United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 – 10<sup>th</sup> Local Annual Delegated Meeting & Education Seminars**

**When:**      Friday, April 20, 2018

- Minister will speak @ 10:00 a.m. for ~15 minutes.
- Minister requested to arrive at 9:30-9:45 a.m.

**Where:**      s.15

**Contact:**   Pat Kinney, Financial Secretary  
C | s.22

### **Key Participants:**

- **Harry Bains**, Minister of Labour
- United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 executive:
  - **Brian Butler**, President
  - **Rick Nelson**, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.
  - **Richard Arnason**, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.
  - **Norm MacLeod**, 3<sup>rd</sup> V.P.
- **Steve Hunt**, USW District 3 Director – guest speaker
- **Sandra Banister, Jonathan Hanvelt, Steve Rogers** – afternoon educational presenters

### **Event Details:**

- Audience Composite: ~ 132 registered union staff, delegates and guests
- Media Attending: No
- Q&A to Follow: Will likely be a few questions
- Event Context: Annual Delegated Meeting re: union business
- Event Billing/Theme: Annual union business meeting
- Speech Theme: Role and accomplishments of the Minister and future plans
- Logistics notes: Classroom seating, with podium and mic.
- Clothing: Business casual

## Itinerary:

Time	Details
8:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00	Meeting called to order, emergency preparedness, introductions of Officers, Executive, etc. Committee appointments Order of Business Meeting Rules
9:15	2017-18 Overview
9:45	Nominations for Officers, Board members, etc.
10:00	Brian Butler introduces Minister <b>Minister Bains speaks</b>
10:15	Debate on the Overview Other union business
11:15	Guest speaker – Steve Hunt
11:30	Guest speaker – Harvey Arcand
11:45	Gifts
12:00	Lunch

## Key Issues:

- USW Local 1-1937 primarily represents the forestry sector. Their newsletter indicates that they are actively seeking out Ministers to press the government for reasonable and effective policy changes within various ministries that will improve the rights of workers, reduce log exports, support sustainable communities and grow the jobs in the forest industry.
- USW Local 1-1937 (covering the coastal B.C. area) is part of the union's District 3, covering the 4 western provinces and all 3 territories. District 3, Local 1-1937 and Local 1-1405 (East and West Kootenay area) all made individual submissions to the Panel with the following recommendations:
  1. Foster certainty and efficiency in the certification process by restoring card-based certification;
  2. Ensure fair treatment of workers by amending sections 6(1) and 8 of the *Code* (employer interference in certification process);
  3. Restore balance to the *Code* by amending the purpose clause to reflect the interests of both employers and workers;
  4. Bring B.C. in line with other jurisdictions by extending the period for which membership evidence is valid; and
  5. Create stability and security for vulnerable and precarious workers by ensuring access to successorship and common employer provisions of the *Code*.
- USW Canada as a whole is also concerned with the NAFTA renegotiations, saying that the original agreement was too corporate-friendly, at the expense of workers, and that any changes to NAFTA must serve the interests of working people.

## Framework:

### Welcome

- Acknowledge: **K'omoks (co-mox), Qualicum, Homalco (hoe-mall-co), We Wai Kai (wee-wah-kye) and Wei Wai Kum (wee-wah-come) First Nations.**
- Congratulate work of the Steelworkers.
- Acknowledge shared passion and commitment to worker rights.
- We are taking immediate action to make life more affordable, improve the services people count on, and create good jobs for people throughout B.C.

### Minimum wage

- 94,000 British Columbians make minimum wage... not enough to live on.
- FWC provided a schedule of increases to meet commitment of \$15/hr for the general wage. I have also just announced increases for excluded workers such as liquor servers and some farm workers.
- Next, commission will provide recommendations on how to close the gap between minimum wage and livable wages.
- Can't overlook gender pay gaps and balance. Zero tolerance for harassment, violence, discrimination.
- It's time to put people first and make life better for families in B.C.

### Forestry

- Raw log exports and trade sanctions – important issues.
- I understand people's frustrations and fears in the forestry sector ...
- Forestry is a vital part of B.C.'s economy. Your government is taking action to solving real problems facing workers and getting results that make a difference in their lives.

### Temporary Foreign Worker Registry

- Another segment of our population that needs our help, needs better work place protection and supports, is temporary foreign workers.
- TFW's are particularly vulnerable, the registry will help us prevent abuse and help protect vulnerable workers from exploitation.
- It will track employer use of temporary foreign workers, allow us to monitor and enforce work conditions, and to hold employers accountable.



- My government is committed to tackling this problem – to protect the rights of all workers and to make life better for people.

### Workplace safety & support for injured workers

- Firmly committed to making B.C. workplaces the safest in Canada.
- Strong enforcement, prevention and training needed, especially in areas with higher than average injury rates.
- All workers deserve to return home safely at the end of their work day.
- Worker safety is also about support for injured or sick workers: must do more to treat workers with dignity and respect.
- We have made immediate changes to deliver a new vision and better approach: worker centric.
- But the work doesn't stop there – more needs to be done to make a real difference in people's lives.

### Updating legislation

- The Throne Speech spoke about importance of fair treatment for all workers and preserving rights... these rights are the result of hard-fought battles.
- Another priority for me is to make certain legislation supports our goals.
- The **Employment Standards Act** needs to reflect the changing nature of today's workplaces, worker rights and freedoms, provide fair processes for workers and employers in conflict, and have enforceable laws and standards.
- BC Federation of Labour and the Employment Standards Coalition have made recommendations on changes to the Act. The BC Law Institute is also undertaking a review.
- The **Labour Relations Code** is also under review; we appointed a committee of special advisors to review; and consultations just wrapping up.
- I understand your chapter has participated in this consultation. I'd like to thank you for putting forward your views for consideration.
- Committed to establishing a new vision, direction for labour relations.

### Conclusion

- Because that's what we're about – it's what we promised British Columbians– a new brand of leadership; a new vision and strategic direction.
- I am proud of what our government is doing to improve working conditions and provide greater opportunities for people.

- Thank you for your work in continuing to improve worker conditions too.
- Because when we support and improve the lives of workers, of the vulnerable and the disadvantaged... we are all improved and strengthened – as individuals and as a society.

## Introduction

- **Good morning, everyone. It's good to see you all.**
- **I'd like to begin by acknowledging the traditional territories of the K'omoks (co-mox), Qualicum, Homalco (hoe-mall-co), We Wai Kai (wee-wah-kye) and Wei Wai Kum (wee-wah-come) First Nations.**
- **As most here know, I have deep roots in the USW.**
- **I was an elected official with the USW for more than 15 years and I am proud of my labour roots and proud of how the USW continues to grow...**
  - **The largest private sector union in North America.**
  - **Over 225,000 members in Canada.**
  - **And over 800,000 members continent-wide.**
- **The saying is that there's strength in numbers.**
- **And that strength is certainly on display today and more broadly by the strength of the Steelworkers collective.**
- **Through your strength and solidarity...**
- **Past, present, and into the future...**
- **You have and continue to make a difference in the lives of all workers...**
- **Here in B.C., nationally and internationally.**
- **For that, I wish to offer you my thanks.**
- **Because I share your passion and your commitment to worker rights and protections.**
- **My job as Labour Minister is to steadily improve the lives and work conditions of British Columbians, and I can assure you that we are on the path to achieving that.**

- Not all changes come as quickly as we'd like but ...
- I pledge to you, we are taking immediate action to make life more affordable, improve the services people count on, and create good jobs for people throughout B.C.

### Minimum Wages

- For instance, as a government we promised to make life more affordable, and across government we are achieving it.
- Within my ministry specifically, I am proud that we're on our way to at least a \$15 minimum wage.
  - 94,000 workers take home a wage that isn't enough to live on.
  - Because in Canada – one of the most affluent countries in the world, and in British Columbia – one of the strongest economies in Canada – nobody who works full time should end up homeless because they can't afford rent...
  - ... or have to rely on food banks to feed their families...
  - ... or work two or three jobs just to pay basic bills.
- We established an independent Fair Wages Commission tasked with recommending a timeline for raising minimum wages.
- They came back to us with a schedule of increases that are regular and predictable so that businesses can plan and adapt to the increases.
- As a result, the general minimum wage will increase this June, followed by increases each June until 2021.
- Yesterday, I announced changes to the wages for those workers who earn an alternate minimum wage such as liquor servers and piece rate farm workers.
- But as we all know, the work on wages can't stop there.

- The commission is now turning its attention to looking at the gap between the minimum wage and a living wage in our province.
- And when we speak of wages, we can't overlook gender pay gaps.
- B.C.'s labour movement has been shaped, in part, by countless determined women who have championed and upheld gender equality in this province.
- It's a cornerstone that my ministry continues to support.
- We will continue to champion the simple principle that all workers – regardless of race or religion, gender or gender identity, deserve equal pay for work of equal value. And the government has appointed my colleague Mitzi Dean to begin work on these important issues.
- These are areas where unions play a vital role, by:
  - Demanding equal pay for equal work...
  - Actively encouraging and recruiting for gender balance...
  - And saying, loudly and clearly, that there is zero tolerance for workplace harassment, violence or discrimination.
- And I know that the United Steelworkers of B.C. and Canada are at the forefront of those commitments.
- And they are issues that I take seriously.
- It's time to put people first and make life better for families everywhere in B.C.

## Forestry

- Now, since I've mentioned sawmills, I know that one of the key issues that you're contending with today is around raw log exports and protectionist trade sanctions.
- It's an important issue, one that my cabinet colleague from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and Premier Horgan are collectively and aggressively addressing.

- They stand with you, and are working alongside you, to face the tough challenges in forestry today – the issues that range from beetle infestations to trade battles and wildfires.
- Forestry is of relevance to everyone in our province because 63,000 British Columbians support their families by working in the forest sector.
- And it's of keen interest to me because of my time at the Eburne Mill.
- I understand people's frustrations and fears in the forestry sector ...
- Forestry is a vital part of B.C.'s economy, your government is taking action to solving real problems facing workers and getting results that make a difference in their lives.

### Temporary Foreign Worker Registry

- And I want to say this about new immigrants: B.C.'s workforce is strengthened by international workers.
- Many of our temporary foreign workers become new immigrants and contributing members to the fabric of our province.
- But temporary foreign workers, in particular, are vulnerable to abuse in the workplace, and it can be difficult for them to know where to go for help.
- This was echoed recently in a report by the Migrant Workers Centre.
- This has been an issue for too long. It was brought to the previous government's attention and was ignored.
- Which is why my ministry is taking action to create a Temporary Foreign Worker registry.
- The registry will allow us to put in place the tools that will help prevent abuse and help protect vulnerable workers from exploitation.
- It will track employer use of temporary foreign workers, allow us to monitor and enforce work conditions, and to hold employers accountable.

- It will allow us to bring-in other ministries as needed when, for instance, the violations extend into human rights, health or housing issues.
- We are also working to put in place the legislative framework to help prevent exploitation and protect vulnerable workers from abusive employers and recruiters.
- Why? Because all workers, regardless of their immigration status, have the same rights and protections as any other worker, but temporary workers need help enforcing it.
- My government is committed to tackling this problem – to protect the rights of all workers and to make life better for people.

### Workplace safety

- I want to share another of my priorities, a very prominent one for me: worker safety.
- As a worker advocate and union activist, as an MLA and now as a Minister, I have attended far too many memorials for far too many workers who have died on the job.
- Workers like:
  - The four carpenters who died at the Bentall Tower construction site (1981);
  - The workers, your union brothers, that died in the Babine and Lakeland mill explosions (2012);
  - And the three workers who died in the Fernie arena from ammonia exposures just last October.
- And far too many workplace injuries and deaths are preventable.
- That's why I am firmly committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest in Canada.
- That means focusing on strong enforcement, prevention and training.

- I have talked to WorkSafeBC extensively about how we can lower injury rates.
- And they are working hard in this area.
- They have 3-year strategies focusing on those sectors where injury rates are higher than average, like in forestry, construction and health care.
- And they have 12 industry initiatives underway this year that focus on keeping workers safe, such as when working in confined spaces... or on crane towers... or when dealing with asbestos... which can be so serious.
- Workers should never be exposed to dangerous situations or substances without the proper training and safety precautions and equipment.
- Anything less is simply unacceptable.
- And I know that workplace safety is a top priority for you as well.
- In 1979, the Steelworkers were one of the first unions to obtain collective agreement language around creating health and safety committees at workplaces.
- Your commitment to safety will help us achieve our collective vision of British Columbia being the safest jurisdiction in the country.
- Because all workers deserve to return home each night – healthy and safe.

#### Support for injured workers

- And worker safety is also about support for those who have been injured on the job... or who have become sick because of their work.
- It's about treating them with dignity and respect ...
- Ensuring they get the care they need to recover and return to work ...
- And to get the assistance they need if they can't return to work.
- My direction to WorkSafeBC has been to focus on prevention and enforcement, but also on stronger supports for injured and sick workers.



- Because an injury or illness is often far more complicated than what's visible, and the primary cause can turn into secondary impacts, like emotional struggles and financial stress.
- The last thing injured workers need is to feel they have to fight for assistance.
- I think we can create a new vision and a better approach for injured and ill workers in B.C.
- A new culture that is worker centric.
- I have appointed a new chair and some new board members to WorkSafeBC who are helping to lead the charge.
- Your government has made immediate changes to help foster a new culture that is focused on the worker.
- I'm pleased by the progress being made ... but the work doesn't stop there.
- More needs to be done to make a real difference in people's lives.

### Updating legislation

- In February, the Lieutenant Governor delivered the Throne Speech in the House.
- I was extremely pleased that Her Honour spoke about the importance of fair treatment for all B.C. workers...
- And about preserving rights and protections in the workplace...
- Rights that are the result of hard-fought battles by the labour movement, over many years.
- And that reflects another priority for me as Minister – to make certain that legislation aligns with and supports our goals.

- We need to ensure the *Employment Standards Act* fully reflects and keeps pace with the changing nature of today's workplaces as well as ensuring standards are applied evenly and enforced.
- The BC Federation of Labour and the Employment Standards Coalition have given recommendations on how to change the *Employment Standards Act*.
- There is also an independent review of the *Employment Standards Act* underway by the BC Law Institute.
- I also recently named a committee of special advisers to review the *Labour Relations Code*.
- The committee is just wrapping up its consultations, and has been receiving feedback on how we can ensure that B.C. unionized workplaces support fair laws for workers and businesses.
- I know that your union has made a number of submissions and presentations to this committee... thank you for making the time and effort to contribute to this important process.
- I know that you, like me, are committed to establishing a new vision and strategic direction for labour relations in this province.
- I look forward to receiving the report from the committee of special advisers ...
- ... and will express my thanks now to one of your speakers later today, Sandy Banister, who is sitting as the voice of unions on the committee.

## Conclusion

- Because new leadership is what my government is about – it's what we've promised British Columbians ...
- A new vision and strategic direction for governance.
- I am proud of what our government is doing to improve working conditions and provide greater opportunities for everyone in this province.

- I am confident that, with the help of folks such as yourselves, and all dedicated labour organizations around the province, we will fulfill those commitments.
- I want to thank you for your work with your union and your workplaces.
- Each of you has made a commitment of your time and energy – above and beyond your daily work duties – to support your union, and contribute to the success of your colleagues.
- And for those of you involved in mentorship programs that support the younger workers in your union... know that you make a huge difference in the future workforce.
- Because when we support and improve the lives of workers, of the vulnerable, of the disadvantaged... we are *all* improved, we are *all* strengthened – as individuals and as a society.
- Thank you.

-30-

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

**Vancouver Island Construction Conference**

**Victoria Conference Centre  
720 Douglas St, Victoria**

**April 27, 2018**

**7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Minister will speak at 8:30 a.m.**

**Speaking length – 10-15 minutes**

**Event:** Vancouver Island Construction Conference

**When:** Friday, April, 27

- Minister will speak at 8:30 a.m. for approximately 10-15 minutes.
- Minister requested to arrive by 8 a.m. and is welcome to join the group for breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m.
- Minister to be introduced by Rory Kulmala, CEO of the Vancouver Island Construction Association. The Minister will speak before Brandon Batch, senior market analyst with Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

**Where:** Salon A of Carson Hall, second floor  
Victoria Conference Centre  
720 Douglas Street

**Contact:** Sarah Bartfai, event coordinator: 250 900-0395 (cell)  
Leslie Patten, site coordinator: 250 818-9674 (cell)

**Key Participants:**

- Harry Bains, Minister of Labour
- Rory Kulmala CEO Vancouver Island Construction Association
- Braden Batch, CMHC senior market analyst
- Terry O'Reilly, host of CBC's Under The Influence, media personality
- Dr. Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, VIHA
- Tom Brocklehurst, director of prevention practices and quality, WorkSafeBC
- Zachary May, Acting Director of Policy and Codes Development, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Malcolm McNaughton, Director of Regional Development, BC Housing
- Tom Sparrow, Chief Project Officer, North Island Hospitals Project at Vancouver Island Health Authority

**Vancouver Island Construction Association (VICA) Board Members:**

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • David Flint, chair          | • Chris Lyons, director     |
| • Roger Yager, vice chair     | • Tyler Galbraith, director |
| • Anthony Minniti, past chair | • Marnie Pringle, director  |
| • Keith Parsonage, treasurer  | • Yosef Suna, director      |
| • James Clapp, director       | • Keith Tatton, director    |
| • Stuart Cuthbert, director   | • Kate Ulmer, director      |
| • Mark Liudzius, director     | • Gerrit Vink, director     |

## Event Details:

- Audience Composite: Approximately 250 – 300 people will attend from the local construction industry including builders, contractors, engineers, architects, and developers from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Government representatives including municipal staff will also be in attendance. Staff from organizations such as WorkSafeBC, Vancouver Island Health Authority, BC Housing, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will also be attending.
- Media Attending: Only Black Press has been invited to attend to cover the event. They have advised the Conference they will only be there part of the day but did not state at what point.
- Q&A to Follow: No
- Event Context:
  - For general context, April is B.C. Construction and Skilled Trades month, proclaimed by the British Columbia Construction Association and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.
  - The Vancouver Island Construction Conference is a one-day conference. This is the first year this is being held in a conference format. For the past three years, this has been a smaller, forum-style event.
  - This is VICA's biggest event of the year and provides an opportunity for construction-related businesses, engineers, architects, government representatives, and others to present and discuss important issues. This year's topics include: the B.C. Energy Step Code, dispute resolution, contract procurement and negotiations, how legalizing cannabis may impact the workplace, attracting women to the trades.
  - There are workshops throughout the day, including a discussion about marijuana in the work place with Tom Brocklehurst, Director of Prevention Practices and Quality, WorkSafeBC, with a reception and networking opportunity ending the day.
  - Last year's theme was the evolution and future of construction – building for the future.
- Event Billing/Theme: Resiliency – How do we keep the industry momentum going, to avoid becoming complacent.

Speech Theme: Minister Bains to speak on behalf of Premier Horgan to welcome delegates to this year's conference, to talk about government's priorities and accomplishments, acknowledge successes and challenges within the sector, and ministry specific priorities as the B.C. construction economy evolves and prospers under this administration.

- Logistics notes:
  - The Minister will be speaking from a podium with stationary microphone on a raised platform. The Minister will be broadcast onto two large screens for audience visuals.
- Clothing: Business formal.

## **Itinerary:**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30: Registration & Breakfast  
 8:30 – 9:00: Welcome - Minister of Labour Harry Bains  
 9:00 – 9:30: Opening Presentation - Economic Review Panel  
 9:30 - 9:45: BREAK  
 9:45 - 10:45: Breakout Sessions A  
 10:45 – 11:00: BREAK  
 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.: Breakout Sessions B  
 12:00 – 1:00: LUNCH  
 1:00 - 2:00: Breakout Sessions A (repeat from morning sessions)  
 2:15 – 3:15: Breakout Sessions B (repeat from morning sessions)  
 3:15 – 4:30: Closing Keynote Terry O'Reilly - The Power of a Brand  
 4:30– 5:30 p.m.: Reception & Networking

## **Key Issues:**

- Labour challenges continue to temper the industry growth:
  - While B.C. has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada, in 2017, the B.C. construction industry had 8,395 job vacancies, a 20% increase from the previous year, and 25% of Canada's overall construction industry job vacancies.
  - Through 2025, there is estimated to be 73,000 job openings in construction with 74% of those openings due to experienced workers retiring.

- Creating and maintaining respectful workplaces to attract women to trades:
  - Last year, women made up 4 to 7% of the construction industry labour force.
- Creating sustainable business relations with indigenous communities:
  - In 2017, 6% of trade apprenticeships in B.C. were indigenous workers.
  - Like women, this number is expected to grow as both provincial and federal governments' support training and education projects that include indigenous persons.
- Health issues in the workplace:
  - Use of recreational marijuana will become legal in the summer of 2018. The ministry and WorkSafeBC continue to receive media calls regarding government policy on cannabis in the workplace.
  - Men in construction aged 30-60 are most at risk for opioid addiction, especially following injuries.
  - Illness related to asbestos exposure continues to be the leading cause of death in the construction industry.



## **Framework:**

### **Welcome:**

- Good morning.
- Acknowledge the Lekwungen [luh-kwun-gen] Peoples — including the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- I am pleased to be here on behalf of Premier John Horgan.
- Celebrate BC Construction and Skilled Trades month with you.
- Construction requires a team effort.
- We are taking immediate action to make life more affordable.

### **Government Achievements:**

- That's why this government introduced a budget that puts people first and makes life more affordable for British Columbians.
  - childcare more accessible and more affordable.
  - gradual and predictable changes to the minimum wage.
  - \$14.6 billion to build.
- Can't build a better future for all if we don't include everyone.
- Committed to building a strong, sustainable economy.

### **Acknowledge growth**

- And so much of what I have just talked about ... Depends directly on you.
- Unprecedented growth in the industry.
  - building permits up 23% from 2016.
  - Victoria and the island are growing.
  - Victoria's tallest high-rise.
- All of these will bring new jobs, new opportunities for growth and prosperity for everyone.

### **Obstacles:**

- The irony, of course, is that success has its own challenges.
- Your government is listening and will work with you.
- Safety continues to be a major challenge

### **Workplace Safety:**

- A critical challenge for you and a key priority for me as Labour Minister, is working together to make our workplaces safer.
- Anything less is simply unacceptable.

### **Workplace safety in construction:**

- This is especially important in the construction industry.
- Encourage and foster communication as the industry evolves.
- As we head into a busy construction season this spring and summer, let's make safety a priority.

### **Conclusion:**

- I am very confident that, with the assistance of the Vancouver Island Construction Association we will fulfill our commitments.
- Construction is about working together to build something and together we will build a bright future for B.C. that benefits everyone.
- Thank you all for coming.

### **Welcome:**

- Good morning, thank you to Rory and the board for inviting me to speak to you today.
- To begin, I'd like to acknowledge the Lekwungen [luh-kwun-gen] Peoples — including the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations — on whose traditional territory we are gathered today.
- I am pleased to be here on behalf of Premier John Horgan.
- And to be here to celebrate the first BC Construction and Skilled Trades month with you.
- Because I, along with my government, recognize and appreciate the importance of what you do and what the construction industry contributes to this province.
  - Over 200,000 workers are employed in the construction sector, making it one of our largest industries in B.C.
  - The majority of B.C.'s construction industry is small businesses with less than 20 employees, yet they contribute almost 10% of the provincial gross domestic product; more than fishing, mining and forestry combined.
- This is an incredible accomplishment and you should all be proud that you are integral to the continued growth of our economy and communities.
- You are well aware that construction requires a team effort.
- Many people with different skills come together using a blueprint to build a new structure or renovate an older building.
- Your government wants to do the same.

- We've brought together many people with different skills to renovate the province because it hasn't been working for everyone.
- People need education and training for work, they need access to childcare so they can work, and they need to be able to afford to live where the jobs are.
- That is why we are taking immediate action to make life more affordable, to improve the services people count on, and create good jobs for people throughout B.C.

### Government Achievements:

- That's why this government introduced a budget that puts people first and makes life more affordable for British Columbians.
  - \$1 billion to make childcare more accessible and more affordable for families.
  - Raised wages for the lowest income earners through gradual and predictable changes to the minimum wage over the next four years.
  - Committed \$15.8 billion over 3 years to build and upgrade hospitals, schools, post-secondary facilities, transit, and roads and provide other services.
- We are invested in building and infrastructure projects around the province that will create good-paying jobs.
- And that will ensure people from every background have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- This is the biggest building investment in the history of British Columbia.

- It also includes increased training opportunities ...
  - \$1.8 million to support women in trades.
  - \$30 million over three years to support community-driven skills training and education for Indigenous communities ...
- Because we cannot build a better future for all if we don't include everyone.
- We are committed to building a strong, sustainable and innovative economy that works for everyone and we do that by focusing on our greatest asset – our people.

### Acknowledge growth

- And so much of what I have just talked about ...
- So much of what this new budget talks about ...
- Depends directly on you.
- You are and will remain a strong part of B.C.'s economy for years to come.
- It goes without saying that we are experiencing unprecedented growth in the industry and we should all be celebrating that too.
  - Last year building permits for new construction starts on Vancouver Island reached an all-time high, growing 23% from 2016.
  - Most of that growth was here in Victoria but the Comox Valley, Nanaimo and Campbell River all continue to see healthy growth too.
    - Victoria will soon see its first 26-story high-rise, the highest in the city;

- The United Church in Nanaimo is building 74 new housing units; and
  - Construction continues through the summer to improve Route Four to Tofino.
- These are just a small portion of projects all over the province and the island.
- Projects that are benefitting people all over B.C., improving lives and livelihoods.
- Projects that build new neighbourhoods for future generations to live in, new transportation routes that help move the people and goods which are vital to the economy.
- All of these will bring new jobs, new opportunities for growth and prosperity for everyone.

### **Obstacles:**

- The irony, of course, is that success has its own challenges.
- The growth and success of your industry comes with some unique challenges, like keeping up with the demand for housing, labour shortages, and even the new Federal laws on the recreational use of cannabis.
- And these challenges, we've heard about them, we recognize them, and the Premier and I recently spoke to the BC Construction Association about them.
- I want you to know your government is listening to you, and we will continue to work with you towards solutions.

- For instance, we know that you need skilled tradespeople to get the job done so we're working with equity seeking groups like women and first nations, to remove barriers to work and train them to help fill the thousands of jobs opening up over the next ten years.
- Above all, continuing to improve the safety of our workplaces can't be understated.

### **Workplace Safety:**

- And certainly a critical challenge for you and a key priority for me as Labour Minister, is working together to make our workplaces safer.
- I am firmly committed to making workplaces in British Columbia the safest and healthiest in Canada.
- That means focusing on strong enforcement, prevention and training in all sectors.
- Because all workers deserve to go home each night, healthy and safe.
- And when injuries happen, it's about treating workers with dignity and respect.
- Anything less is simply unacceptable.

### **Workplace safety in construction:**

- This is especially important in the construction industry, where injury rates are much higher than other sectors.

- In 2016, the serious injury rate was 8% compared to an average of 3% across all other sectors in B.C.
- Falls from heights remain the leading cause of injury for construction workers around the province.
- That is why WorkSafeBC has created the Construction High Risk Strategy, to aid your industry in reducing the serious injury rate.
- This includes risk-reduction tactics specifically for planning and supervision.
- Processes for choosing not just the right tool for the job but the safest option.
- And working with groups such as yours, to encourage and foster communication regarding new issues, and risks, as the industry continues to evolve.
- As we head into a busy construction season this spring and summer, let's make safety a priority.

### **Conclusion:**

- I am very confident that, with the assistance of organizations like the Vancouver Island Construction Association ...
- And the hard work of your businesses, organizations, and trades people, we will fulfill our commitments.
- As I said before, construction is about working together to build something ... and together we will build a bright future for B.C. that benefits everyone.
- Thank you all for coming. Enjoy the rest of your day.





SPEAKING NOTES FOR  
MINISTER JINNY SIMS  
MINISTRY OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

ESIT Advanced Solutions luncheon

April 17, 2018

East Vancouver Island Ballroom, legislature

Length of speech: 2 - 3 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- Thank you [Serge].
- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that we have come together on the territory of the Lekwungen (Le-KWUNG-en) peoples, home of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- It's great to be here with so many of you to meet and mingle and learn more about the support provided by Advanced Solutions.
- Your company does quite a bit of work with our government.
- In fact, I understand Advanced Solutions was instrumental during last year's wildfire season in making sure printers were operational ...
- And necessary printing supplies were readily available for staff on the front lines working to assist evacuees.

- You are part of a large organization with a significant local presence right here in Victoria ...
- And as a local employer who collaborates with local companies ...
- You know, as we do, the importance of developing and retaining home-grown talent ...
- And providing good employment and opportunities for our future generations.
- My Ministry – the Ministry of Citizens’ Services – is really the face and backbone of this government.
- We are a people-first organization and our focus is delivering services that citizens count on.
- This drives every decision we make.

- From the work of our front-line Service BC staff across the province ...
- Making sure our IT systems are modern and effective ...
- To the way we do business as a government.
- In fact, one of the exciting things we are working on is just that.
- Making it easier for companies to do business with us.
- With more opportunities for local employers and for all companies to do more business with local suppliers, workers and talent.
- This is something that truly inspires me – particularly when we talk about the innovation that can be found in information technology.

- I'm looking forward to hearing more about what you are doing to support government services.
- And want to thank you for inviting us all here today.